

INTRO

- What purpose do you think mosquitoes serve?
- Why do you think so many people struggle to understand their purpose?
- How would you describe your purpose for being alive?

In this series, we're looking at God's vision for His Church, and then *envisioning* it in our context of Toronto.

READ

1 Cor 12:27, Eph 1:22-23

REFLECT

The church is described as the **body** of Christ with Jesus as the Head.

Qu: what does it mean for the church to be like Jesus' body?

UNITY. There are many parts that make up a body, but only one body.

INCARNATIONAL. Jesus is God in the flesh (Col 1:15). The church is Jesus embodied. Jesus continues his work in the world through his body.

PURPOSEFUL. Like Jesus was sent by the Father, Jesus sends his church in the power of his Spirit to continue his ministry (Jn 20:21-22).

Qu: how would you sum up Jesus' mission?

The Church is sent to continue the mission of Jesus to bring gospel transformation personally, culturally and cosmically (next week's topic).

1. TO BRING GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION TO US

Every single person is being formed into the image of something. Our culture is very influential in shaping us according to its values:

"Western culture today is so powerful and alluring that it often swallows us whole. Its beauty, power, and promise generally take away

both our breath and our perspective." — Ronald Rolheiser

Do you agree with Rolheiser's quote? Why/Why not?

Read Ez 36:25-27 & 2 Cor 5:17-20.

Qu: How does God promise to change us?

Consequently, as we are first changed by the gospel, the gospel is then able to work *through* us towards others.

2. TO BRING GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH US

2 Cor 5:20 tells us we are ambassadors for Christ, ministers of his message of reconciliation.

Read Matt 28:18-20.

Qu: how does Jesus want us to bring change to the world around us?

Jesus' Mission has a church. The mission of the church continues as she makes, matures and multiplies followers of Jesus (discipleship), and establishes more communities of faith to extend God's kingdom in word, deed, and power (church-planting).

At ENGTA, we want to follow Jesus together on his mission. Individually and collectively, we must obey the call to make disciples. Tools to help include the PEBCI card, One 2 One booklet and the mindset of "*each 1 reach 1*" & "*be 1 make 1*".

Qu: who are you currently reaching out to? Who are you discipling (helping to follow Jesus)?

In 2019, let's commit to each one of us reaching out to at least one other person, and being a disciple and making disciples.

RESPOND & PRAY

- How can you pray for one another in light of today's discussion?