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# Believing That God Is at Work Around You

My Father is always at his work  
to this very day, and I too am working.

—Jesus in John 5:17

**D**uring a campus study break we recently hosted in our home in Pennsylvania, someone asked Ashley and me a meaningful question that more and more people have wondered about over the years. The event brought students and faculty together on a crisp autumn evening to watch football (this time the Eagles), play board games (Settlers of Catan), and share the frustrations of academic life (mostly involving time management).

A group of us sat huddled in our living room, some on couches, some on the floor, and some leaning against the wall. As we sipped hot apple cider and munched on pumpkin doughnuts from our local fruit farm, a professor's wife asked, "How did you become this way? What made you so bold to talk about Jesus?" The group leaned in to listen. I looked out at the faces of graduate students

who, like me over twenty years ago, search for a way to shape their lives and walk with Jesus.

I told them how, as a struggling twenty-two-year-old woman—longing for purpose, hungry for God, and worried that I had somehow missed the abundant life promised in Scripture—I began to wonder why God sent me to live in the bitter cold of Michigan where the academic people around me were hostile to Christianity and mocked me in my classes for believing the Bible and for loving Jesus. I suddenly felt too young, inexperienced, and foolish for attempting to earn a PhD in English as a Christian. I thought I might quit graduate school and return home to the safety of my family in Virginia, but instead, I discovered a simple word in Scripture that redirected everything about my life.

I had been reading the book of Jeremiah and felt so deeply connected to this Old Testament man who also felt too young and too uneducated to fulfill what God wanted Him to do. God said this: “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you” (Jer. 1:7–8).

I circled that word *send*. In the cold of that afternoon in Michigan as I was far from home, uncertain of God’s plan for my life and scared to declare myself as a Christian and help others know Jesus, I wondered if God was sending me, too. Had He chosen me for this particular place, with these people, for this time in history? And to make matters more confusing, I couldn’t escape the odd reality declared in Scripture that I was an ambassador for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20), used to “spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere” (2 Cor. 2:14).

What could these phrases mean? Did they apply to me? I felt both excited and uncertain about verses like Acts 1:8, which told

me the Holy Spirit empowers people to be *witnesses* or Matthew 4:19 that presents the notion that when you follow Jesus, He'll "send you out to *fish for people*." These concepts began to shift everything about my sense of purpose. More and more, I thought of this idea of God sending me to people who needed to know Him. Could God use me? I wanted Him to. I asked Him to.

And He *did*.

I shared with those students and faculty in my living room in Pennsylvania, now twenty years later, that when I asked God to use me and to help me understand this sent identity, so many marvelous things began happening—not just in the English department but also during ordinary activities like going to the dentist. I would leave my house in the morning and ask, "God, could You really use me in the lives of other people to introduce them to Jesus?"

That day, I sat reclined with pink molding gel dripping down my chin because I needed a mouth guard for my incessant nightly teeth grinding. I had just learned how to share my faith using a booklet called *The Four Spiritual Laws*<sup>1</sup> that I learned through my involvement with Cru, but I didn't think God *would actually use me*. I didn't think He was at work anywhere around me. I wanted Him to be, and I wanted Him to use me, but I wasn't sure He actually did things like that. I was still praying things like, *Is this actually happening, this crazy stuff about being an ambassador or spreading the aroma of Christ? Am I really a witness You have sent to fish for people? Is this happening?*

Oh, it was happening.

The dental hygienist asked how I had heard about their practice since I was a new patient. I told her I had come in desperation for a mouth guard, but I didn't have the insurance to cover the \$800 cost for that kind of appliance. I prayed that God would somehow

provide the money. In church that past Sunday, I had shared the prayer request with the man beside me. That man happened to own his own dental practice. He smiled at me and said, “Come to my office. I will make you that mouth guard for free.”

I wiped some of the dripping gel off my face and said, “Well, I prayed that God would provide a mouth guard, and the dentist at my church told me to come here.”

That was it. That was all I said. But God was about to use me in the story of that dental hygienist.

She leaned back, and tears formed in her eyes. “You pray? You pray to God? And He answers you?”

“Yes,” I stammered.

She waited to hear more. I sat there for a moment, unsure and unprepared. I didn’t know what to say, so I fished around in my purse for that booklet that presented the gospel. I asked, “Has anyone ever told you how you can know God personally, too?”

“No,” she cried. “But I want to know!”

***God was working, and He chose to use a poor graduate student who was so stressed out that she ground her teeth to nubbins.***

I reminded her that I was new to all this sharing my faith stuff, and I didn’t really know what I was doing, but I would try my best to share with her the good news of knowing Jesus Christ. I fumbled through the presentation: I began by telling her God loved her and offered a wonderful plan for her life. I read to her John 10:10 and how Jesus offers abundant life. I also read John 3:16 explaining that God loved us so much He sent Jesus to die for us. I then told her that we’re sinners who were designed to know God but how our sin keeps us from Him. Third, I shared the good news that Jesus came to pay

the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross and offering forgiveness if we accept the free gift of salvation. Last, I said that every person needed to individually receive Jesus—by faith—and accept this free gift.

I felt so nervous. I'm pretty sure I was shaking. But I read the booklet and told her she could pray the suggested prayer at the end where you express your desire to begin your life with Christ. I wrote down my phone number so we could talk more. That evening, my phone rang, and it was the hygienist. Her happy voice exclaimed, "I prayed that prayer! Now what should I do?" I invited her to church with me, and she began her spiritual journey all because of teeth grinding. I think of the awkwardness of the whole thing, including the dripping pink plaster and my stumbling presentation. But it didn't matter. God was working, and He chose to use a poor graduate student who was so stressed out that she ground her teeth to nubbins.

That evening the students and professors laughed as I shared the story and smiled about how God used my teeth grinding for His purposes. But I continued sharing in our living room that it wasn't just that dental hygienist who made me realize God was sending me to people. It was because of the students who came to my office asking how I knew the purpose of my life. I'd hand out copies of Josh McDowell's *More Than a Carpenter* to spiritually seeking students. One returned and said he'd surrendered his life to Christ.

It was because of the graduate students who asked me to explain my strange joy or approached me to ask about their personal problems—like the one who said, "You have an aura about you. Who is your spirit-guide?" As I shared about the Holy Spirit indwelling me as my "spirit-guide," she said, "Can you help me? I

don't understand what I do. I don't do the things I want to do, and I do the things I don't want to do. What's wrong with me?" I had just read Romans 7 where Paul discusses the same problem, and that began the starting point to talk about Jesus.

It was because of the Taiwanese students I met who learned about Jesus for the first time and gave their lives to Him when they understood they didn't have to work to earn God's favor. It was because of the night it snowed, and I missed an appointment with a woman I had been praying for. I said to the Lord, "How can You send me if I'm trapped in the snow? You'll have to bring people to me if I can't go to them." My doorbell rang, and the woman stood on my doorstep. She had bravely taken a taxi ride through a blizzard to meet me and talk about Jesus. Day after day in Michigan, I began to see that God was at work to draw people to Himself, He chooses to use people to lead others to Jesus, and that God continually invited me into the work of evangelism whether I was reclining in a dental chair, sitting in a classroom, or walking around in the natural pathways of my day.

"So that's how it all began," I concluded. And God was teaching my now-husband, Ashley, the same principles. In our living room that night, Ashley shared his own stories of God using him in the lives of others and the way God was teaching Him to live a sent life. In fact, these principles shaped our lives then and continue to direct everything we do now in our lives in Pennsylvania.

The graduate students and professors were silent for a moment. Then, some said, "That's amazing" or "I want to live like this."

A month later, I spoke to them at the weekly campus meeting for Christian graduate students on living a sent life. This time, they took notes to begin internalizing the core principles of a sent life.

## THREE CORE PRINCIPLES OF A SENT LIFE

**PRINCIPLE 1:** *God is always at work to draw people to Himself.*

**PRINCIPLE 2:** *God uses people to lead others to Jesus.*

**PRINCIPLE 3:** *God continually invites us into the work of evangelism.*

Just as Ashley and I learned at Michigan, right now, in whatever setting you find yourself, God is still working to rescue people, He chooses to use people to accomplish this mission with Him, and He now invites you into your greatest life's work of telling others about Jesus.

Most important, Ashley and I have learned that talking about Jesus with others is a natural extension of who someone is in Christ as they cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Evangelism as *communion with God* changed everything about us: our marriage, our careers, and how we, to this very moment, conduct ourselves in our family, neighborhood, and workplace. The focus of our lives became this sent identity that provided the foundation for our three core principles.

### PRINCIPLE 1:

*God is always at work to draw people to Himself.*

In just two phone calls, God reminded me of a vital truth about Himself as a God who is *always at work*. It happened because of a tearful call to a United Airlines customer service representative.

My hand trembled as I held the phone. After an already exhausting and stressful trip for a speaking event, my homesick heart



couldn't handle one more thing going wrong. I fought back the tears and anger as I apologized to the voice on the phone. I stammered, "I'm usually not like this. I'm just so ready to get home. Why did the airline cancel my flight? Please help me. I've got to get home!" I prayed and begged God to intervene.

***You won't always hear  
Me, but I am here  
working. Stay on the line.  
I am here. You might  
not hear anything,  
but I am working.***

The agent pulled up the original reservation while I waited in silence. The voice on the line assured me that I would be rebooked and would arrive home on time.

And then the voice said something that settled my heart and powerfully reminded me about God's nature. The calm voice said this: "It's going to be quiet on the line. You won't hear me. You won't hear anything. But I am here. I am working. I am making this right. Stay on the line. Remember, you won't hear me, but I am here working." I imagined I was hearing the faintest whisper of her fingers on a keyboard. Several long minutes passed. I occasionally whispered, "Are you still there?"

The agent would patiently say, "I'm still here. I'm working."

I smiled as I thought about God.

*You won't always hear Me, but I am here working.*

*Stay on the line. I am here. You might not hear anything, but I am working.*



I (Heather) sometimes wake up in the morning, and it doesn't feel like God is working. I don't sense His presence, and I find no evidence that He's working in the lives of those I'm praying come

to know Jesus. How do I step out into a world that feels dull and devoid of spiritual movement or revelation? I remember the day I called my friend and found myself complaining about life in our town. Life felt slow and uneventful that week, and I said to her, “Sometimes I just want to move somewhere else! Why am I still here?”

She said, “Well, because God is still at work here. The Father is always at work.” Her words reminded me of the unseen reality that God was working whether I perceived it or not.

Sent people embrace the often-unseen reality but nevertheless operative principle that God is always at work. And what kind of work is this? Consider these five moments in Scripture that talk about God at work as the foundation for Principle 1: God is always at work to draw people to Himself.

- **God is working.** In John 5:17 Jesus explains: “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”
- **God designed us to desire eternity.** In Ecclesiastes 3:11 we read, God “has also set eternity in the human heart . . .”
- **God draws people to Jesus.** Jesus says in John 6:44 that “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them . . .”
- **The Holy Spirit is always testifying about Jesus.** In John 15:26, Jesus tells us, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.”

- **Jesus came to seek and save the lost. That’s what Jesus is still doing.** Luke 19:10 tell us: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Think about the people around you. What difference would it make to know that God was working there? What if you believed God was orchestrating events to position you with people who need Him? He might also be sending others, and you exist as an important person—for a specific time—to help someone on their spiritual journey. If God is working; if He has put concerns about eternity into the human heart; if He draws people to Jesus; if the Holy Spirit is testifying about Jesus; and if the nature of Jesus is to seek and save the lost, then we approach conversations with other people with boldness and expectation.

At this very moment, Jesus is seeking and saving the lost. He is the Good Shepherd who continually searches after the lost sheep—those who don’t yet know Him (Luke 15:3–7). And the Father is drawing people to know Him. God, in fact, “wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). As we understand God’s primary work in the world today—to draw people to Himself—we begin to believe in a grander purpose for our lives on earth.

It’s incredible if you think about it. God is building a kingdom for Himself. He is *rescuing* people, and He invites us into this adventure of seeking and saving the lost.

## PRINCIPLE 2

*God uses people to lead others to Jesus.*

Once we realize God is always at work to draw people to Himself, the next core principle transforms how we see ourselves in relation

to God's work on earth to build His kingdom. *He uses us*. When you understand that God doesn't need people (He can impart truth to our souls without people), it makes you wonder why God chooses to use people in the work of evangelism.

I (Ashley) recently understood more deeply how God uses us in the work of evangelism and why. As I studied Acts 1:6–8, I noticed something as the disciples talk to Jesus. We read:

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Did you see what happened here? The disciples spent three years with Jesus as recorded in the gospels. They were the first to hear of His resurrection and see Him alive again. They spent time with Him for many days and no doubt had the best understanding of anyone of what was coming next.

But they missed it.

They thought the physical establishment of the kingdom of God on earth was the next big thing to happen, and so they ask about it. That's what's on their minds. But if you notice, Jesus doesn't scold them, but He does redirect their focus. He tells them to let God worry about the coming physical kingdom, but then He tells them that He has something else for them right then in the present moment. They are going to join Him in the greatest rescue mission the world has ever seen. God is going to save many people,

***Before He called them to do something, He called them to be something.***

and He is going to use them to do it. He says this to the disciples who were there, and He says it now to us: “You will be my witnesses.”

But also notice that He doesn’t just give them new actions to do or new tasks to go after. He gives them a *new identity*. He says *you will be my witnesses*. In other words, you will be my missionaries. Before He called them to *do* something, He called them to *be* something.



Consider these five moments in Scripture that shape this second core principle of God using people to lead others to Jesus. Note the words in italics:

- **God gives us the Holy Spirit to become witnesses.**

Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and *you will be my witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- **God uses us to spread knowledge about Jesus.**

2 Corinthians 2:14: But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and *uses us* to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.

- **God has given us a ministry to lead others to Jesus.**

2 Corinthians 5:17–20: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled

us to himself through Christ and *gave us the ministry* of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has *committed to us the message* of reconciliation. We are therefore *Christ's ambassadors*, as though God were making his appeal through us.

- **Jesus chooses and appoints us to bear fruit for the kingdom.** John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I *chose you and appointed you* so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."
- **God created us in Christ to do the good work He's prepared for us.** Ephesians 2:10: For we are God's handiwork, *created in Christ Jesus to do good works*, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

As we begin to shape our identity as sent people, these five passages tell us something powerful about who God made us to be: we're witnesses empowered by the Holy Spirit; we're used by God to spread knowledge about Jesus; we've been given a ministry to reconcile others to Christ; and we're chosen and appointed for this good work of leading others to know Jesus.

### PRINCIPLE 3

*God continually invites us into the work of evangelism.*

A mentor once told me (Heather) that God will never give a command in Scripture that He also doesn't give us the desire and power to obey. Once I realized that God was at work all around me, every day, and that He chose to use ordinary people to accomplish His mission to rescue people and build a kingdom for Himself, I

understood better how to respond with joy to His command that now felt like an invitation to a great party.

You probably know this command well if you've been in church. It's called the Great Commission, quoted here from Matthew 28:18–20. I love the word “commission” because it means our “official charge”; it's a formal, important, and auspicious kind of word. We read this:

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

I love this Great Commission because of two often overlooked concepts: Jesus commissions us with His authority, and He invites us into a calling that's rich with meaning and purpose *with* Him. He is with us—in all His authority—as we enter into this work of telling others about Jesus. You may agree with the first two core principles that God is at work and that He does, in fact, use humans to lead other humans to know God, but you may take issue with His personal commandment and invitation to *you* to do this kind of work. Does the Great Commission apply to you or just to the disciples? As we read the New Testament letters that come after the ascension of Christ, we know that nobody misunderstood this point. The followers who would come after those first disciples, as explained in Paul's instructions to the early church, would work as ambassadors and witnesses as part of their new identity as Christians.

When I understood this calling, it helped answer a nagging

question I'd had since becoming a Christian. *What was my purpose here on earth? What's my actual calling? What is God's will for my life?*

As I embraced the Great Commission as my purpose, calling, and God's will for me, my career became my avocation (my minor occupation) and evangelism became my vocation (my calling to a career)—and this was before I joined a missions organization to work full-time in ministry. Not many of us will become full-time ministers or missionaries. But each of us has a new vocation, right now, as those sent to proclaim the gospel.

The words of Jesus had been bringing me here all along; I was Peter who would leave everything to follow Jesus when He invited him to follow Him and go fishing for people. I was one of the seventy-two in Luke 10:2–3a where Jesus says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out . . .”

This third core principle stems from five scriptural truths:

- **Jesus commands us to tell others about Him.** Matthew 28:18–20: Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- **Jesus invites us into the work of drawing others to Him.** Matthew 4:19: “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”



- **Jesus sends us on the same mission He has to seek and save the lost.** John 20:21: Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

- **God sends us to preach to others about Jesus.** Romans 10:13–15: For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

- **God invites us to live as His witness.** Isaiah 43:10–12:

“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD,

“and my servant whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,  
nor will there be one after me.

I, even I, am the LORD,  
and apart from me there is no savior.

I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—

I, and not some foreign god among you.  
You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD,  
“that I am God.”

With these verses solidifying our invitation to the sent life—as we now know God is working and He uses people to lead others to

Jesus—we're about to understand a radically different way to live. As you shape your new life from the three core principles, you'll begin to see God work in powerful ways.

However, you might be among the 47 percent of Christians who, in 2019, reported that it was *wrong to share your faith with others*. This report from Barna may astonish you. The research shows that this particular group surveyed—the millennial population—were more likely than even non-Christians to *strongly agree* that “it is wrong to share one’s personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share that same faith.”<sup>22</sup> When we realize the core principles from Scripture that God is at work, He uses people to lead others to Jesus, and He continually invites you to do so, it not only makes it *right* to share Christ with others, but it makes it an inevitable and joyful part of the Christian life.

Sent is now *who we are*.

Right now, you may feel hesitation and even fear about this new identity. And you might have the legitimate concern that you don't possess the gifting or personality we see in many other fruitful evangelists. I (Ashley) can certainly relate. As we noted earlier, Heather is extroverted and has the gift of evangelism. I am introverted and do not have the gift of evangelism. I have only grown in admiring how the Lord crafted and gifted Heather. I thank God for her continuously. However, I have also increasingly embraced that evangelism is not just for Heather and others like her. The opportunity to introduce others to Jesus belongs to me too, and to every one of us.

So I often approach God with this question: “God, can you really use someone like me?” *I know You use people, but can You use me?* I feel afraid at times. I feel insufficient a lot. I get it wrong more than I would like. Perhaps you have felt that way too. Or perhaps

you have thought, “I’ve always wanted to start sharing my faith, but I don’t think I’m that kind of person.” If you have felt that way—or even if you haven’t—I want to share a story that has most helped ground me in my identity as a missionary or *sent one*.

During one inglorious moment in my life, our younger daughter asked to help me shovel snow off the driveway. She was four years old. By herself, she had put on everything she could to stay warm and dry (imagine Ralphie’s little brother in *A Christmas Story*).

Meanwhile, I began to shovel the snow. But I had no idea that inside, my daughter was planning to do everything she could to

help me. So she waddled out of the garage with a snow shovel that almost stood taller than she did and said, “Dad, I want to help you shovel the snow.”

I really like shoveling snow. I value shoveling it perfectly and efficiently. I was thinking, *She’s only going to slow me down. She’s going to make my work harder.* I said rather dismissively, “Honey, I’ve got to

do this myself. Just go back in.” She dropped the shovel and sadly shuffled back inside the house.

Oh man, I felt awful because God’s Spirit convicted me immediately. It was as if the Holy Spirit said to me, “Ashley, did you ever stop to think that *maybe she just wanted to be with you* and maybe, just maybe, that was more important than how effectively or efficiently you shoveled the driveway?”

A few years ago, God reminded me of that story when I was questioning my role as a sent person. He used that story of my

***It’s not about my greatness or your greatness, it’s about the greatness of God. It’s about the kindness of a God who would say, “I want to do this with you because I think it would be really great.”***

daughter wanting to spend time with me to understand His perspective on my identity as a leader sent to reach graduate students with the gospel. I imagined God saying something like this: “Well, I really don’t need you to save the grad students of the world, and I am pretty sure you are going to make My job a lot harder. But back in eternity past when I was thinking about how I might reach them and how I might use Cru to be a part of that work, I was wondering if you, Ashley, would really enjoy doing this with Me. I wondered how special it would be if you and I could go after this together.”

Isn’t that cool to consider? God doesn’t need us. We might actually mess things up and make the work harder like a small child trying to shovel snow. But He wants to be with us. It’s not about my greatness or your greatness, my ability or your ability, or however you feel about that. It’s about the greatness of God. It’s about the kindness of a God who would say, “I want to do this with you because I think it would be really great. I think it would be really fun. I think it would be really special that we get to do this together.” Although we don’t see God speaking like this in Scripture, I think it reflects His heart and character.

So think about the people in your life. Think about the people God has sovereignly placed you next to in your neighborhood, family, workplace, or school. Write your name in that story where God says, “You know, in eternity past I decided to reach this group of people and I thought that it would be fun to do this with you, [insert your name].” Isn’t that great?

That’s where our hope and courage come from. Our hope and courage don’t come from our personality or gifting. Our hope and courage come from the reality that we have an awesome, incredible God who will save His people and who invites us to be a part of it with Him. God therefore uses us so we might enjoy being

together, but also because it builds our faith and attaches us to an eternal purpose.

God is sending people. He is sending you. The most frequent way Jesus describes God the Father in the gospel of John is “the Father who sent me.” Jesus knew exactly who He was, and we embrace this same sent identity when we remember what He said in John 20:21: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

*I am sending you.*

Later in Romans 10:14–15, Paul also declares our sent identity as he describes *how the gospel spreads*. What is God’s plan for the spreading of the gospel? *Sent people*. Remember what Paul writes:

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach *unless they are sent*? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

You don’t have to wait to begin your sent life in light of these three core principles. God is sending you right now. In our very first class that we teach on living a sent life, we invite participants to think of five people God has placed in their lives. They write down those five people and commit to pray for them and to begin taking steps of faith to talk to them about Jesus. Which five people would you put on your own list? Pause a moment and pray, asking God to bring those five people to your mind as you read through this book.

Finally, if you think about it, the majority of people reading these words right now were brought into a relationship with Jesus

*because God sent someone* into their lives to talk about Him. Who was that person for you? Can you now imagine being that person to someone else?

He sent others to you. Now, He sends you.

## YOUR SENT LIFE

### *Consider / Discuss*

1. Do you see evidence that *God is at work around you to draw people to Himself*? Make a list of people you know who already seem interested in spiritual things. If you don't see evidence that God is at work around you, pray that God shows you how He is working.
2. Why do you think *God chooses to use people* in His rescue mission instead of some other kind of way? Why does He invite us to cooperate with Him?
3. When you read the Great Commission, what do you feel? Guilt? Duty? Excitement? Fear? Write a few sentences about what Jesus' words that *invite us into the work of evangelism* stir up in you and why.
4. After reading this chapter, has your motivation to talk about Jesus changed? Why? If it hasn't, what would you need to know or feel that might motivate you to share the gospel with others?

### *Steps of Faith:*

1. Begin praying for five people God has placed in your life who do not know Him. Ask the Lord to help you see how He is working in their lives.
2. To start your journey of talking openly about Jesus, write down a few sentences about what you most want people to know about Him.
3. As your first faith step, consider asking someone in your life who doesn't yet know Jesus this question: "Have you ever felt that God is working in your life? What was that like?" Maybe this person will then ask you if you've ever experienced God working in your life. What would you say?
4. Who did God send to help you begin a relationship with Jesus? Consider writing a thank-you note or reaching out in some other way to honor that person.