

EVERYDAY MISSION EXERCISE

Everyday Mission is not adding something else to your schedule, but being intentional with what is already there. Our routines and schedules are one of the ways that we as ordinary people, with ordinary lives, can use our everyday rhythms to make a difference.

Use the chart below to map out your daily, weekly and monthly rhythms and then consider how you could use what you are already doing to ‘Love Where You Live’.

For example: if you watch a show weekly, what would it look like to invite others to join you for a watch party?

DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE
THE ART OF NEIGHBORING

WEEK THREE :: DISCUSSION GUIDE
CHANGES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Normally I prefer an aisle seat, but I like being near the window when I am flying back into Austin. It gives you a whole new perspective on the place we live, work and play. You not only see the Frost building and the Capital Building which are increasingly being swallowed up by shiny new high rises, you see the Colorado River snaking its way through the heart of our City and well beyond.

More than that you see all the neighborhoods and the diversity of our city. From the ground it’s easy to spot the affluence, from the air you begin to realize there are a lot of average, below average and well below average neighborhoods surrounding our city. The landmarks fade into the background and you begin to realize there are a lot of people out there, most of them hurting, a lot of them struggling to get by, and all of whom need Jesus.

We shouldn’t overlook the affluent neighborhoods either. While most of the problems are neatly tucked away behind freshly cut lawns and well manicured hedges, the needs are just as great. People as a whole are empty, lonely, isolated and discontent.

We’ve been stressing for the last few weeks that the gospel will not necessarily change where we live and what we do, but it will change the way we view where we live and what we do.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus highlights how the gospel will changes our perspective in big ways, which we hope will lead us to make some small changes in our lifestyle that will make a big difference in our world.

READ MATTHEW 6:19-33

THE GOSPEL CHANGES WHAT WE TREASURE (vv19-21)

1. If someone were looking at your life from the outside, what would they say you treasure?
2. How do you strike a balance between storing up treasure for the immediate future, and storing treasure for all up for eternity?
3. How does one store up treasure in heaven?
4. In these verses Jesus tells us that the heart follows treasure rather than the other way around. Why do you think this is so?
5. What is a good strategy for loosening the grip of earthly treasure (materialism) in your life?

THE GOSPEL CHANGES WHAT WE LONG FOR (vv.22-23)

You've hear the phrase, "I've really got my eye on a new..." That is what Jesus has in mind in these verses. We can either set our eyes on things that lead to health and wholeness or things that lead us in exactly the opposite direction.

1. What are some things we set our eye on that lead to greater darkness?
2. What are some things we can set our eye on that lead to health and wholeness?

THE GOSPEL CHANGES WHO WE SERVE (v.24)

We are used to multitasking, but multitasking also means compartmentalizing—some things have our attention for a while, others things after that, and some things never cross our radar. To serve someone as your master means that they had your complete attention and utter devotion.

1. What are the main competitors in your life for giving yourself fully and completely to the Lord?
2. How do mixed allegiances impact our joy and contentment in our relationship with Christ?

THE GOSPEL CHANGES WHAT WE PURSUE (vv.25-33)

One would be tempted to say that we no longer pursue food, drink and clothing, but if you stop to think about it, that is exactly what we pursue. It is not because we are living on the ragged edge and don't know where our next meal is coming or we don't have anything to wear. It is because no matter how much we have we are never content with what we have.

1. What are some of the things in your life that you have a hard time trusting God with?
2. What does God's care for the birds of the air and the grass of the field tell you about his concern for you?
3. How do people living in an affluent society (with closets full of clothes and pantries full of food) learn to trust God for the basic needs?
4. What do you think it means to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness"?
5. What do you think it means to allow God to add to (and take away from) us as he sees fit?

Love will care for all needs - physical, social, emotional - but gospel love also recognizes our greatest need, which is to know god through Christ. So true love will always want to introduce people to our greatest friend, Jesus.

-Tim Chester