

Surprise the World!

Week Six: Sent to the World

Read Chapter 7 from Surprise the World by Michael Frost

Get Connected: What is the best letter you have ever received? Or what is the most powerful memoir you have read? What made it so?

Bible Study:

You are invited to engage with scripture each week using an ancient practice called *lectio divina*. Read the scripture once. Allow a minute of silence following, and then each person answers the first question. Read the scripture aloud the second time, followed with a minute of silence, and then each person answers the second question. Read the scripture a third time, hold a minute of silence, and then answer the third question. It is most helpful when everyone has the scripture in front of them so they can underline phrases and make notes regarding the question. The other important practice to this form of engaging with the scripture is holy listening. Each person listens deeply to the other's response without interruption or dialogue. At the end of the three rounds, if the group would like to enter into dialogue and conversation with the scripture that is the appropriate time. A person can certainly pass answering a question at any time. Listen for what the Spirit seeks to share with you in this living encounter with the Word.

Luke 7: 18-23

John's disciples reported back to him the news of all these events taking place. He sent two of them to the Master to ask the question, "Are you the One we've been expecting, or are we still waiting?" The men showed up before Jesus and said, "John the Baptizer sent us to ask you, 'Are you the One we've been expecting, or are we still waiting?'"

In the next two or three hours Jesus healed many from diseases, distress, and evil spirits. To many of the blind he gave the gift of sight. Then he gave his answer: "Go back and tell John what you have just seen and heard:

*The blind see,
The lame walk,
Lepers are cleansed,
The deaf hear,
The dead are raised,
The wretched of the earth
have God's salvation hospitality extended to them.*

"Is this what you were expecting? Then count yourselves fortunate!"

What is the word or phrase that captures your imagination?

What would you want people to know about what you have seen and heard?

What is God inviting you to do, change, or be through this passage?

Video: Show week six with Rev. Dan Johnson on sent

Discuss:

- 1) How did learning about Jesus go this past week? Have you sensed the Holy Spirit's leading this week?
- 2) What has been your experience of journaling? Do you find it helpful? Do you find it taxing?
- 3) Which of the missional priorities—reconciliation, justice, beauty, and wholeness—do you gravitate toward most? Which do you find particularly challenging to implement into your weekly rhythms? Why?
- 4) Do you find it difficult to understand yourself as a missionary? Why or why not? How has your self-understanding changed as you've begun to cultivate these habits in your life?
- 5) When you wake up in the morning, what is your sense of calling or passionate purposefulness? God has given you unique gifts and placed you in a context. So, what is your mission field? To whom have you been sent?
- 6) If your life is a letter of Christ as the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians, what would people be reading/seeing as they look at your daily life?

Action Step: Go buy a nice journal, something you want to open and write in. At the end of each day, or at the end of the week, write about where you felt like you were able to show up, be present to God and people, and, by your words and actions, help people see God's presence in the world. Invite a friend to encounter beauty with you this week. Go for a walk, visit an art museum, or listen to music together.

Continue to ask God to help you see who can bless and eat with this week, and devote time to listening for the promptings of the Holy Spirit and to learning Jesus.

Share Your Stories: post pictures/stories of reconciliation, justice, beauty, or wholeness on social media with **#surprisetheworld**.

Conclude: Join hands and go around the circle, with each person saying what they thank God for and what they ask God for, and then all join in the Lord's Prayer.

If you are using the Michael Frost videos that can be found at <http://www.crossover.org.au/surprise-the-world/>, begin the session with Minnesota Annual Conference video, follow with the Get Connected Question, and then use the Michael Frost video after the Bible study.