



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 27-28

“Living in the Already-ness”

By Rev. Eric Moeller

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text: Matthew 25: 31-40

Big Ideas Raised

- David Bosch writes, “Mission means the proclamation and manifestation of Jesus’ all-embracing reign, which is not yet recognized and acknowledged by all, but is nevertheless already a reality. The Reign of God is not a program but a reality, ushered in by the Easter event. The resurrection of Christ and the gift of the Spirit are tangible proof of the ‘already-ness’ of God’s reign... Two orders of life, two ages, have come to co-exist.”
- As the Body of Christ alive in the world, we are called to live in this ‘already-ness’ of the Reign of God.
- Living in this ‘already-ness’ means to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, tend to the sick, and visit the imprisoned. Furthermore, it means doing so with no more motivation than these acts being the right thing to do.
- In this text, Jesus locates himself amongst the hungry, thirsty, stranger, etc. This is where Jesus resides in our world. When we engage in missional acts we are not taking Jesus anywhere; He is already there. Mission allows us to encounter Christ in each other, bringing this all-embracing reign into visibility.

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- This weekend was all about mission, which can be thought of in many ways. This text talks about it in terms of feeding the hungry, etc. But how do you think of ‘mission?’ What does it mean to you?
- Do you have any favorite stories from any missional activity you’ve engaged in during your lifetime?
- Have you ever recognized the Christ in an unexpected place/person?
- Do you think the missional activities celebrated in this text also beckon us to do these things on a social level? Why or why not?

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend’s sermon, please visit:

<https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>