

Work for the Lord (3/9/25)

Discussion Questions

Summary: What is our calling when it comes to evangelism and kingdom mission? This passage in Ephesians shows us Jesus' mission to fill the earth with His glory and love *through the church!* The task of Christian leaders is "to equip the saints for the work of ministry." Every follower of Jesus is called to bear fruit in some kind of kingdom assignment. We will see four ways to join Jesus in His work: A) assemble a team; B) believe you can do it; C) commit to grow in Christ-likeness and; D) develop goals and get started! How fruitful is the garden of your kingdom ministry? What is your next step to more intentionally cultivate that garden?

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

Jesus is **Working** to fill the earth with His glory and love (v. 10) through us, His church (Eph. 3:10)

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ... You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:13-14

How to join Jesus in His work:

1. Assemble a **Team** and work **Together** (v. 11, 16)
2. Believe **You** can do it, **We** can help (v. 11-12; Jn. 14:12-14)
3. Commit to grow in **Knowledge** and **Christ-likeness** (v. 13-15)
4. Develop **Goals** and get **Started** (v. 12)

"He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..." Ephesians 4:10-12

Get Started:

1. What was the last home improvement project you took on? How did it go?
2. What was your most successful home improvement project? What helped it go so well?

Dig Deeper:

3. Read Ephesians 4:10-16. What stands out to you in this passage?
4. In what ways did Jesus "descend"? (See Php. 2:5-8)
5. What does it mean for Jesus to "fill all things"? (See Eph. 1:10, 22-23; 3:10, 17-19)
6. What is the purpose for which Jesus gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers? (v. 11-12)
7. What is the outcome of the body of Christ being "built up"? (v. 13-16)
8. How important is it for us to speak "the truth in love" to one another to help with this process? (v. 15; see v. 22-24, 29)

Move Forward:

9. Without getting hung up on the terminology or “offices” (and whether or not certain ones are still active), which one or two of the APEST categories (v. 11) best describes you?
 - a. An ***apostolic starter***, entrepreneur, exploring new ideas, entering new territory
 - b. A ***prophetic voice*** for truth and justice, fighting for the oppressed and speaking up for the glory and purposes of God
 - c. An ***evangelistic promoter*** of the good news of Jesus, frequently sharing about His love and grace with others
 - d. A ***shepherding caregiver***, listening attentively to the hurting, praying and helping
 - e. A ***Biblical teacher***, organizing truth, explaining theological categories, systematizing ministry
10. Which one or two *least* describe you? What other believers do you know who *do* have those gifts and strengths?
11. If you could serve in any kingdom ministry and you knew you wouldn't fail, what would you do?
12. What is one step you feel the Lord is leading you to take to better cultivate your “ministry garden”?
13. How can we pray for you and help you in this regard?