

The Role of the Church in the Community – Part 11

The community outreach strategy of Jesus: He invited people to follow Him.

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an exciting series of studies on The Role of the Church in the Community. Our topic today: The community outreach strategy of Jesus: He invited people to become His followers

Scripture Theme Song: It is good to give thanks (Ps. 92:1-4)

Christ's method –“The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. **Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’**”—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.’

- 1) Jesus, the Good Shepherd has many sheep
 - a) John 10:1-5, 14, 16
 - b) What do all of His sheep have in common?
 - c) How is it possible to recognize the call of a friend above the noise of the crowd?
 - d) Why is it important to always remember the Good Shepherd has many sheep?
- 2) We are called to join the Good Shepherd in seeking His lost sheep
 - a) Luke 19:10; Mark 1:17 (seekers of lost sheep)
 - b) John 21:15-17 – How many does Christ include when He says “My sheep”?

- c) Luke 10:2-3; Matt. 10:16 We are not the Good Shepherd. We are simply His sheep and lambs. What assistance can we offer to lost sheep?
- 3) Identifying lost sheep who are seeking the Good Shepherd
 - a) Luke 19:1-10 – What indicators do you see that Zacchaeus is seeking the Good Shepherd?
 - b) What other stories of lost sheep seeking the Good Shepherd do you see in the Gospels?
 - i) Mark 5:1-6, 7, 18-20 – the demoniac
 - ii) Luke 7:36-50 – the woman who anointed Jesus
 - iii) Other lost sheep who sought the Good Shepherd?
 - c) What indicators help us to identify a lost sheep who is seeking the Good Shepherd?
- 4) Connecting with lost sheep
 - a) Sharing your testimony – Acts 26:1-11, 12-23, 24-28
 - i) Share a time when you were lost and the Good Shepherd sent someone to share a testimony?
 - b) Showing hospitality – Acts 2:46-47
 - c) Sharing good news – What good news do we have to share with lost sheep? John 10:27-28
 - d) Inviting them to follow the Good Shepherd – What is the most effective way to invite someone to follow Jesus?
 - e) Share a time when the Good Shepherd used you to connect with one of His lost sheep and invite that person to follow Jesus.
 - f) How can we help our churches to become warm and welcoming sheepfolds for lost sheep?