

SESSION 6

Make Room for Mission





If we haven't learned anything else in these sessions, we've had a chance to see that there's nothing stereotypical about the details of a life that has made room for God. God is infinitely creative (one of His largely ignored attributes), and He wants to practice that creativity in our lives. But He waits for room to work. He stands at the door knocking. And once He's begun to do His work in our lives, the effects quickly become outward. He doesn't just want to work in us; He wants to work



through us! We discover sooner or later that really making room for God also means making room for God to use us in the world for His purposes.

COMING TOGETHER

In this final session of the series we are coming face to face with the choice we have been considering: what kind of life will we live. A life that makes room for God makes the small daily choices that create space for God to do His work.

1 What would you say is one unforgettable idea that you are taking away from the last five sessions of Make Room?

2 When you think of the term mission, what are some examples that come to mind?

LEARNING TOGETHER

Throughout the sessions in Make Room, Greg and Josh Surratt are tag-teaming the teaching and helping us with various aspects of what it means to create space in our lives for God to work. We're also hearing some personal stories from people who have embarked on the adventure already and are discovering the joy of making room for God in their lives. In this final week of the series, we should see some of the long term applications of making room for God in our lives. And we should be able to see some results of earlier lessons. With that possibility in mind, let's begin our teaching for this session with Greg Surratt:



DVD SESSION 6

Use the space provided below for any notes, questions, or comments you want to bring up in the discussion later.



GROWING TOGETHER

In the questions that follow, you will review and expand on the teaching you just experienced.



3 If your group still needs to make decisions about continuing to meet after this session, have that discussion now. Talk about what you will study, who will lead, and where and when you will meet. This conversation is part of your small group mission.



Review your Small Group Agreement on page 89 and evaluate how well you met your goals. Discuss any changes you want to make as you move forward. As your group starts a new study, this is a great time to take on a new role or change roles of service in your group. What new role will you take

on? If you are uncertain, maybe your group members have some ideas for you. Remember you aren't making a lifetime commitment to the new role; it will only be for a few weeks. Maybe someone would like to share a role with you if you don't feel ready to serve solo.

4 What percentage of your current life do you think has been affected by the sessions we've gone through? In other words, think in terms of percentage and consider how much increased room for God has become a reality in your life over the last six weeks.

5 How did you identify with Greg's admission that in the past he has often thought about "The Great Commission" of Matthew 28:18-20 in terms of distant, foreign missions work rather than a calling on every Christian's life?



6 Greg described his first point of making room for mission as: be available. What do you think he meant by this phrase? What would it look like for you to be available?



7 In Greg's second point, he said that God moves when His people become intentional with their lives. What areas of your life might God move in if you were more intentional?



8 Which of the three marks of intentionality (be friendly; learn and use people's names; develop consistent rhythms) challenge your current practices the most and why do you think that is?

9 How did Greg use the last words of the “Great Commission” as the basis for his third point that we need to be confident God has mission purposes for our lives right now?

GOING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

You can explore the following Bible passages behind the teaching for this session as a group (if there is time) or on your own between sessions.

Read Mark 12:28-34. In His final week on earth before the cross, Jesus faced the equivalent of a hostile and dangerous cross-examination every day. Trick questions came fast and furious. But in this instance, someone who apparently was genuinely impressed with Jesus’ answers asked an honest question. Jesus’ answer is the key to understanding making room for mission.

How does this passage cover many of the themes we’ve touched on in Make Room?

How do the two parts of the Great Commandment parallel the idea of making room for God and making room for mission?

In what way do Jesus’ final words to the man (“You are not far from the Kingdom of God”) indicate that Jesus wanted to do more than simply answer the man’s question?

How have you determined to make room for mission in your life?

Read 1 Peter 3:13-16. In this passage, Peter is telling us that the way we live and the way we treat others will make room for mission. A life that has genuinely made room for God is a life that provokes questions and curiosity (and sometimes rejection) from others.

How does Greg's point about being confident match up with Peter's reference to "hope that you have" (v.15)?

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Based on these sessions, how would you paraphrase the first part of verse 15: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord"?

If someone did ask you to give a reason for the hope that you have, where would you start? What three statements would you really want to get across in that situation?

SHARING TOGETHER

At this point we move in our discussion from talking about implications of the teaching to application of the teaching. If we grasp what the idea means we can talk about what it means in our lives.

10 What do you think will need to change in your life in order to demonstrate you understand that mission isn't something we do somewhere else; it's something we do as we go and it happens wherever we happen to be at this moment?





11 Describe to the rest of the group one specific step you are taking to create room for mission in your life.

GOING TOGETHER

During these sessions we are doing things “together:” learning, thinking, growing, praying, choosing, etc. Part of being together is how we live when we aren’t together. Here are some questions to clarify our shared purposes until we meet again.

12 Below and before you talk about them, take a few minutes to jot down three specific action steps related to this entire series that would move you further on the journey toward making room for God throughout your life. These should be matters others in the group can pray about for you.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

13 Now share at least one of these, if not all three, with the rest of the group to create a point of accountability, and give the group permission to ask you about your progress in this step.

Close the session in prayer. Encourage each other to pray audibly for others in the group.

DAILY REFLECTIONS

These are daily reviews of the key Bible verses and related others that will help you think about and apply the insights from this session.

Day 1 – Matthew 28:19-20

Go Always

“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.”

What comfort and confidence do you draw from Jesus’ promise to be with you always?

Day 2 – 1 Peter 3:15

Making Room for Christ

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

In what sense have you set apart Christ as Lord in your heart today?

Day 3 - Romans 8:28

Mission Living

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

How does this verse encourage you as you pursue being available to God for His mission plans for you?

Day 4 - 1 Peter 2:21

In His Steps

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.

What examples of following in His steps might someone be able to identify in your life these days?

Day 5 - Hebrews 12:1-2

Steps to Making Room for Mission

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

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In what areas of your life are you currently learning the importance of perseverance as you make room for God and for mission?

MAKEROOM

CREATING SPACE FOR GOD TO WORK

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15 NIV).