

Community Group Discussion Questions

RENEWING OUR CHURCH'S MISSION – NO. 7

“Renewing Our Commitment for Outreach” – Revelation 3:7-13

Theme: *Let's seize the wonderful outreach opportunities Jesus gives us!*

The ancient city of Philadelphia was founded for a special purpose. It was situated where several provinces all came together. A traveler would squeeze through Philadelphia in order to find roads to the other provinces. Consequently, Attalus II founded Philadelphia in 140 B.C. as a kind of missionary city to spread the Greek language and culture among the villages of the interior. In effect, Jesus is saying what the *city* had been for Greek culture, the *church* was to be for the gospel. Evidently, these believers were enduring hard times for their faith. Yet, in spite of difficulties, barriers, hazards and fears, here was a church surrounded by wonderful opportunities! What was true for this ancient church is true of us!

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

Who is the person most responsible for introducing you to Jesus Christ?
How did that happen?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

Read Revelation 3:7-13:

1. In verse 8, what does Jesus mean by the symbolism of an open door?
See 1 Corinthians 16:9; Colossians 4:3.
2. If Jesus has given us an open door of opportunity, it's because He holds the key (vs.7). What is the significance of the key? See Acts 14:27; 16:9.
3. Jesus is so concerned that we understand our mission that He stated it 5 times in the New Testament. Read Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, John 20:21 and Acts 1:8. Based on these verses, complete the chart below:

<i>What</i> are we to do?	
<i>Where</i> are we to do it?	
<i>When</i> are we to do it?	
<i>Why</i> are we to do it?	

How are we to do it?

Getting Real Together (Accessibility)

1. What are some typical fears and stereotypes that Christians have when they hear the term “evangelism”? What keeps you from sharing the Good News with others?
2. One way to build a bridge to people around you who need Jesus is to find something in common with them. Make a list in the space below of 5 activities you personally enjoy doing. Then write the names of individuals who need the Lord, whom you could invite to do the activities with you.

Activities (Hobbies, sports, dining out, etc.)	People to Invite (Friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, etc.)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Now select one of these activities and make a plan to invite the person/people you listed to do the activity with you. As you get to know them better, look for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with them.

3. Read Colossians 4:5-6 and 1 Peter 3:15. What principles and ideas can you learn from these verses about sharing Christ with the people you just listed?
4. Acts 1:8 tells us where we are to execute our mission. What can your group do together to help fulfill the Great Commission in one or more of these areas?

Praying Together (Supplication)

Close your time together by sharing the first name of someone you know who needs Jesus.

- Ask God to strengthen your heart and give you courage to share Christ as opportunities present themselves.
- Ask God to soften their hearts and prepare them to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

- Ask God to make our church more sensitive to people who need Jesus.