

Week Four: *Common Mission*

Proverbs 29:18

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. As we dig deeper into what it means to live with a common mission, let's take a look at what God's Word has to say about catching a common goal or mission. Read Proverbs 29. Describe what God says in his Word about how those who experience blessings behave and how those who bring harm to themselves and others behave.
2. Pay particularly close attention to v. 18. How do people suffer from having no vision, revelation, or goal?
3. When you think about the worship of God, do you tend to think more about behaviors or the perspective of the mind? How can behaviors lead to attitude? How can attitude lead to behaviors?
4. Recall a time in your past when you were part of something that was larger than yourself. What kind of feelings were connected with that experience?
5. What are the benefits of being part of something that exalts God's mission of spreading his Kingdom? How would you know that God's mission lines up with your mission for your life?
6. Spend the last part of this FIFTEEN thinking about how your life gives an accurate reflection of the importance of your relationship with God. Pray for clarity and direction in your daily life.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. Yesterday we focused on what it was like to follow God and be directed by him. Today our focus will be on what it is that God desires, or things that are close to his heart. Read Hosea 6:6. What does God desire?
8. What does the desire of God found in Hosea 6:6 and again in Matthew 9:12-13 look like in your life?
9. Read 2 Peter 3:9. How does this verse help us to understand God's desire?
10. God desires many other things for our lives as well. Some of them require us to obey; some things he desires for us to do. What is required to have the mindset of mercy in our life and in our actions? Read 1 John 1:8-9 for a start.
11. Some Christians today believe that following rules can align us with the mission of God. Read Matthew 22:34-40. How does Jesus summarize the Law?

12. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, pray that mercy would help to form your thoughts, deeds, and interactions this day.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

13. The past few days we have been looking at the benefits of knowing God and aligning our hearts with his heart. Begin today by making a brief list of things you do because that is what you think God would have you do.

14. God has given his Law to act as a curb, rule, mirror, and guide. (see Week One – Day One for a refresher.) Take a moment to reflect on how one or more of these uses has kept you close to God.

15. Today we will focus on vision or revelation for believers that God in Christ allows us to see in Matthew chapter 5. Read Matthew 5:13-16. What does it mean to be called “the salt of the earth”?

16. What does it mean when Jesus says, “You are the light of the world”?

17. Now go back to the list of things that you do in your life because they are things that you think God would have you do. Which of these things or activities allow others to savor your “saltiness” or benefit from your “light”?

18. One of the benefits of a God-directed focus in your life is that it is selfless and others-focused. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to grant you a heart to love and to serve others.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

19. The past few days we have studied how much God desires mercy (he sent his Son) and how our lives reflect that mercy shown to us with a heart that loves and serves others. Today we will focus on how mercy and service are reflected in God’s plan for the family. Read Colossians 3:18-21.

20. A lot has been said about the words “submission” and “harsh” when it comes to these verses. (Depending on the translation you use.) Think about what we have learned over the past few days about mercy and service out of love. How do these words help us understand the roles of husbands and wives?

21. What is the benefit of both father and mother “being on the same page” or having the same vision or purpose for their family?

22. What is the role of the child in this vision for the family. Why?

23. How can parents “embitter” their children? Again, think of the role that both mercy and service play in relationships with children and with spouses.
24. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to help you to pray to be a bringer of salt and light to your family and that God would help your family see the benefit of his leading.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

25. What is the most satisfied you have ever felt? (A job, a relationship, meeting, event.) How much did your satisfaction depend on your perspective?
26. Today we will focus on the “joy of salvation” provided by God to hearts that seek after him. Read Psalm 51:10-12. How much of what the psalmist requests of God depends on God granting tangible things?
27. Having a right mind and proper attitude allows us to form a vision or mission for our family that will bring joy and peace to our home. Thinking of the activities you enjoy with family, which bring the most joy or satisfaction?
28. Next, try to come up with things that bring salt and light to others that you can do together as a family. Do any overlap with activities you enjoy as a family?
29. When deciding how to be part of bringing salt and light, pay attention to the prompting of the Spirit and pray for his guidance.
30. As you finish your FIFTEEN this week, be comforted to know that God is pleased with you. He desires good things for your life. He lets you know the depths of his love through the sending of his Son. There is nothing we do to earn his favor or love. God simply invites us to be bringers of his kingdom. Jesus makes it possible to practice mercy and live lives of service. Pray that God grants the trust needed to enjoy his presence on your journey.