



SIGNS OF LIFE

About the Series

In this brief eight week series, Pastor Bryan will explore different topics that display to us what life from God looks like. The good news is that although sin and death are all around us, God has not abandoned us nor this world to be conquered by them. In his great love, he has intervened and initiated a new work by establishing a better Kingdom. The true King has come and placed these signs of life for us to see! In the next eight weeks, we will study the following topics:

- 12/23 **Incarnation** (God became one of us)
- 12/30 **Transformation** (God changes us)
- 1/6 **Community** (God welcomes us)
- 1/13 **Worship** (God is enjoyed by us)
- 1/20 **Love** (God loves through us)
- 1/27 **Reconciliation** (God makes peace through us)
- 2/3 **Generosity** (God gives through us)
- 2/10 **Mission** (God reaches the lost through us)

This Week: Mission (God reaches the lost through us)

God originally created all things & declared that it was good. Yet man rebelled & sinned against God (Gen. 3) & paradise as they knew it was lost. Immediately after the fall, God set out on a mission to seek out Adam and Eve with a plan to redeem and restore that which was lost. Years later, God sought one of their descendants, Abraham, and promised to bless him to bring light to the nations enslaved by darkness. Israel, however, lost sight of the story of God's redemptive and restorative purposes. Rather than using God's blessings to dispel the surrounding darkness, they became a part of that darkness.

In the fulness of time (Gal. 4:4), Jesus came and his life embodied, in the fullest sense, how serious God was in restoring this broken/lost world. In Jesus' death, God dealt with the evil of this fallen world, and in his resurrection the renewing power of a renewed creation broke forth into history. God promised that this restored creation will one day fill the whole earth and all of history will culminate in the kingdom of God. (Hab. 2:14)

What Jesus brought forth via his life, death & resurrection was a New Community (the Church) of redeemed image-bearers of God. This new community would go forward from where Adam & Israel failed to join Jesus in his mission of "seeking and saving the lost" (Lk. 19:10) and restoring that which was broken. Though this mission will prove challenging (Jn 16:33), Jesus promises that his power/presence will be with them always, through His Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

Read John 20:21

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

Application: Answer the below questions:

- How do you seek to embody the story of the gospel in your life? (give examples of how you attempt to 'put Jesus on display' among those in your life who are far from God?)
- What are some of the hindrances to living out the mission of God in your day-to-day life?
- How does our current understanding of "missions/missionaries" as only a select group of people who are sent to another country, confuse the general call for all Christians to live on mission?

Prayer

- Ask God to help the Church to identify and realize the great commission that has been entrusted to them and to live as Jesus lived - On mission for God's honor, and the world's redemption and restoration.

Recommended Resources



In "The Mission of God's People", Christopher Wright demonstrates that the Bible, from beginning to end, is about God's mission of redemption, reconciliation & restoration. Throughout, God is on the move, and he's calling former rebels enslaved by sin, to be set free and join Him.

Community Group Discussion

- Read scripture together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking the questions & taking the time to share/respond.
- Pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have a child/adult read the passage aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests, invite them to pray & sing a worship song together.