

The Church doesn't have a mission. God's mission has a Church.

Since the beginning, God's purpose was for humanity to be His people in perfect community with Him and each other.

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:27-28 (NIV)

Humanity was blessed: they were made in the <u>image</u> of God; they were in perfect community with God; they were under the authority of God.

The first two humans disrupted God's purpose by resisting God's authority and breaking humanity's relationship with God.

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" Genesis 3:6-9 (NIV)

Sin broke our perfect community with God and each other.

Our broken relationships with God, each other, and the earth are the curse of sin.

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." ¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Genesis 3:16-19 (NIV)

Until our relationship with God is restored, we cannot break the curse of sin.

Since the beginning of time, humanity has turned to anyone or anything else but <u>God</u> to find a way out of its brokenness.

God created us to be in perfect relationship with Him; He created us to be His family—to reflect His image.

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. Genesis 9:1 (NIV)

The reverse of the curse is <u>blessing</u>.

²"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

God blessed Abraham and Sarah by turning their non-existent family line into a nation that would bring the <u>solution</u> to reverse the curse of <u>sin</u>.



God's mission is to <u>bless</u> all people through Jesus and <u>restore</u> God's image in all who trust in Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord by restoring them back into God's Family.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

God's mission is to restore His image in humanity through Jesus' perfect work and sacrificial death.

- Am I pursuing broken solutions to restore my brokenness?
- Am I pursuing God's mission to restore His image in those who are close to me but broken in their relationship with God?

God's blessing is not that He changes our behavior but that He changes our identity through a new life in Jesus.

MY NOTES:



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

We were created in the image of God, for community with Him, and to be under His authority. Sin broke that beautiful blessing that mankind was living in.

Mankind bought into the lie that there was more for us than what God had perfectly created for us.

Throughout history, God's mission has been to restore His image in all of humanity and it was made possible by Jesus; who was, is, and always will be God; sacrificing His perfectly lived life on the cross to make a way for the forgiveness of our sins and the restoration of God's image in humanity.

Man has continued to look to earthly things to restore what is broken and as Christ-followers it is our responsibility to look inward to see where we have done this and share with others that true healing isn't about behavior modification it is about yielding our hearts.

Jesus made a way. Will you accept it? Will you share it? Will you submit to His image and His design for both you and those around you?

TALK-IT-OVER:

What is an area of your life where you have looked for broken solutions rather than to Christ?

Why is it difficult to stop doing that? What would your life look like if you depended upon Christ to be the solution to your brokenness?

How have you seen your life change when you have followed the lead of Christ, through the guidance of the Bible, to fix your heart?

What is one next step you can take today?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) 1 Peter 2:9-10 Day 2) Matthew 1:20-21; 28:16-20 Day 3) John 14:23-24 Day 4) John 10:14-16, 26-30 Day 5) Ephesians 4:22-24 Day 6) Galatians 5:13-26