

Tenth Grade – The Mission of the Church

This week, our goal is to challenge students to think deeply about the Church, the Mission of God, and how the two have been interconnected throughout history. This week will look a little bit different, and is focused on getting students to think and engage more than it is focused on getting them to repeat back the right answers.

Introducing the Topic

Explain that this week will be a little bit different. Have students seated in a way that will allow group discussion around a white board.

- Ask students: What is the church? Write the definition they come up with in the center of the board.
- Ask students: What is the mission of the church? Have them decide on their definition of the mission corporately and then write it on the board under the definition of church.
- Now, ask students this question: Does the mission exist for the church? Or does the church exist for the mission? Write these questions on opposite sides of the board. Encourage students to share why they think one way or the other.

If you are having a hard time explaining to students the meaning of these two questions, here is some more explanation to give them. How you answer this question determines how you view our role in the mission of God. Is the mission made for the Church? Meaning, was the mission of God a mission given specifically to the Church? Or did it exist before the church? Can it operate outside of the Church and the church can help further it or is it fully dependent on whether or not the Church is accomplishing it? Is the Church made for the mission? Was the mission of God already ongoing and then the Church was raised up for the sake of the mission?

Scripture Study

- Now have students sit on either side of the room based on their answer. Encourage students to use their phones and Bibles to find Scripture to support their views.
- Have each side stand and present their argument.
- Give each side a chance to respond to the other side's argument and scriptural supports.
- Now ask students if their opinion has changed, after hearing both sides explained. Why or why not?

Practical Application

Wrap up the conversation by telling students something like this: these two views of Church and Mission both have roots in biblical theology and church history, and as we move forward and learn more about the church and it's role in God's plan, it's important to think deeply about who we are as the church and what God has called us to. Ultimately, we have to hold in tension the truth that Jesus has given His followers the Great Commission as our call and vision, AND that God is sovereign over all and His mission will be seen through to completion regardless of our efficacy as the church.

