



# FIRM FOUNDATIONS. FRESH FAITH.

## Sermon Study Guide

### Week 5: Mission

#### Andrew Sercombe

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If there is one thing that defines modern life, it might be the endless stream of news. It's everywhere. On our phones. On our televisions. In our social feeds. Headlines roll in around the clock, and most of them share a common theme: crisis, conflict and catastrophe. News today is not just information; it's an industry. It's monetised, amplified, and often shaped to capture attention by triggering fear.

But behind all of that noise lies a deeper human reality: people are longing for good news.

This week we reflect on God's loving pursuit of the lost, and our call to stand as faithful ambassadors sharing the good news of Jesus everywhere we go.

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

At the centre of the Christian faith is the message of reconciliation. Humanity was separated from God because of sin, yet God did not abandon His creation. Instead, He acted through Jesus to restore that relationship.

Paul describes it as becoming a *new creation*. Our past does not define us anymore. Our guilt and brokenness are not the final word over our lives. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are forgiven, restored, and welcomed into relationship with God.

This is good news in a bad news world, and it changes everything!



Instead of living with fear or uncertainty, we live with the confidence that God has already acted to bring us back to Himself and our future is secure in Him.

1. Where do you usually get your news from, and how does it affect your outlook on the world?
2. Why do you think negative news seems to attract more attention than good news?
3. What does the phrase “new creation” mean to you personally?

## Read Luke 15:3-7

The good news of Jesus is not reserved for a select group of people. Paul emphasised that Christ died for *all* and the invitation of reconciliation is extended to everyone (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Jesus illustrated this truth through stories. In Luke 15, He told three parables about lost things: a lost coin, a lost son and a lost sheep.

In the parable of the lost sheep, a shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for the one that has wandered away. The parable shows something remarkable about God’s heart: every individual matters deeply to Him.

God is not distant or indifferent. He actively seeks those who are lost. And we are called to align our heart with His. The early Christians understood this. Their compassion for the poor, the sick, and the outcast became one of the most powerful witnesses to the reality of their faith. And today, the church continues that mission.

1. The parable of the lost sheep is a well known and loved story from Jesus. What stood out to you as you read it again today?
2. Why do you think Jesus emphasised the value of “the one”?

## Read 2 Corinthians 5:19b-20

God has entrusted believers with the *ministry of reconciliation*. Those who have experienced God’s grace are invited to share it with others.

Paul uses the language of diplomacy to describe this role. We are *ambassadors for Christ*, and just as an ambassador represents their country in a foreign land, followers of Jesus represent God’s Kingdom in the world.



This calling doesn't require extraordinary qualifications. It's not reserved only for pastors or church leaders. It belongs to every believer. Sometimes people feel hesitant about sharing their faith because they think they lack knowledge or confidence. Yet the early disciples were described as "unschooled, ordinary men." Their confidence did not come from education or status. It came from their relationship with Christ. What made the difference in their lives was simple: they had been with Jesus.

Being an ambassador for Christ begins with faithful presence. It means "being with" Jesus and living out of that relationship with integrity, compassion and humility. It means showing kindness to people, listening to their stories and offering hope. Faithful presence creates the space for trust, and this is often how the Kingdom of God becomes visible, through everyday words and deeds that shine the love of Christ.

1. What does it look like to be an ambassador for Christ in your everyday life?
2. What might it look like to share the gospel with gentleness and respect?

## Read 1 Peter 3:15

The apostle Peter encouraged believers to always be ready to explain their faith, but to do so with gentleness and respect. One practical way this happens today is through prayer.

Many people who would hesitate to attend church or discuss theology are surprisingly open when someone offers to pray for them. A simple question—"Can I pray for you?"—can open the door to meaningful conversations and allow God to work in powerful ways. Research even suggests that a large percentage of people would attend church if a friend personally invited them. Often, the barrier is not opposition but the absence of invitation.

1. How comfortable do you feel sharing your faith with others? What might help you grow in confidence?
2. What simple step could you take this week to show the love and hope of Jesus to someone else?

## Closing Reflection

Who is the "one" person God may be placing on your heart right now?



It might be a friend, a family member, a neighbour, a colleague, someone who seems so distant from faith that it would take a miracle to soften their heart.

Encourage everyone to write down the name of one person they feel prompted to pray for. Then invite the group to call out to God. You may like to commit to praying for your person every day this week, or swap names and pray for each other's person. Ask the Holy Spirit to open opportunities to demonstrate God's love. And continue to encourage one another as you meet.

God is still seeking the one. And He invites His people to join Him in that work.

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank you for the incredible good news of Jesus. Thank you that when we were far from you, you pursued us with love and made a way for us to be reconciled through Christ. Thank you that in Him we are made new—the old has gone and new life has begun.

Lord, in a world that often feels full of bad news, fear and uncertainty, help us to live as people of hope. Remind us that our lives are held in your hands and that our future is secure in you. Fill our hearts with your compassion and help us to see people the way you see them.

Holy Spirit, empower us to be faithful ambassadors of Jesus in our everyday lives. Give us courage to speak when the opportunity comes, wisdom to listen well, and humility to serve others with grace. Help us to live in such a way that people see your light shining through us. May we faithfully carry your good news wherever you send us.

In the name of Jesus we pray,  
Amen.