

*This midweek study will explore the mission of the church. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.*

### Essential Doctrine: Mission of the Church

The church is a sign and instrument of the kingdom of God, a people united by faith in the gospel announcement of the crucified and risen King Jesus. The mission of the church is to go into the world in the power of the Spirit and make disciples by proclaiming this gospel, calling people to respond in ongoing repentance and faith, and demonstrating the truth and power of the gospel by living under the lordship of Christ for the glory of God and the good of the world.

### 1 The church's primary function is joyful exaltation: the joyous uplifting of Jesus Messiah (Ps. 27:4; Isa. 43:6-7; John 17:24; 2 Thess. 1:10).

- ▶ What does the expression, "You had one job..." mean?
- ▶ Imagine an angel comes down and addresses the entire church with, "You had one job." What would the angel say that one job was?

#### Read Isaiah 43:6-7.

- ▶ Why does God create and gather his people?

#### Read Psalm 27:4.

- ▶ What was David's one wish?

#### Read John 17:24.

- ▶ What was Jesus' desire for His united people before He died for them?

#### Read 2 Thessalonians 1:10.

- ▶ According to Paul, why is Jesus returning?
- ▶ In eternity, will we evangelize others? Will we work for social justice? What will we do for all eternity?
- ▶ So what is the one main mission of the church?

### 2 The church's joyful exaltation includes proclaiming the good news of the risen king Jesus (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 10:15).

- ▶ When we discover something good—like a good film, a good song, or a good restaurant—what do we usually do with that knowledge?
- ▶ What does the word gospel mean?
- ▶ How do we get the news across?
- ▶ What must happen first for people to be able to joyfully to exalt Jesus?

#### Read Matthew 28:19 and Romans 10:15.

- ▶ What message are we supposed to tell the nations?
- ▶ Why did Paul call the news-bearer's feet "beautiful"? What makes them beautiful?

- ▶ What kinds of things does the church do to carry the good news so others can rejoice in Jesus?

Answers can be anything from Bible translation to mechanics for plane maintenance in mission fields to prayerful supporters.

- ▶ What keeps us from joyfully inviting others to share in the glorious news of Jesus?

### 3 The church's joyful exaltation includes discipling its members to build one another up in love and joy (Eph. 4:15-16; Heb. 10:24-25).

- ▶ Have you ever come to love something or someone more as time passes? How did that love increase?
- ▶ When you found other people who enjoyed that thing or person, did their love increase or decrease your joy?
- ▶ How do we rejoice in Jesus more?

#### Read Ephesians 4:15-16 and Hebrews 10:24-25.

- ▶ Why do these verses emphasize togetherness so much?
- ▶ What might these verses look like in our lives this week?

### WRAP IT UP

- ▶ If the church's job is joyful exaltation, what should be your most important objective this week? What can you do to help your friends, family, and others joyfully exalt Jesus?