



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

“Building a Church for the Sake of the World”

Preached by Daniel Grothe

August 10th, 2025

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

In this sermon, Pastor Daniel discusses the fourth core distinctive of New Life Church: building a church for the sake of the world. Using John 20:21-22 as his text, he explains how Jesus sends his followers just as the Father sent him - to reach the lost, the least, the last, and the lonely. Pastor Daniel emphasizes that Christians are saved to be sent, not to remain in comfortable isolation, and challenges the congregation to find their unique place of ministry at the intersection of their personal gifts and the world's deep needs.

Key Passage | Jeremiah (NIV)

Jeremiah 29:4-11

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper....When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father,

as we gather to discuss how we can be a church for the sake of the world, we ask that You open our hearts to hear Your calling. Just as You breathed Your Spirit on the disciples and sent them out, breathe on us today. Help us to see the lost, the least, the last, and the lonely through Your eyes. Guide our conversation and show each of us how we can use our unique gifts to serve

Your kingdom. We surrender our comfort and ask for Your courage to go where You send us. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

If you could solve one problem in our city or in the world, what would it be and why?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. Pastor Daniel described four groups Jesus came to save: the lost (spiritually poor), the least (financially poor), the last (positionally poor), and the lonely (relationally poor). Which of these groups do you feel most drawn to serve, and why?
2. The sermon challenged the idea that 'if it's not peaceful, it can't be God.' How has this misconception affected your willingness to step into difficult situations for the sake of the gospel?
3. Jeremiah 29:11 is often taken out of context. How does understanding that this promise was given to people in exile (Babylon) change how you view God's plans for your life?

4. The sermon mentioned that 'the church is the only society that exists for the benefit of its non-members.' How might this perspective change how we approach church activities and priorities?
5. Pastor Daniel shared examples of people using their skills and passions to serve others. Which example resonated with you most, and why?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your every day life

This week, take time to prayerfully consider where your 'deep gladness' (skills, passions, experiences) intersects with the 'world's deep hunger' (needs around you). Identify one specific way you can serve the lost, the least, the last, or the lonely in your sphere of influence. It might be in your neighborhood, workplace, school, or even within your own family. Make a concrete plan to take one step toward meeting that need, whether it's offering your time, resources, or simply your presence to someone who needs it. Remember, you don't need to become someone else to do what God has called you to do - you just need to be your excellent, passionate self in service to others.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.

- We have been saved to be sent, not to remain in comfortable isolation.
- Jesus came to save the lost (spiritually poor), the least (financially poor), the last (positionally poor), and the lonely (relationally poor).
- God often sends us into difficult 'Babylon' situations not to make us suffer but because we carry His peace into chaos.
- Your calling is found at the intersection of your deep gladness (skills and passions) and the world's deep hunger (needs).
- The church exists primarily for the benefit of its non-members - we are here for those who aren't here yet.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close you time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord, thank You for reminding us that we are saved to be sent. Forgive us for the times we've sought comfort over calling, safety over service. As You breathed on Your disciples and commissioned them, breathe Your Spirit on us now. Give us eyes to see the lost, the least, the last, and the lonely around us. Help us discover where our deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger. Make us brave enough to enter the chaos carrying Your peace. May we be a church that exists for the sake of the world, just as You came not to be served but to serve. Send us out from here with renewed purpose, knowing that wherever You send us, You go with us. In Your powerful name we pray, **amen**.

Verses for Further Study

- Romans 12:4–8 – Many members, one body, with unique gifts for service.
- Matthew 28:18–20 – The Great Commission: Jesus sends His disciples to make disciples of all nations.
- Mark 10:45 – The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.