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LESSON 01

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SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 1

Key Verses: Ephesians 1:22-23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

MOVE #1: ILLUMINATE THE MYSTERY

SHIFT #1: FROM MORE EFFORT... TO MORE JESUS

BIG IDEA: JESUS IS MORE.

Only Jesus can fill everything in every way. A core commitment of every local church is to continually illuminate this mystery: Jesus is More. Therefore, the Church is made for More. The Church is chosen by Jesus to express His fullness into every corner of culture and into every sphere of society.

Pathway: This lesson consists of approximately one hour of advance preparation work for team members and a 75 to 90 minute interactive group gathering.





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PREPARATION BEFORE TEAM GATHERING

- Read Ephesians 1 and answer reflection questions. (10 minutes)
- Watch Video #1 – Rob Wegner on Ephesians 1 (15 minutes) and fill in the answers below.
- Watch Video #2 – Case Study of Soma Communities (10 minutes) and write down at least one observation that captured your thinking.
- Read Lesson 1 and complete the discussion questions. (25 minutes)
 - Reflect on the Introduction and answer the Discussion Questions.
 - Complete the questions in the church, team, and personal assessment sections. These questions will be used for rich conversations among team members during the team gathering. Be sure to invest time working through these assessment questions.
- Prayer – Spend some time praying that God will reveal needed changes in you, your team, your church and that your team will be unified on a path forward.

TEAM GATHERING

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Read Ephesians 1 together | 5 minutes |
| • Discuss Introduction questions | 10 minutes |
| • Watch Video #3 together – Michael Frost | 25 minutes |
| • Discuss Video #3 and Key Paradigm Thoughts | 10 minutes |
| • Team Perspective and Assessment –
Discuss assessment questions | 20 minutes |
| • Shift #1 discussion and action | 15 minutes |
| • Preview Lesson 2 expectations and prayer | 5 minutes |



INDIVIDUAL

PREPARATION ▶



READ EPHESIANS 1 & REFLECT

15 MINUTES

1. Read Ephesians 1. Pretend you've never experienced church and that what you read in Ephesians 1 is your first and only exposure to church. What conclusions or assumptions would you make about church?

2. Ephesians 1:22-23 tells us the church is a representation of Jesus's body that can fill everything in every way. What practical examples can you think of in life where one thing can completely fill another thing? List at least 1-2 things.

3. What does the truth of Ephesians 1:22-23 say about the church's potential for reaching into every nook and cranny of society with the fullness of Jesus?

Although it's implied, the verses don't tell us how we are to carry Jesus's fullness into all corners of society. If we were being obedient to and taking full advantage of the mystery of Jesus' fullness in us and through us to mobilize God's people, God's way, what would that look like? How would we do it?

How would this mobilization approach differ from the strategies we currently use to recruit volunteers?

4. What, in particular, about the passage convicted you personally about something in your life and leadership?



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ROB WEGNER ON EPHESIANS 1

10 MINUTES

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AS YOU WATCH VIDEO #1

The book of Ephesians gives solid, biblical insights for mobilizing God's people, God's way. Why?

Reason 1: The book of Ephesians is _____.

Reason 2: The book of Ephesians is _____.

Ephesians 1 begins with a _____ of praise for the Christ and ends with a _____ prayer for the Church.

Ephesians 1:1-14: A _____ of praise for the Christ.

In other words, "Jesus is _____!"

Ephesians 1:15-22: A _____ prayer for the Church.

In other words, "The Church is _____ for More!"

Ephesians 1:22-23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

As church leaders our first concern is this: We would be obsessed with Jesus ever growing _____ in our minds and in our hearts.



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INDIVIDUAL PREP

MOVE #1

Illuminate the _____ of MORE!

Ephesians 1:22-23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The church is not a building; it's a _____.

The church is not an activity; it's an _____.

The church is not a program; it's the people of God saved by the power of God for the purposes of God.

The church is all the people of God on an everyday mission to fill

everything, everywhere with the _____.

Paul's Christology shapes his _____.

CHRISTOLOGY:

The branch of theology relating to the person, nature and role of Jesus Christ.

ECCLESIOLOGY:

The branch of theology as applied to the nature and structure of the Church.



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What does it mean for us to be the fullness of Jesus?

We are the primary means to _____ Jesus' presence?

CASE STUDY OF SOMA COMMUNITIES WATCH VIDEO #2

7 MINUTES

In this video, you'll get to see how Soma Communities is applying Move #1, Illuminating the Mystery of More.

OBSERVATIONS:

Highlight at least one observation that really grabbed your attention from the video.

READ LESSON 1, REFLECT AND PRAY

25 MINUTES

Review the Lesson 1 content from the past few pages (The Key Verses, the Move, the Shift, the Big Idea, your Notes from Ephesians and the Teaching Video Notes) and complete the following:

1. What stood out to you from the Lesson 1 reading material and videos? Why?



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INDIVIDUAL PREP

2. Flip forward to the Conversation Guide section, and review the questions in the **church and team assessment** inside the lesson. These questions will be used for deeper conversations among team members during the team gathering. Be sure to invest time reflecting on these assessment questions.

3. The theme of this lesson is “Made for More: Illuminate the Mystery.” What is the “mystery”? Why is it vital for us to “illuminate” this mystery as our first move?

4. Our first shift is “From More Effort ... to More Jesus.” How would you instinctively characterize this shift in your own words from your own experience?





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What is your biggest fear in pursuing this shift?

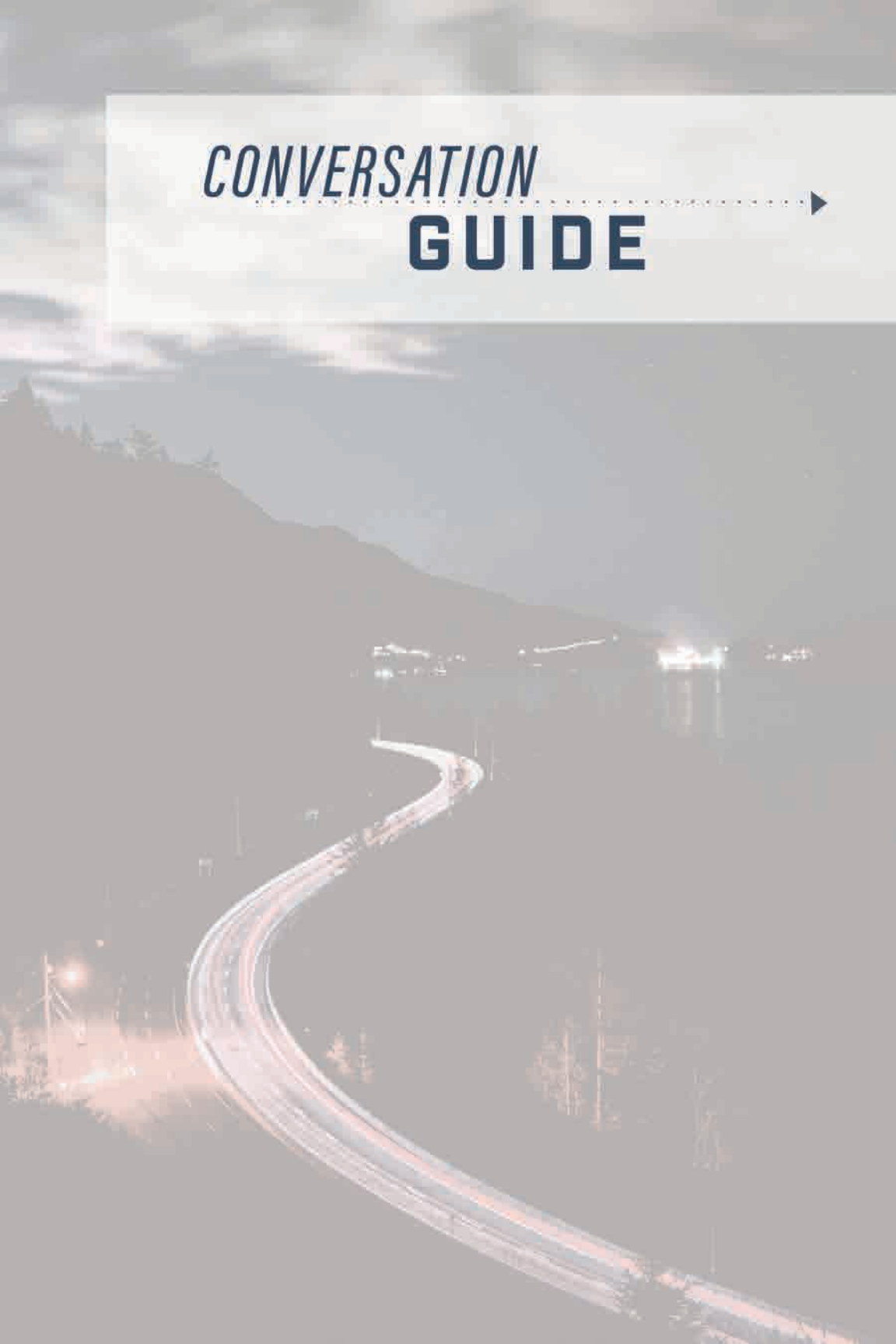
What keeps you from seeing every Christ-follower as an everyday missionary with a unique mission field for illuminating the fullness and mystery of Jesus where they live, work and play?

5. Personal Reflection: How well am I doing at revealing the fullness of Jesus where I live, work, study and play?

6. Spend some time praying that God will reveal needed changes in you, your team, your church and that your team will be unified on a path forward.



CONVERSATION
GUIDE





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INTRODUCTION AND REFLECTION

20 MINUTES

In this lesson, we jump into Ephesians 1.

Ephesians 1:22-23

“And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

MOVE #1: ILLUMINATE THE MYSTERY

SHIFT #1: FROM MORE EFFORT ... TO MORE JESUS

BIG IDEA: JESUS IS MORE.

Only Jesus can fill everything in every way. A core commitment of every local church is to continually illuminate this mystery: Jesus is More. Therefore, the Church is Made for More. The Church is chosen by Jesus to express His fullness into every corner of culture and into every sphere of society.

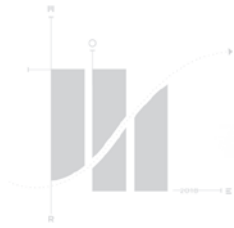
The discussions in this study will be rich and fruitful. Stay mindful of the time as each question only has 3 to 4 minutes allotted. Fully engage the interaction with your team, but be careful not to dominate the conversation. Seek first to listen, allowing others the opportunity to share their thoughts. Let your thinking be stimulated, but don't feel like the tension in every question needs to be relieved.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 1 together. How would you describe the mystery embedded in Ephesians 1:22-23?



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CONVERSATION GUIDE

2. What does it mean for the church to be the fullness of Jesus in everything and every way?
3. What are the implications for how the church mobilizes God's people?
4. What stood out to you from the Lesson 1 reading, reflection questions and videos? Why?

MICHAEL FROST - MADE FOR MORE
WATCH VIDEO #3 TOGETHER AS A TEAM

20 MINUTES



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RETHINKING OUR PARADIGM ILLUMINATING THE MYSTERY OF MORE

15 MINUTES

A paradigm is what you think before you think about it. You'll never experience lasting change without examining those thoughts and allowing the Word and the Spirit to transform your assumptions.

Let's assume for this conversation that some aspects of your team and church paradigm for mobilization are wrong. Not necessarily all aspects may be wrong but at least some. Let's assume that these gaps are limiting your ability to mobilize God's people, God's way. Let's have an honest and open conversation to discover where there might be faults in your paradigm of mobilization.

Here are some key paradigm shifting ideas from Michael Frost's talk. Read through these as a team. Read through the Key Paradigm Thoughts below as a team. Then, spend time talking through the Discussion Questions as a team.

KEY PARADIGM THOUGHT

If the *incarnational mission* of Jesus reminds us that we are the sent ones, the resurrectional mission of Jesus reminds us that we are the *mobilizing ones*. We believe every nook and cranny of the whole world is under the authority of our magnificent, cosmic King Jesus. WE are mobilized to fill everything everywhere with the fullness of Jesus. The resurrected Christ reminds us there is no place where we are not sent!

KEY PARADIGM THOUGHT

Paul says, "Be discrete," when it comes to meat offered to idols. But, he refuses steadfastly to say, "Do not eat the meat offered to an idol." He knows if he were to say, "Don't ever eat it," the prohibition would completely isolate believers from society. The social dislocation from culture that Paul anticipated as crushing the Christian movement, Frost contends, is the very place where many churches and Christians are today. The resurrected Christ, on the other hand, is calling us to go everywhere! We join Him in what He is doing in those places.



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KEY PARADIGM THOUGHT

In the incarnation, a piece of Heaven came to Earth. In the ascension, a piece of Earth went into Heaven. With this dual action in Jesus, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Heaven and Earth are colliding and commingling in His Kingdom. Where wouldn't we go to join Jesus? Who wouldn't we mobilize? Christ is already everywhere, even the darkest corners of the world.

KEY PARADIGM THOUGHT

God doesn't want our pre-existing laundry list of all we will do for Him. Jesus wants our blank sheet of paper and for us to say, "Write anything."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM THE MICHAEL FROST VIDEO

1. What challenged and confronted you the most?

2. What encouraged and comforted you the most?

3. What tensions are you feeling? Why?





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TEAM PERSPECTIVE

20 MINUTES

MOVE #1: ILLUMINATE THE MYSTERY OF MORE

TEAM NOTES

Have someone on your team create an “official set of notes” with your answers to the questions in this section and in the subsequent “Shift Section.” Make it comprehensive and inclusive of the collective representation of your team. Seek to get as much unity of perspective as possible on your conclusions. Email the updated list to the team after each team meeting. Each week, add your new notes to the end of the previous week’s notes so that by Lesson 7, you have a comprehensive set of assessment and perspective notes for use in developing an action plan.

UNDERSTANDING OUR PARADIGM

Paradigm shifts are deeper and harder work than you might initially think. Before you can ascend to a new paradigm, you must first descend from the safety of your current paradigm. You must travel through the valley that separates your old thinking from your new thinking. If you try to leap from peak to peak (paradigm to paradigm) without traveling through the valley, you will likely remain stuck in the safety of your current paradigm.

This journey through the valley is often confusing, chaotic and challenging. It may feel like bullets are flying at you from unexpected directions, and you will be tempted to retreat back to the safety of the current paradigm. It’s similar to the journey of the Israelites out of Egypt. The challenges directly in their path clouded and prevented them from seeing the beautiful and fertile land that awaited them. Many of those people felt it better to retreat to the captivity of their past rather than face the challenges that would lie ahead of them. It took courage and the surrender to God’s leading to move forward.

Paradigm shifts require that you look at your current context in a new way. You must confront your fears and the deep-rooted factors that hold you captive to your current ways of thinking.

In each part of the following team conversation, you are asked to look at your context but in a new way. Although two approaches will be presented as contrasts, we fully acknowledge and celebrate the need for both! However, we’re asking you to consider: “Do you embrace both approaches? Is it balanced? Are we biased to one approach?” We’ve purposely created the contrast to help you see the same picture in a new way. We hope it’s not perceived as an attack but an opportunity to stretch.



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CHURCH ASSESSMENT

Remember, right now you are making a thoughtful, grace-filled and brutally honest assessment of your church, your team and your lives. You'll collect thoughts on how to apply this along the way, but you won't make any decision on your future direction until your final lesson.

It is important for your team to assess and gain perspective on where you are, where you've been and where you are headed in your current paradigm. Along the way, you need to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal new perspectives and needed shifts in your future paradigm for mobilization.

1. Let's go back to our Home Depot analogy from the Introduction. Take a minute and place a check mark next to each of the six statements below that apply to your church.

THE "WE CAN BUILD IT. YOU CAN HELP." APPROACH TO ILLUMINATING THE MYSTERY OF MORE

- We illuminate the fullness of Jesus in our worship services. You can volunteer to help us or attend a service.
- We deepen your understanding of Jesus and proclaim the Gospel by providing great teachers and curriculum. You can come receive this wonderful teaching and bring a friend.
- The primary place to illuminate the Mystery of More is at the building through programs and events. The bias of our church is "Come and do!"

THE "YOU CAN BUILD IT. WE CAN HELP." APPROACH TO ILLUMINATING THE MYSTERY OF MORE

- We will equip you, as a disciple of Jesus, to illuminate the fullness of Jesus in a lifestyle of worship and mission where you live, work, study and play.
- We will equip you to live in the Lordship of Jesus by gospeling yourself daily in every area of your life. By so doing, you will be ready to gospel others where they live, work, study and play.
- The primary place to illuminate the Mystery of More is in every corner of culture and every sphere of society by mobilizing all the people of God to reveal the fullness of Jesus there. The direction of our church is "Go and be!"



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2. Which ones did you check? Unpack why.

3. How balanced are you between the two approaches?

Which ones are you biased toward?

4. What is the primary message being perceived by people in your church?



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5. If you had to guess, what percentage of your congregation sees the church as a living body and not as a building? What percentage of your congregation sees the church as the people of God called to fill EVERYWHERE EVERY WAY with the fullness of Jesus?

6. How “obsessed” are you, as a church, with Jesus growing ever-larger in your minds and in your hearts?

7. How are you doing at equipping every disciple to grow in the Lordship of Jesus, to grow in their ability to Gospel themselves and to be able to share the gospel where they live, work, study and play?

8. The Soma Communities Case Study provided an example of how one movement is working out the “You Can Build It. We Can Help” approach. What were your impressions as you watched the Case Study of Soma Communities?





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TEAM ASSESSMENT

1. How would you rate your commitment as a team to the “You Can Build It. We Can Help.” approach of Illuminating the Mystery of More?
2. As a team, how united are you around Paul’s vision for the church being the Body of Christ, filling everything in every way with the fullness of Jesus?

PURSUING THE SHIFT: FROM MORE EFFORT ... TO MORE JESUS

15 MINUTES

TEAM NOTES

Add your team’s conclusions in this section into the master list highlighted in the previous section. By capturing this perspective now, you will have what’s needed to develop a solid action plan in Lesson 7.

The “Shift” section is intended to build on the previous Team Perspective section and help you start the process of moving from good ideas and intentions about illuminating the mystery of the fullness of Jesus into tangible action.

These six essential shifts collectively integrate to create a culture of Mobilization God’s Way. In each of the six core lessons, you are looking at one shift to discern (1) where you are as a church today, (2) what mobilization in your church could look like in five years if you fully embraced the shift and (3) specific issues that would need to be addressed to make the shift successful.

In this lesson, you are focused on the shift: FROM MORE EFFORT ... TO MORE JESUS!

The following exercise and questions are not intended to finalize your actions, but it is instead meant to get you thinking toward the future and unified on some core conclusions and convictions. You will be working through the six shifts leading up to your final lesson (*Lesson 7*) where you will seek to integrate what you’ve learned into a priority list of actions to investigate and pursue. For now, don’t be limited by what you think you can and cannot do. Rather, dream about a future in which this shift becomes a reality.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read through the following distinctions between **more effort** and **more Jesus**. Assess where you are as a church on the spectrum of “more effort” versus “more Jesus”.

MORE EFFORT MEANS...

- We illuminate the fullness of Jesus in our worship services. You can volunteer to help us or attend a service. Merely human effort producing merely human result.
- We illuminate the fullness of Jesus in our worship services. You can volunteer to help us or attend a service. An over dependence upon human charisma, human stamina, human ingenuity and titles/rank.
- We illuminate the fullness of Jesus in our worship services. You can volunteer to help us or attend a service. Perfunctory prayer at the beginning or end of the meeting.
- We illuminate the fullness of Jesus in our worship services. You can volunteer to help us or attend a service. The gospel is shared “occasionally” with an altar call on the weekend.
- We illuminate the fullness of Jesus in our worship services. You can volunteer to help us or attend a service. Mobilization is striving to find enough volunteers to fill the service slots to keep things running.

MORE JESUS MEANS...

- To start by working from a place of rest in the gospel and identity in Christ.
- To practice a radical dependence on the Spirit. We begin from a place of deep listening and response to the Spirit of God within us and among us. We long to be Spirit-led and Spirit-empowered. Naturally supernatural is the new normal.
- To pray without ceasing. We only go forward as fast as we can on our knees.
- The gospel is shared every day, first with ourselves, and then, with others.
- Mobilization is helping people discover their unique calling and equipping them as everyday missionaries where they live, work and play.



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2. Is this a shift that is worth the effort to pursue and to see put in place? How important is it to you? Why or why not?
3. In five years from now, if you were mobilizing God's people, God's way with an approach that was rooted in "more Jesus" rather than "more effort," what would that look like? What would the characteristics of success be? What benefits? Create a list of characteristics that collectively describes a preferable future.
4. What challenges and obstacles would you face? What specific issues do you know would need to be addressed? Are there actions you already know you'd need to take that can be identified now? Are there any that you suspect are needed but require more investigation? Highlight them in your list.

**AT THIS POINT, YOU'RE JUST COLLECTING IDEAS.
YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE ANY DECISIONS UNTIL LESSON 7.**

NEXT WEEK

Next week, we move on to Ephesians 2, Move #2 and Essential Shift #2. Be sure that you have the Participant's Guide for Lesson 2 and that you understand what work is to be completed before the next gathering.

- Read Ephesians 2 and Lesson 2. Journal your observations.
- Watch Video #4 (Rob Wegner on Ephesians 2).
- Watch Video #5 (Case Study of Westside Family Church).

CLOSING PRAYER



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