

# Missional Serving Communities

## UNIT 3 - Week 1

### **PRAY** – see – learn – serve

**Objective:** Our goal this week is to develop the desire to have God direct our praying so that our hearts more closely reflect God's heart

**This week we're doing things a little differently and encourage you to meet OUTDOORS.**

If you don't know where to go here are some recommendations:

- Johnson Springview
- Sunset Whitney

**Begin by reading the Jesus Storybook Bible pp.18-25** (10 min)

What does this story tell us about creation or the world around us?

How does God feel about creation?

According to this version of the Genesis story, what is God's hope for people and for creation?

**Noticing Creation** (10 min)

Take some time to notice God's creation around you. In small groups of 2-4 people, go for a short (5min) walk and look around. What do you see, smell, feel, or hear? In your small group, discuss all the different things you notice that God has made and what you like about it. Choose 1-2 things to share with the larger group.

**Scripture & Prayer** (30 min)

Take turns reading these passages aloud as a group. Pause after each passage and look around.

Ask: How is this scripture reflected in what you see around you? Take a few deep breaths, and leave some open space for people to pray. Give people the option to pray aloud, to themselves, or to write their prayers in response to each passage. If you don't know how to start your prayer, consider using a word or phrase from the passage as a prompt.

- **Genesis 1:26-28** (The Message)  
God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."  
God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female.  
God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!  
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."
- **Jeremiah 32:17**

“Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

- **John 1:1-4 (CEV)**

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word.

The Word was with God and was truly God.

From the very beginning the Word was with God.

And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word.

Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone.

- **Romans 8:18-22 (CEV)**

I am sure what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us. In fact, all creation is eagerly waiting for God to show who his children are.

Meanwhile, creation is confused, but not because it wants to be confused. God made it this way in the hope that creation would be set free from decay and would share in the glorious freedom of his children. We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth.

- **Psalms 104:10-15**

You provide streams of water in the hills and valleys, so that the donkeys and other wild animals can satisfy their thirst.

Birds build their nests nearby and sing in the trees.

From your home above you send rain on the hills and water the earth.

You let the earth produce grass for cattle, plants for our food, wine to cheer us up, olive oil for our skin, and grain for our health.

- **Psalms 148 (NLT)**

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens! Praise him from the skies!

Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven!

Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

Praise him, skies above! Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

Let every created thing give praise to the LORD, for he issued his command, and they came into being.

He set them in place forever and ever. His decree will never be revoked.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you creatures of the ocean depths,

fire and hail, snow and clouds, wind and weather that obey him,

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

wild animals and all livestock, small scurrying animals and birds,

kings of the earth and all people, rulers and judges of the earth,

young men and young women, old men and children.

Let them all praise the name of the LORD. For his name is very great;

his glory towers over the earth and heaven!

He has made his people strong, honoring his faithful ones—

the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the LORD!

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, make us people who recognise, nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this planet. Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom, restraint and compassion. And teach us to partner with you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable global neighbors.  
Amen

*Optional: What is one word, phrase or idea that caught your attention?*



# Missional Serving Communities

## UNIT 3 - Week 2

### pray – **SEE** – learn – serve

**Objective:** Our goal this week is to learn to see through God's eyes. In order to do this, we need to consider what are the obstacles or things that make it difficult for us to do so.

**This week you will need to meet OUTDOORS.**

If you don't know where to go here are some recommendations:

- Johnson Springview
- Sunset Whitney

Please make sure you also bring the following SUPPLIES:

- God's Masterpiece handout
- paper frame
- pens
- 1-2 large trash bags
- gloves

#### **Opening Prayer (5 min)**

Lord, make us people who recognise, nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this planet. Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom, restraint and compassion. And teach us to partner with you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable global neighbors.  
Amen

What is one word, phrase or idea that caught your attention?

#### **Prayer Walk Activities**

##### **God's Masterpiece: Noticing details of God's creation (10-15 min)**

- Do this activity in smaller groups of 3-4. Each group will need the "God's Masterpiece" handout and one paper frame.
- Follow the activity instructions.
- After 10 minutes, rejoin your group and share what you observed.

##### **Pollution walk (do all together): Noticing damage to God's creation (10-15min)**

- Read the following description of pollution to your group:
  - Human-generated chemicals, trash, noise, and heat are all pollutants, but so is ash spewing from an erupting volcano or smoke spreading from a forest fire.

Pollution is any contamination of air, water, or land that affects the balance of the environment.

- Take a walk as a group and identify the sights, sounds, and smells of pollution that may exist around you. Use the questions below as prompts:
  - Do you see, hear, or smell any signs of pollution? What is it?
  - Can you find examples of pollution on land, in the air, and in the water? Where?
  - Can you explain the source or cause of the pollution you have identified?
  - Who or what is affected by this pollution?
  - What might you do to help eliminate or reduce this pollution?
  
- Pray the following prayers:

Creator God,  
Bless the tear we shed for the resources we have squandered.  
Bless the sigh we breathe out for the atmosphere.  
Bless the head we hang for the creatures lost and exploited.  
Bless the hands we wring for the things we have broken and wasted. Bless us as we lament.  
Cradle us as we regret.  
Restore us as we start afresh. Amen - John Polhill

For our unwillingness to feel the suffering of others, and our readiness to live comfortably with injustice. Forgive us, O God.  
For our self-righteousness that denies guilt, and our self-interest that strangles compassion. Forgive us, O God.  
For our abuse of this planet  
and our exploitation of its resources. Forgive us, O God.  
For our failings in community  
and our reticence to become involved. Forgive us, O God.  
For the times we were too eager to be better than others, when we were too rushed to care,  
when we were too tired to bother,  
when we were too preoccupied to listen,  
when we were too quick to act out of motives other than love.  
Forgive us, O God.  
May God forgive us, Christ renew us,  
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. Amen.

**Litter pick up (10-15 min)**

- As you clean up, pray for others who will be using the space.
- When you have finished with your litter pick up, take a few moments and pray the following prayer:

- Creator God, you reveal yourself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so as we gather in this place, come amongst us.  
Help us to discern your Spirit in the world around us. Let us find joy in the world that you created. Help us to worship you with all our being, and to hear and receive your word and your gifts.  
As we think about our local community and the glory of the natural world, may we respond to you in love for our neighbors and for your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Debrief:**

- Which of the three activities (God's Masterpiece, Pollution Walk, Litter Pick Up) helped you see through God's eyes a little better? Why/How?
- Which of the prayers resonated with you the most? Why?





# Missional Serving Communities

## UNIT 3 - Week 3

pray – see – **LEARN** – serve

**Objective:** Our goal this week is to learn about how scripture calls us to care for God's creation and begin to discern how we are called to participate in what God is already doing.

Gathering *all MSCs on Sunday, April 30 at 4pm* for a conversation with Matt Godshall

Conversation with Matt

MSC Breakouts

Questions will be provided for each MSC