

Conversation Starters

- How long have you lived in Charlotte?
- Did you know that Charlotte is the 16th biggest city in the U.S. and 5th in population increase?

Discuss

At Meck, we always try to think in light of our mission. Mission can often be confused with values (who we are) or purpose (why we exist). Our mission is to help people far from God become fully devoted followers of Christ. We strive to build relationships with people that do not have a relationship with God, invite them to a place where they can explore, grow, and commit to a life of service and doing the same for other people. This was the mission close to the heart of God and the one Jesus gave us. (Read Luke 15 for more.)

"Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders—an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out." (Luke 5:32 The Message)

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 NLT)

- Do you ever struggle to share your faith?
- How do these parables from Jesus reveal the importance of sharing your faith?
- Do you know anyone that does not have a relationship with Christ?

The Bible and Jesus talk about an eternal destiny for every person on earth. Eternity can be spent either with God or apart from him. Jesus did not want even one person to miss out on eternity with God. Heaven and hell are real places and real people go to one or the other.

In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish. (Matthew 18:14 NLT)

- How does the reality of heaven and hell change how you view folks around you?
- Would you be willing to make sacrifices to your comfort to share your faith?
- Are there opportunities available to you right now for sharing your faith?

While our purpose and message and mission will never change (because they were given by God) how we work to achieve our mission must change according to the times and culture. At Meck our methods are always being evaluated to see if they are not just working, but working well. And if working well, could better investments be made in other ways that are more strategic. This allows us to stay on the frontlines of our mission to lead one more person to Christ.

- How is culture today different than it was 5 years ago? 10 years ago? 20 years ago?
- What are you willing to do to achieve the mission we have?
- Do you have gifts and abilities that can be used to serve the mission?

Next Steps

Keeping focused on the mission is not easy to do. It is something we as a church have committed to always asking ourselves to do. While it can be hard at times, it can also be energizing...if we let it. If we learn to always stay true to the message we are sharing, but keep our method on the table for evaluation and discussion and therefore subject to change, we can prevent ourselves from getting attached to the method while taking the message wherever we go. And if we can take the message to more people, then we will be that much closer to achieving our mission. Spend some time this week reflecting on the message we have to share, and how you can be taking part in sharing it.

Further Reflection

Read Luke 15; Luke 19:10.

Pray

God, thank you for Jesus' example and for loving us so much that you would do and have done whatever it takes to build a relationship with us. Thank you for the opportunity to share that with others and trusting us to do it. Help understand the importance of it and to have the strength and resolve to carry it out at whatever cost to us.