LIVE SENT

Jesus' Mission in John's Gospel

We are transformed by the Gospel

LBC Family,

We are so excited to start our new series in the Gospel of John called, "Live Sent." Starting September 15th, we will walk through the book of John in eleven weeks.

Although the series is entitled "Live Sent," the only way for us to live sent is to first understand that Jesus was sent *for us*! God sent his own Son to be our sacrifice and made a way for us to be reconnected to God. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins so that the power of God might come into our lives through the Holy Spirit and propel us outward on mission.

During this series we are going to look at various episodes where Jesus is sent. Sometimes Jesus is sent to reach the outsiders with the good news. At other times, Jesus steps on the toes of the religious elites to teach them something about his Father who sent him!

Please be in prayer for us as your pastors. We want to faithfully bring God's word to you each week from the pulpit. It is also our hope that you can extend what you hear on Sunday morning throughout the week with this guide.

Praying for you and with you, Your Pastors,

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

We want to reach Monmouth County with the gospel, equip those in Christ for the work of ministry, and send them out on God's global mission. God's Word upholds all of those things. God's Word brings new spiritual life, matures our faith and strengthens us for God's mission (1 Peter 1:23-25; Ephesians 4:15-16).

We designed this booklet to extend what you hear on Sunday mornings into the rest of the week. Each week contains the following sections:

Study Questions: Helps you understand the truth of Scripture.

Application Questions: Helps you personalize the truth of Scripture.

Prayer Points: Helps you turn your study time into a conversation.

Live Sent Challenge: Helps you put your faith into practice.

This booklet is a flexible tool that could be used for both individuals and groups. Here are some options for how to use it:

Option 1: Personal Devotions
Read the text and answer study questions for your own personal devotions. Use the Questions for Reflection to meditate on the text and lead you to prayer. Attempt the Live Sent challenges during the week.

Option 2: Community Group Discussion (with Preparation)
Have everyone in the Group fill in the study questions in advance. Have Group members share their answers during the discussion. Use the Questions for Reflection in the Group to spur deeper application.

Option 3: Community Group Discussion (without Preparation)
This booklet can still be used in a Group setting even without prior preparation. Rather than having Group members share what they had learned in advance, use the Group time as an opportunity for Group study together as well. Make sure to include enough time for application questions!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15: LIVE SENT

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'"

John 20:21

Context: John wrote his gospel with a specific purpose in mind: "These things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (20:31). John wants whoever reads his work to come to know Jesus as their Savior. He believes Jesus is alive and can change your life! Jesus also invites *us*–his people–to participate with him advancing God's mission of salvation.

Study Questions: Read John 20:19-23

What did Jesus say to the disciples? Why?

What did Jesus tell His disciples about their future?

Why did Jesus breathe on his disciples? What did they receive? (Hint: Read John 7:37-39).

What did Jesus tell His disciples about forgiving sins?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

How does fear keep you from accomplishing God's will for your life?

What role does evidence play in the Christian faith? Is having evidence for what you believe important to you? Why or why not?

How is our "sending" the same as Jesus'? Different?

How does knowing that the Holy Spirit is in your life encourage you?

Prayer Points

Pray for your pastors to faithfully deliver the word of God in this series.

Pray for a desire to "live sent." Pray for opportunities to share God's love with someone this week.

Pray for someone in your life you know needs Jesus (#Pray4Your1)

Live Sent

Look over the Live Sent card that you received on Sunday. Consider which opportunity you might want to step into.
(If you didn't get one, you can view it on the website:
www.lincroftbiblechurch.org/livesent).

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22: JESUS...SENT TO CALL PEOPLE TO HIMSELF

"The next day Jesus purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, 'Follow Me.'"

John 1:43

Context: The Gospel of John begins Jesus' history all the way back into eternity: He was with God from the beginning (1:1-2). But the eternal Word of God became flesh, and Jesus entered our world (1:14). As the Savior, Jesus began to form a new community around himself: his disciples.

Study Questions: Read John 1:35-51

What did John's disciples do when John identified Jesus as the lamb of God?

What was the first thing Andrew did after he had followed Jesus?

What did Andrew tell his brothers about Jesus?

What convinced Nathaniel that Jesus was the son of God?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

What does it look like for you to follow Jesus in your life specifically?

The early disciples were convinced that the Old Testament Scriptures pointed to Jesus (v. 45). How well do you know your Old Testament?

Could you "find" Jesus in the Old Testament and point someone to Christ through using it?

Who are some of the people in your life you need to invite to "come and see" what Jesus is all about?

Prayer Points

Pray for a desire to know God's word.

Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with those around you.

Pray for someone who needs Jesus (#Pray4Your1)

Live Sent

Be like Philip and invite someone to "come and see" what Jesus is all about. You can pick up an invite card at the Welcome Desk and also you can find different resources for invitation on the church website: www.lincroftbiblechurch.org/livesent.

Some other events and opportunities to invite people to would be:

- Invite newcomers into your Community Group
- For families: AWANA / LBC Kids
- For men: Men's Retreat
- For moms: MOPS
- For women: Bible studies

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29: JESUS...SENT TO BRING GOD'S RESTORATION

"This was the beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in him.'"

John 2:11

Context: After Jesus calls his disciples, they tell others who they have found: the lamb of God (1:43-51). Jesus also brings God's restoration to the world (2:1-11).

Study Questions: Read John 2:1-11

Why would Jesus be concerned with his "hour"? (Hint: Read John 12:23).

What does Jesus tell the servants to do? What is the response of the head waiter?

How does such a miracle show off God's glory?

Read Isaiah 25:6-8; Amos 9:13; Joel 2:24. What is wine symbolic of in the Old Testament? How do those texts inform our understanding of Jesus turning water into wine?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

Describe a time you have “tasted and seen the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8).

What area of your life is broken and needs God’s restoration?

What do you think that area could look like if it was restored?

How does knowing that Jesus purifies us through His cross change our outlook on life?

Prayer Points

Pray for God to restore those who are broken in our body at LBC.

Pray for God to mobilize us to be his hands and feet in Monmouth County.

Pray for an unbeliever in your life that you could share the gospel with. (#Pray4Your1)

Live Sent

Serve someone who is hurting this week. Be God’s hands and feet to them.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 6: JESUS...SENT TO SAVE

"God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.'"

John 3:17

Context: After changing water into wine (indicating the coming age of blessing of God's Messiah), Jesus gets into a controversy with the religious leaders of his day. Jesus asserts that he is the true temple, the place of God's presence. On the heels of his conflict with the Jews, Jesus gets into a discussion with a Pharisee named Nicodemus and teaches him the true nature of God's salvation.

Study Questions: Read John 3:1-17

How is someone "born again"?

What promise does Jesus give those who believe in Him?

What must happen to Jesus for him to provide salvation for the world?

Why did God send Jesus into the world?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

What is something about God or the Bible that you misunderstood for a long time? What helped clear it up for you?

How can someone know that they're "born again"?

How does John 3:16-17 challenge the typical idea of what people think God is like?

Have you experienced God's salvation?

Prayer Points

Pray for a deeper understanding of God's word.

Pray for more Leaders to be developed at LBC so that more people can be served through the ministries.

Pray for someone who has never experienced God's love to receive Christ. (#Pray4Your1)

Live Sent

Share your story of how God "saved" you this week. Set up a "gospel appointment" with the one person you've been praying for. Ask them their story. Share your story with them. Be sure to include how your story fits into God's story. For a free resource, see https://saturatetheworld.com/resource/how-to-share-your-story/.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 13: JESUS...SENT TO OUTSIDERS

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"

John 4:24

Context: Due to Jesus' exalted nature and teaching, many people wonder about John the Baptist's role. John reasserts that it is to point to Jesus (3:22-36). Jesus continues to travel around and proclaim the message of salvation to all. He even brings someone belonging to a despised group called the Samaritans (4:1-6).

Study Questions: Read John 4:1-27

Why did Jesus sit down by Jacob's well?

What did Jesus say would be the result of drinking the water he offered?

How did Jesus say people would worship God?

Who does Jesus reveal himself to be in this passage?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

Why is it so hard to love certain people or groups of people?

What does this passage teach us about Jesus' compassion?

What keeps you from showing compassion to others like Jesus?

What does repentance for lack of compassion look like?

Prayer Points

Pray for a compassionate heart like Jesus.

Pray for church planters to be raised up so that more people in NJ can hear the gospel.

Pray for an "outsider" to God's family to become an insider. #Pray4Your1

Live Sent

Invite someone different than you to your home for dinner. Ideally, someone of a different ethnic or socioeconomic background than yours. Or, if you're married, invite a single person. If you're single, invite a married couple. If you're in college, invite over someone older than you (and older invite someone younger, etc.). Pursue the outsider by giving preference to the socially marginalized.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 20: JESUS...SENT TO RAISE UP CO-LABORERS

"I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

John 4:38

Context: Jesus goes to the outsiders. He did so to bring God's salvation to those who need it. Even more amazing is the fact that Jesus invites His people to join him on mission!

Study Questions: Read John 4:28-38

What does the Samaritan woman do after her encounter with Jesus?

What is Jesus' real food?

What is the "harvest" that Jesus talks about? What does he say about this harvest?

What role do Jesus' disciples play in the harvest?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

Why is doing God's will better than doing our own will?

How have you been tempted to live for your own will this week?

What promises does Jesus give his laborers? How can these encourage us to keep going?

Consider some of the unbelievers in your life. Where do you think you're at with them? Are you in the "sowing" (laying the groundwork) stage? Or are you in the "reaping" stage (open doors to sharing the gospel)?

Prayer Points

Pray for God's will to be done in your life.

Pray for strength to live for God's mission.

Pray for opportunities to "reap" (share the gospel). #Pray4Your1

Live Sent

Do a prayer walk around the campus of Brookdale (LBC's neighbor) or around your own neighborhood. Pray for more Christians to be part of Monmouth County in order to saturate it with the gospel. For a guide for how to do this, check out: https://www.imb.org/2019/03/06/prayer-walking-neighborhoods/

WEEK OF OCTOBER 27: JESUS...SENT TO BRING TRUE LIFE

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.'"

John 6:35

Context: Jesus explains the true source of his power: God (5:19-47). Yet, the religious leaders still will not believe. The unbelief of the religious leaders infects the crowds, for the crowds seem more interested in having their stomachs filled than their lives saved (6:1-28).

Study Questions: Read John 6:29-57

What bread were the Jews looking for? What kind of "bread" does Jesus give?

What is Jesus' relationship to his Father?

How does Jesus fulfill the manna from heaven? (Read Exodus 16:1-8 for context).

What does it mean to "eat" Jesus' flesh and "drink" Jesus' blood? (Hint: 6:29).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

What are some ways we come to Jesus only to have our "bellies" filled? In other words, when you have only wanted Jesus' *gifts* but not Jesus *Himself*?

Why is it dangerous to only enjoy God's gift and not Him as the Giver for the gifts?

When has God provided for you that initially disappointed you, but later on, you realized it was exactly what you needed?

Why is continually abiding with Christ essential to the Christian life?

Prayer Points

Pray for a demanding attitude to be driven out from among us.

Pray for opportunities of service to open themselves up among us.

Pray for someone to taste the Bread of Life
#Pray4Your1

Live Sent

Halloween can be controversial amongst Christians. But it is also an opportunity to meet your neighbors and show hospitality. Think about different ways that you could "redeem" Halloween and use it for God's glory. Check our website for some initial ideas: www.lincroftbiblechurch.org/livesent. Also, pick up a card for the children's Bible program at LBC called, AWANA and hand them out along with (good) candy!

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3: JESUS...SENT TO BRING THE SPIRIT

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

John 7:38

Context: Jesus makes his way into the temple to begin teaching the people. He explains the origin of his teaching (7:14-18), where he comes from (7:19-31), where he is going (7:32-36), and the gift he will give his people (7:37-44).

Study Questions: Read John 7:37-44

What is the result of believing in Jesus?

What does Jesus promise would be given to his people?

Why did Jesus breathe on his disciples and what did they receive? (John 20:21)

What did Jesus tell His disciples about forgiving sins? (John 20:21)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

If someone offered to give you your deepest desire, would you take it?

How does Jesus reshape our desires and what we thirst for?

The Christian life is supposed to be one where God's life overflows out of us. But you cannot give what you do not have. What steps do you take to continually be refreshed in the gospel?

What steps do you *need* to take to draw refreshment from God's word?

Prayer Points

Pray for God's life to bubble up within you and spread to others.

Pray for a church planter to be raised up in order to reach more people in NJ with the gospel.

Pray for someone's spiritual thirst to be quenched by Christ. #Pray4Your1

Live Sent

Pick up a bag for the Adopt-A-Bag service project and fill it with food. If you're able, sign up to deliver bags too!

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10: JESUS...SENT TO DO THE WORK OF THE FATHER

"My Father, who given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand"

John 10:29

Context: Jesus is the Good Shepherd of Israel who opens up God's people to the Gentiles (10:1-18). Such teaching causes controversy again (10:19-21). In this context of controversy, Jesus affirms His power and identity (10:22-39).

Study Questions: Read John 10:22-39

What question did the Jews ask Jesus? How did he answer?

How is the work of the Son and Father described in this passage?

How did Jesus respond to the Jews' accusation of blasphemy?

Why did Jesus say that the Jews should believe his miracles?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

How can we know we're saved?

How can you thank God this week, knowing that your life is secure in Him?

Why does Jesus' claim to be God cause people to oppose him?

How should we handle opposition from others concerning our faith in Christ?

Prayer Points

Pray for endurance in the face of opposition.

Pray for faithfulness among the leaders of the church to proclaim the gospel boldly.

Pray for someone in your life to "hear" God's voice and respond. #Pray4Your1

Live Sent

Share a particular struggle with opposition from people in your life (e.g. family, co-workers, fellow students, etc.). Ask another Christian at LBC to pray for you to endure patiently and to have boldness to speak the mystery of the gospel.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17: JESUS...SENT TO DISPLAY GOD'S GLORY

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"
John 11:40

Context: Jesus learns that his good friend is sick (11:1-3). Instead of rushing to his side, Jesus stays where he is (11:4-5). After Lazarus dies, Jesus use the opportunity to disclose his identity as the source of resurrection and true life (11:6-27).

Study Questions: Read John 11:38-44

What motivated Jesus to do what he did in this passage?

How did Jesus show Martha the importance of her faith?

How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

What role did Lazarus play in this story?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

How would our church change if everyone was as broken over death as Jesus was?

When have you “seen” God’s glory?

What is dead in your life that needs to be brought back to life?

What hope does this story give to us, especially when we think about the unbelievers in our life?

Prayer Points

Pray for comfort for someone who has recently lost a loved one.

Pray the pastors to powerfully preach God’s word and may God use it to save someone in the audience.

Pray for God to bring spiritual life to someone. #Pray4Your1

Live Sent

Sign up to deliver a bag of food with the Adopt-A-Bag service project. If you’re unable to drive, offer to ride along with someone and assist them.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24: JESUS...SENT TO SEND OTHERS

"As you sent Me into the world, I have also sent them into the world.'"

John 17:18

Context: After Jesus performs seven powerful signs disclosing his identity (John 1-12), he spends significant time instructing his disciples in what is known as the "Upper Room Discourse" (John 13-17). In John 17, Jesus gets his disciples ready to be sent out into the world.

Study Questions: Read John 17:13-21

Why did the world hate Jesus' disciples?

What relationship do Jesus' disciples have with the world?

How will Jesus provide for his disciples when they are sent on his mission?

Why does Jesus want his disciples to be one?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Application

How can you be “in” the world, but not “of” the world?

Why is it so easy for us as Christians to be influenced by “worldly” desires?

How should we live, knowing that Jesus has sent us?

What are some ways we can cultivate unity as the body of Christ at LBC?

Prayer Points

Pray for strength to resist pressures from the world.

Pray for LBC to be united.

Pray to be sent out and reach someone with the gospel. #Pray4Your1

Live Sent

Get ready for Advent by picking up an invite card and consider inviting someone out to church during the Christmas season.

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