

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS**  
**for the Week of March 19, 2017**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Glen Tosoya**  
**Luke 9:18-20**

1. This Sunday we welcomed Glen Tosoya as our guest speaker. Take some time in your Life Group to discuss his message. What impacted you the most? How did Glen's message challenge or inspire you? What did you sense the Holy Spirit saying to you or calling you to do, as a result of his sermon?
  
2. We also heard a report from our Missions Committee after their recent over-night visit to the City of Refuge in San Diego. What is the difference between having a Missions Department at our church and becoming a "missional" church?

Reggie McNeal says: **"People don't go to church; they are the church. They don't bring people to church; they bring the church to people."** (*Missional Renaissance*)

Read the quote below by Rick Meigs. How do you respond to this?

"Jesus told us to go into all the world and be his ambassadors, but many churches today have inadvertently changed the 'go and be' command to a 'come and see' appeal. We have grown attached to buildings, programs, staff and a wide variety of goods and services designed to attract and entertain people.

Missional is a helpful term used to describe what happens when you and I replace the 'come to us' invitations with a 'go to them' life. A life where 'the way of Jesus' informs and radically transforms our existence to one wholly focused on sacrificially living for him and others and where we adopt a missionary stance in relation to our culture. It speaks of the very nature of the Jesus follower." (Rick Meigs)

What does it mean to "adopt a missionary stance in relation to our culture"? And why is this more important than ever in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

In your opinion, is SonRise Christian Fellowship a missional church? Why, or why not? What are we doing well in this regard, and what can we do to grow even stronger as missional disciples in the days ahead?

3. Becoming a Missional Church involves some radical shifts in thinking ...
- **From being Church-centric to Kingdom-focused**  
(i.e., from measuring our effectiveness by how much church activity and in-house programs we generate *to* a more kingdom-oriented world-view where we engage people out in the world, right where they are.)
  - **From Attractional to Incarnational**  
(The scorecard for the attractional church is attendance and participation, reflected in income it derives from satisfied customers ... but the incarnational approach focuses on the church “being there” – at home, in the street, in the marketplace, at school, in the neighborhood – in the places where people live their lives. We don’t *go to* church; we *are* the church – wherever we are!)
  - **From Proclamation to Demonstration**  
(Our acts of service and love, not our oratorical brilliance and institutional success, will intrigue people with our message. Jesus followers live the truth; they don’t simply speak it or study it.)
  - **From Congregations to Missional Communities**  
(Church is not just a “private” experience where I come each week to be spiritually refreshed, enjoy a good service, and go home; it means becoming part of a family – a mission outpost; it’s about learning to practice life together as brothers and sisters in Christ, and to model to the world what it means to be a new community devoted to the mission of Jesus: Acts 2:42-27).
  - **From decisions to disciples**  
(It’s not just about “believing in Christ,” it’s about taking up our cross and *following* Christ daily, joining him in his mission of mercy to the world.)
  - **From services to service**  
(It’s not about creating and offering all types of various worship services to meet the needs of all the various generations and their particular musical preferences; it’s about serving others hand-in-hand as the body of Christ.)
  - **From seating to sending (and being sent!)**  
(It’s not about “how big are we growing” (do we have enough seating to accommodate all the crowds?); it’s about obeying Christ’s command to *go into all the world and make disciples of Jesus* – Matthew 28:18-20.)

Making this shift can be difficult for many, but to fully appreciate what the missional church is, we must look outside a more cultural understanding of what the church is, and realign ourselves with the biblical narrative. Discuss openly and honestly what excites you and what concerns you about these missional shifts in thinking.