

Discipleship Moment

This weekend, we heard from one of our missionaries who serves in a country where Christianity is banned. Our missionary went on about the *need* to be pursuing God's holiness. The *need* to be overflowing with God's love and seeking the Kingdom of God. Encouraging us to not worry about *doing* holy things, but instead *being* holy.

Later, he discussed his ministry there: he was dedicated to making friends with university students and sharing friendship with them, then using this connection to share with them the Gospel of Jesus. He described inviting them in their homes and helping them with their English. He shared that doing ministry this way is a long-term process. It takes time to develop friendships and it takes time to warm people up to the Gospel.

I walked away from yesterday's services thinking to myself: *Man, that sounds a lot like doing ministry in the Sauk Valley.* And our missionary said as much himself, about three times he said something like, "It doesn't matter if you're in rural Illinois, or rural Cambodia. It doesn't matter if you're in big city Nepal, or big city USA." He recognized that ministry is ministry, no matter where you are.

The Kingdom is spread when individuals have their minds and hearts transformed by the Holy Spirit, this overflows into a whole transformed life. When a bunch of individuals are transformed, their whole community is transformed, and when communities are transformed, the whole world is transformed.

Ministry is ministry, no matter where you are.

Going Deeper

Use this resource to start conversations about this week's sermon for your personal devotions, with your family, or with your Life Group. You can use one question per day or all at once.

1. Do you feel like you're called to transform others, why or why not?
2. Have you ever considered doing overseas mission work? What do you think that would be like?
3. What would it be like if someone from another country came to the Sauk Valley and began doing missionary work? What would their strategy be?
4. Describe what *you* would do as a missionary to the Sauk Valley. What are you passionate about and how would you use that to proclaim the gospel? What skills do you have that you would use to proclaim the gospel?
5. How do you think ministry is similar across the world? How do you think it is different.
6. Put it all together: write a list of ideas you have to do ministry in 2019. Make a plan to achieve these.