



The Mission
*The Unfolding Story of
God's Redemptive Purpose*

Week 4 | The Church's Mission

 PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for gathering us together. As we open your word , help us to lift our eyes and see what You see. Shape us by your Word of Truth and align us with Your mission, so that our lives would reflect Your love to the world around us. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

 OPENING QUESTION
(OPTIONAL)

Have you ever been so distracted that you missed something important right in front of you? What happened?



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WORD

John 4:35-38 (ESV)

Do you not say, “There are yet four months, then comes the harvest”? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus contrasts what “you say” with what He says (v.35). What are some ways we, like the disciples, can be followers of Jesus but still miss what He’s doing right in front of us?
2. What tends to keep us from “lifting our eyes” to notice people around us who are spiritually open or searching?
3. How does viewing people as “harvest” (valuable and ready) change the way we think about evangelism or mission?
4. Where might God be asking me to lift my eyes right now?
5. Why do you think humility and gratitude are essential when we see fruit in ministry?

Application

- Is there a person, place, or situation I’ve been treating as an inconvenience—but God may see as an opportunity? Share this with someone and pray for that person, place, or situation.
- What might God be asking me to change so that I live with greater urgency for His mission?
- What might be distracting me from seeing the harvest right in front of me?

CONTEXT AND REFLECTION

The church is a partner in God’s mission, called to embody and proclaim the gospel, demonstrating God’s love, justice, and mercy in the world. This includes evangelism, discipleship, social action, and cultural engagement, reflecting God’s kingdom on earth.

Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman begins with a simple request for water but quickly becomes something much deeper. Jesus gently reveals truth about her life and leads the conversation from physical thirst to what it means to truly worship God. In a powerful moment, he tells her plainly that he is the Messiah she has been waiting for.

When the disciples return, they are surprised to see Jesus talking with her. She was a Samaritan and a woman—someone most people would have avoided—but Jesus sees her differently. Changed by the encounter, she runs back to her town and tells others about Jesus, and many come to see him for themselves.

While the townspeople are responding, the disciples are focused on food and practical needs. Jesus uses this moment to teach them that his true purpose is not just meeting physical needs, but doing the will of the Father who sent him.

What mattered most to Jesus was God’s mission. He knew he had been sent for a purpose, and even in a place others overlooked, he saw an opportunity for lives to be changed.

This passage invites us to ask whether we are paying attention to what God is doing around us—or whether we are too distracted to see it.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach us to see what You see. Forgive us when we are distracted or delayed by comfort and routine. Open our eyes to see the harvest around us. Give us hearts that value people the way You do. Whether we are sowing or reaping, help us rejoice together—trusting that You are at work through it all. Send us, Lord, into Your harvest. In Jesus name, Amen.