

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, April 29, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. **[A Missional Exercise - Neighborhood Mapping](#)**
5. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
6. [Sermon Review](#)

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place.
Here may sinners find forgiveness and righteousness, all provided by Christ.
Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.
Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort.
Here may the weary find rest, and the strong recognize their need
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Oh How I Need You](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: God, you placed us in the world to be its salt. We are afraid of committing ourselves, afraid of being inconvenienced by the lives of others. We do not want to interact with those who aren't like us, and our salt dissolves as if in water.

C: Forgive us, Jesus.

L: God, you placed us in the world to be its light. We are afraid of the shadows, afraid of weakness, afraid of need, and we judge the sins of others as worse than ours. We do not take time to know, and listen to, other people's struggles, and our light slowly fades away.

C: Forgive us, Jesus.

L: God, you placed us in the world to live in community. Thus you taught us to love, to share in life, to find our identity in the midst of community. We want to be individuals and make our own decisions.

C: Forgive us, Jesus

L: Do a work in us and change us we pray. Though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

// Assurance of Pardon //

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

—Romans 8:1

[Be Thou My Vision](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

God has been hospitable and welcomed us into His family through the work of Jesus Christ for us. Now we are a hospitable people and welcome other sinners in to be part of this family and its mission. With that in mind, let's extend hospitality to one another this morning by greeting each other.

[Our God and King](#)

[Alive in You](#)

// Benediction //

L: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)

Peace be with you!

C: And also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

L: Dear friends, we can never hear this declaration too often or too boldly: "It is finished!"

Before returning to be with our heavenly Father, Jesus accomplished everything required for the salvation of our souls and for the renewal of the entire cosmos. *Nothing* was left undone. Indeed, Jesus came not to give us a second chance but to be the second Adam—to be our substitute to trust, before he is our model to follow. We are forgiven in Jesus, righteous in him, and beloved in him.

Rejoice, receive, and rest in the Good News. Let us cease from our strivings and doubts. For we are the beloved of God.

C: Hallelujah, Jesus is all we need!

[10,000 Reasons/Bless the Lord](#)

[Give Me Faith](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Holy and loving Father, it's because you have declared us to be eternally righteous in Christ that we declare ourselves to be presently in need of your grace. What a kindhearted God you are—abounding in mercy, rich in compassion, and steadfast in love.

C: We confess our sins of thought, word, and deed.

L: Father, for entertaining thoughts of lust and greed, envy and revenge, fantasy and foolishness, forgive us and cleanse us.

C: For using our words to manipulate rather than to minister; to whine rather than to worship; and to gossip rather than to pray, forgive and cleanse us.

L: Father, for doing things that sabotage grace and not doing things that promote your glory, forgive and cleanse us.

C: We humbly offer our prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

L: Jesus knows our every weakness, and loves us still. Awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace. God loves you not because of what you have done, but because Jesus has lived and died in your place. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

C: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

[How Deep The Father's Love For Us](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

If you are grateful for the peace you have with God because of what Jesus has done for you, then pass that peace along to others this morning. Take a few minutes to greet one another

[God With Us](#)

// Benediction //

L: If you have received Christ you have also received his mission- to seek out those who don't know Him and tell them of His love for sinners. May he give each of you opportunities to do just that this week.

Go in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY

Scripture to Meditate On:

2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Reflection Questions:

- In our Prayer of Confession we asked forgiveness “For using our words to manipulate rather than to minister; to whine rather than to worship; and to gossip rather than to pray, forgive and cleanse us.” Which of these are you most prone to? Are there circumstances that make you more prone to that sin? How do you try to make up for that sin rather than confess it and receive assurance?
- What did you take away from our time of worship together? (maybe a song lyric, a line from one of our readings, or something from the sermon that you learned). Why did that stick with you?
- In the sermon Ryan shared this quote from Ed Stetzer-
The term “missional” is effective in describing the relationship between the calling of God’s people and God’s mission. While it’s common for people to say, “The church has a mission,” a better way to talk about mission is “God’s mission has a church”. God’s mission is the starting place for understanding the church and its mission. God has placed mission in the DNA of the church.
How does that change the way you think about the life of the church? Is that a new idea to you (mission as central to the identity of the church)?
- Mission was central to this church in Antioch (they were sharing the gospel with new people) and to the early church in general as we see throughout the book of Acts, has that changed? Why do you

think that is? How has the church of the 21st century moved away from the centrality of mission and why?

- More and more people are hearing about Jesus from the regular everyday people in the Antioch church (the “no-names” of verse 20). How is God leading you to be part of the mission of the church in spreading the gospel? Perhaps there is a neighbor or friend that he has put in your life so they would hear that good news! Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead you to do just that (He did it in the book of Acts, so I am sure He can do it with us!)
- Pray that God would continue to lead our church in living our identity as missionaries here in Plainfield and the surrounding areas.

Suggested Resources

Articles: [How To Think About The Christian Mission](#) by Silverio Gonzalez
[Ordinary Life with Gospel Intentionality](#) by Redeemer Church

Videos: [How To Live On Mission \(Even With a Busy Schedule\)](#) by Soma
[On Mission Together](#) by Saturate

Book: [A Field Guide for Everyday Mission](#) by Ben Connelly

A MISSIONAL EXERCISE: *NEIGHBORHOOD MAPPING*

Here is an easy exercise that will encourage us to begin living out our missionary identity as Christians.

1. Grab a piece of paper and draw your house (apartment, condo, etc.) and the houses that surround it (*If you aren't much for drawing you can just steal this map- [block exercise map](#)*)
2. Fill in the names of the people who live in those houses. If you don't know their names, no problem, you now have your first assignment! Go introduce yourself. A good way to do this is to do it by apologizing, after all, as a Christian you should have been the one to reach out. Say something like: “I have to apologize, we’ve lived here for ___ years and I have never formally introduced myself.” To make it easier think of baking something and taking it to them (food always makes things easier).
3. Begin praying for those people regularly together. Talk to at least one other person in our church and share those who you are praying for with them. Ask them to pray for you as you seek to be a missionary in your neighborhood.
4. Think of something you can do on a regular basis to interact with your neighbors (take a walk at a certain time regularly, sit on your porch/front of your house to interact when others come out, etc.) Check out the EASY WAYS TO BE MISSIONAL document for some more ideas!
5. Now think of having an event in the next couple months that you can invite a few of your neighbors over for (a cookout, desert night, game night, ice cream social, beer exchange, etc.) Invite a couple people from church as well to begin mixing those relationships.
6. Lets see what the Holy Spirit does as we all live on Jesus mission together!

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents)

HOW TO HAVE FAMILY DEVOTIONS (amidst a busy schedule)

One night this week, have dinner together and after dinner take 10 minutes to do the following:

1. **READ** [Acts 11:19-24](#)
2. **POINT OUT** That the Christians had to leave a certain area because there was a King who wanted to stop Christianity, they wound up in a new place called Antioch. And what did they do there? The started telling people about Jesus! And it wasn't just the leaders of the church, it was all the people! And then because of that they have a new church with a bunch of people who believed that Jesus is the Savior.
3. **ASK**
 - *For younger kids:* "Do you think that is what we are supposed to do to? If someone asked you- 'What is the message about Jesus?' what would you say?"
 - *For older kids:* "Do you feel equipped to share the gospel? Why or why not?" (Point out to them that these Christians in Antioch shared the gospel BEFORE they spent a year in discipleship. So it must not require a lot of training.)
4. **EXERCISE-** Draw a quick map of your house and the houses around you. Write the names of the people who live there and begin praying for them regularly. If you don't know their names, it's a great opportunity to go meet them! Think of ways you might be able to get to know them better. Have the kids plan something (cookout, game night, etc.) to invite over their friends who don't know Jesus.
5. **PRAY** together for your neighbors, friends at school, co-workers, etc. who don't know Jesus

Sermon Review

Title: The Means of Mission

Text: [Acts 11:19-30 & 13:1-3](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/the-means-and-method-of-mission/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Overview:

Acts 11:19-30 and 13:1-3 introduce us to the church at Antioch. This is an important church in the history of Christianity because it is the first church to reach non-God fearing people (Greek Hellenists or "polytheists").

Sermon Summary: The Gospel Creates a Community on Mission

This new church is made up of people with no knowledge of the God fo the Old Testament and yet they are responding to the message that Jesus is Lord. We see this new "community on mission" 1) growing wide, 2) growing deep, 3) growing together, and 4) multiplying again.

Growing Wide

After people are scattered because of Stephen's stoning some land in Antioch and start sharing the gospel with the people there. A bunch of people come to know Jesus and the Jerusalem church hears about it so

they send Barnabas to go check it out. When he arrives the text says that he “saw the grace of God”. What exactly does that mean? I think if we look to the beginning of ch.13 we get an idea of what he saw that made him aware God was doing something there. In 13:1 we see a list of the leadership of the church at Antioch and it is a very diverse group of people- Barnabas a Greek Jew, Simeon a black African, Lucious a North African (Arabic), Manaen- from the highest of the upper class, and Saul- a jewish scholar.

Seeing this diverse group of people all together because of the gospel would certainly make someone say they have seen the “grace of God”!

Barnabas then gives them the encouragement to “remain faithful with steadfast purpose” which would seem to be connected to what he saw. A community that was continually reaching out to more and more people with the good news that Jesus Christ was the Savior. His encouragement was to keep steadfast to the purpose for which Jesus came- to save sinners! In other words remaining faithful means to keep on Jesus’ mission. A faithful church is a church on mission. Without mission a church ceases to be a church, for that is its purpose in the world- it is the carrier of the gospel message!

Growing Deep

Verse 24 tells us that “a great many people were added to the Lord” and then v.25 states that Barnabas goes to Tarsus to look for Saul. If you wanted someone to help deepen these new believers in an understanding of the Old Testament and the story of how Jesus is the one sent from God, who would you call? You got it, Saul! There is no one who knows it better than the Pharisee turned Christian (after all, he heard it from Stephen).

Barnabas and Saul spend a year teaching this young church about Jesus and his mission. The teaching must have been centered all around Jesus, they were called “CHRIST-ians” (v.26).

The important thing to note is that discipleship is not just filling our heads with theological truths, but rather learning more about who Jesus was and what He came to accomplish and joining Him in that mission.

Growing Together

This new church not only realizes itself to be part of the mission of Jesus, but it also sees itself connected to the other believers in Jesus, even those they haven’t met. In v.27-30 the church hears of the need of fellow believers in Jerusalem and comes together to give money to help them survive the famine. The text says they considered them “brothers living in Judea”, but they likely hadn’t met these people. The gospel not only re-unites us to God as we were created for, but also re-unites us to one another. Here is a picture of this- one church sacrificing for another church.

Multiplying Again

At the beginning of ch.13 we see the Holy Spirit and the church sending Barnabas and Saul off for another work. The two people who were most integral to the establishing of this church are now sent off to go start more new churches. You can see here how focussed on mission the Holy Spirit is. He is constantly pushing outward to see the gospel go forth in a new place and establish new churches where people can see the love of God and hear the good news that Jesus saves sinners. So these two men who have been used to build up this young church are now off to go do the same in another place. Mission is the church and the church is mission.