

Big Idea

As people who have experienced reconciliation with God and been transformed by the power of the Spirit, we have the privilege and responsibility to participate in God's ongoing reconciling work.

Scripture Passages

Matthew 28:18-20 – the great commission
Matthew 26: 36-40 – the great commandment
John 20:21 – sent
Acts 1:8 – witnesses
2 Corinthians 5: 11-21 – ministry of reconciliation
Romans 10:12-15 – the need to hear
Acts 17:16-34 – Paul in Athens and the unknown god

Key points

- There is a gospel imperative to both tell of and demonstrate the reconciling love of God
- Participation in the mission of God is inherent in who we are as people of God
- We are commissioned and sent to bear witness
- We are entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation
- People need to hear as well as see the 'good news'
- Being relevant to context matters (contextualisation)

Questions for application

- What actually motivates you to tell others about Jesus?
- What is the difference between 'doing' mission and inherently 'being' missional?
- In what ways have you borne witness in word or deed in the last week?
- Who do you need to speak words of witness to?
- What would it look like for you to practice the "ministry of reconciliation"?
- What are the 'touch points' in your neighbourhood/networks that connect with the gospel?

Stories

- As per the other resources – William Carey, the group of young women heading to Bangladesh
- Baptists in the marketplace who have demonstrated the gospel in workforce and social reforms
- Look for stories of connection in your community
- Listen to someone who has recently surrendered their life to Jesus