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Journey to Membership The Mission of God

- Explore what it means to join and be a member of Restoration Covenant Church
- Emphasize our commitment to God's mission in the world
- Introduce the group of churches we are a part of (denomination)
- Take a deeper look at our congregation
- Increase the sense of belonging, ownership and commitment to Restoration
- Build and deepen friendships

Objectives for this Session

- Provide an overview of the work of God in the world
- Acquaint people with the mission of God for each person and the church
- Introduce, begin and build friendships
- Begin the journey of belonging together at Restoration Covenant Church

Discussion Starter

Let's introduce ourselves and then share:

One fun fact or hobby you have.

How you started attending Restoration.

One question you would like to see answered during our time together.

The Mission of God to Us

The Bible is the story of God and us.

1. God creates

Genesis 1 and 2

Psalm 139:13-14 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Ephesians 1:4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

2. Humanity rebels but God redeems

Genesis 3 to 11

Genesis 12 to Revelation 20

Exodus 19:5-6 'Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your exile and restore your fortunes."

3. Christ restores us with God

Colossians 1:13-22 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

4. God sustains the new heaven and new earth

Revelation 21:1-4 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 21:22-27 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of

God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Reflection: God's Mission to You

As we see in the Bible, God has always desired a relationship with us.

Jeremiah 29:13-14a "If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you," says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes..."

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Consider the story of God and humanity through the Bible and answer the following questions.

To what part of the story do you most identify with?

How has God sought you out?

How have you sought him?

Use the timeline at the back of this guide to note significant points of your spiritual journey.

The time when you first remember being aware of God.

Times when you have been keenly aware of God's presence.

Significant events that shaped your view of God (good or bad).

The Mission of God through Us

God wants to see everyone in the world restored to him because God loves the world. Because of that he:

Seeks: God desires to bring close those who are far away from him. This means that God continually desires to meet people where they are and draw them into his loving presence and care, helping them to accept and trust him. *Luke 19:10*

Redeems: God desires to bring close those who are far away from each other. This means that God constantly desires to create communities where people can express the love they experience from God to others. *Luke 15:11-32*

Heals: God desires to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. He continually desires to restore the broken parts of our world and the causes of the brokenness. *Luke 4:16-19*

Reflection: God's Mission through You

How do you see God working through you to seek, redeem and save those who are lost?

On the timeline at the back of this guide, mark the times when you have...

Cared for others

Reached out to the hurting

Acted on injustice

Offered freedom from shame

Were a light in a dark place

Shared the good news of Jesus with others

Going Deeper

How do we discern our part in God's big mission? To begin with, God's desire is to give you a part that fits who you are and what you desire. So try answering these five questions. They may help you discern God's leading in your life right now.

What do you enjoy doing?

Where do you see God most at work in your life?

What do you want God to do in your life in the next 6-12 months?

If you could do anything for God or others what would you like to do?

How might Restoration help you pursue these things for God?

Timeline

Use this timeline to mark and label significant points of your spiritual journey.

