Gospel Sharing Study 3 The Priority of Community

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Key verse:** John 17:23b.

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

**Big Idea:
Sharing the gospel is a group assignment.**

**Kick Off**

Last week you worked on your ‘before and after’ conversion story. This week write down the names of two people you know and have regular contact with who do not know Jesus Christ as Saviour. Spend time now before the study asking God for wisdom as to how to enable them to hear the good news.

**Read John 17:20-23.**

1. Who are the people for whom Jesus is praying?

2. From these verses, what is the message believers are to show/speak to the world?
How is this task of sharing the gospel a group assignment?

3. What are the two consequences of unity in verse 23?

4. Do you think the world needs to encounter the church as a network of real relationships rather than a meeting to attend or a place to enter? Why?

5. Mark Dever (a Guru on ‘Church’) defines church as **“the gospel made visible”**.
Can you think of some practical ways we could increase contact between unbelievers and the Christian Community in order to make the gospel more visible?

6. How convinced are you of the truth that you are called to not just believe in Christ but to belong to Christ’s church?

**7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

The work of gospel mission to the world in the New Testament is overwhelmingly portrayed as a group assignment. Jesus teaches the disciples as a group. He sends them out on mission in pairs. He prays for unity and oneness as pathway for the gospel message. The great commission is given as a group assignment. And throughout Acts and the epistles we see team effort in mission all the way. The problem however is in seeing mission as a team effort it’s easy to then avoid individual effort.
How does this passage affirm the individual and the team for mission?

**8. Read Luke 5:27-31**

This passage gives us one great practical way to be a missional church of relationship networks where the gospel can be made visible for our non-Christian friends and family.
 What happens to Levi/Matthew in vv27,8?

 Why did he throw a party and who did he invite and why?

 How hard would this party have been for Levi to put on?

**THINK AND APPLY**

Think of the two people you know who are not Christian. If the Church is the” gospel made visible” then plan how you and your growth group can get them to see Jesus? Write down and share a feasible action plan that your group can initiate to see these people come to know Jesus.

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**For next week**

**Read**

**1 Cor 9:19-23**

**PRAYER: Pray for wisdom and courage and love for the lost

to motivate us into mission minded living.**