



Intro: The church exists for God's mission of making disciples who make disciples. Difficult as the mission seems to us, it IS possible with God. He can do the impossible in and through us.

This week's text – 2 Corinthians 1:1-2

Sermon ideas

1. God's mission is **TO** you

Additional Text: Acts 9:1-22

Paul's letter to the church in Corinth was personal. He was heavily invested in them emotionally. His love and pursuit of this church gives us a little insight into God's pursuit of us as his church. Though Saul (whose name was later changed to Paul) was actively opposing the mission of God, Jesus still actively pursued him, and won his heart. Paul was never the same again, he gladly and willingly took on God's mission, to take the same love and pursuit that he experienced, out to the lost.

God relentlessly pursued us as well, and because we are now in covenant relationship with him, it means we too, like Paul, have been radically changed. When we are reconciled to God, we are content only when we are living obediently to the Spirit. Any form of disobedience causes frustration and guilt, because we are living outside of our original design. The Holy Spirit within, continues to call us to even greater obedience, greater commitment and greater faithfulness to the Father. God's mission towards us continues throughout our lives as the Spirit does the work of conforming us into the image of Christ.

2. God's mission is **THROUGH** you

Additional Text: Ephesians 1:22-23

The Corinthians were not an easy church to love and pursuing them came at great personal cost to Paul. They were still marked by immaturity and immorality and they treated Paul terribly. Yet, he pursued them because God's mission was for them. God had already redeemed them for himself, and so they were worth the fight. God was going to build his church in and through this rebellious lot, and therefore Paul was committed to their spiritual health. God is committed to his church, and his mission will come about through us. We were chosen, called and redeemed so that we could continue God's mission to the lost.

3. God's mission has been provided for

Additional Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

God has always used imperfect people to reach an imperfect world. Not one of us are *qualified* to be on God's mission because of our own credentials. In the same way, not one of us are *unqualified* because of our lack of credentials.

God's calls us all by his grace and he sends us all with his grace, to call others into his grace. We have all that we need in order to fulfil his mission, no matter who we are.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Paul such a great example of how God pursues people, despite themselves?
2. Why is it encouraging to know that God continued to pursue the church in Corinth, even though they had been immoral, immature and unkind towards Paul?
3. Why is it important for us to realise that God's mission is towards us personally, and not only about the world around us?
4. Who were the key people involved in God's mission of getting to you to the place where you received the gospel? What role did they play and what impact did it have on the process?
5. We often feel 'unqualified' to be on the mission of God. What are some of the reasons we may feel like this, and why are our feelings not reflective of the truth?
6. Take some time to think and process together: what do you want God to do in and through you as a Gospel Community during this series: *Mission Possible*? Are there any practical steps you would like to take, in your group, to see the mission advance during this time? If so, what are they?

For example:

- Ask each person in the group to ask God to bring to mind two people to pray for over this time, so that you can pray for them as a group every week.
- Pray for their salvation and for opportunities to share the gospel.
- Each week ask for a report back on any opportunities or answers to prayer.
- Consider and list a range of ways that you might actively see the mission of God move forward, then make sure that you refer to the list each week.
- Be invested in the process and have an expectation that God will do something in this time.
- Keep track of every small thing that God does in your group during this time. Perhaps make a temporary WhatsApp group specifically for reporting on the work of the mission during this series. Or find ways to keep the group focused, praying and invested throughout the series.