

Wake Up and Look Around

Week of July 23, 2018

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.



Message Recap:

Read **Matthew 9:35-38, 4:23**

Jesus sets the perfect example of what we as his followers can do in our communities; he even gave us a ministry pattern to follow. First, Jesus didn't ignore the crowds but he saw them and felt compassion. His ministry pattern was to teach, proclaim the gospel, and heal. He loved people and demonstrated the urgency with which we should be tending the needs of our neighbors. Teaching, proclaiming, and healing should be our pattern as well—not just for ministry but for living. Every day. Everywhere. The Transformation Center follows this example through their ministries in Brooklyn (which you can find out more about [here](#)). Wherever you minister, it's about translating your love for God into an active love for people.

Pray

Lord, thank you for loving us! We pray that you would open doors for us to proclaim your goodness and your grace. We pray that we would proclaim it well. We pray for healing in our communities that only you can provide through us. Move us to us go and teach everyone to observe what you have commanded, foremost to love you and our neighbors (Mark 12:30-31). Let us be your vehicles of change in the communities that need you so desperately.

Digging Deeper

Getting Started

- Who was the best neighbor you have ever had?
- How have you helped or been helped by your neighbors?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Matthew 9:35-36. How did Jesus view the "crowds"? Discuss how Jesus' view compares with the world's view of the sick.
2. Think of the people who have crossed your path in the last three days. Did you see them? Talk about who those people are and what needs they may have. How can you meet those needs?
3. Read and discuss Matthew 9:37-38. Why does Jesus make the harvest seem urgent? What is the harvest? Who are the workers? Consider and talk about what these verses mean in the context of 9:35-36.
4. Jesus' ministry pattern was the same wherever he went; to teach, proclaim the good news, and to heal. Share an example of how you could apply this ministry pattern to your neighborhood, your work, or your community.
5. How does Jesus rebut our excuses for avoiding or ignoring the needs of our communities?
6. What would it look like for the Transformation Center to be successful? How can you help? If you don't help there, where will you help?

Living Jesus

Darkness is the default of our broken world. Most people live in a place of hopelessness and despair, but beautiful are the feet that bring the good news (Isaiah 52:7). You cannot make an impact without contact...and Jesus is saying to you right now, "Wake up! Look around!" Feel other people's pain in your heart, let go of indifference and instead translate your love for God into an active love for people. Share the good news! Share the healing of Jesus! Teach others about the love of Jesus that you've learned by knowing him. This is how to live Jesus.

What's Your Story?

You can teach and proclaim Jesus by sharing your story of how Jesus has helped you. This is a great start to living a life that looks like Jesus' ministry pattern. If you need help telling your story, our writers can assist you. Fill out [this form](#) to share your story with others.

>> Go to [SevernRunner.info](#) and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you tell your story.

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