

**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, and Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about God, and How does it point to Christ?**

- a) To abide in God, the Father, is to confess that Jesus was sent from the Father, and Jesus is the Son of God (i.e., the image of the invisible God [Col 1:15, Heb 1:3-4]). Discuss how the previous statement helps you to **“get Jesus right”** as you “testify to the world that Jesus is the savior of the world.” Why must we understand the Father’s role and person as we embark on missions?
- b) Pst. Akin mentions that God has given us all things in Christ. How does God’s identity as **Love** and the love of God in Christ relieve us of fears as we “testify to the world that Jesus is the savior of the world” (Observe again, 1 Jn 4:16-18)?
- c) Pst. Akin mentions that looking to Jesus will do us good, and the Holy Spirit helps point us back to Christ (Read John 14:26). Why do we need the help of the Holy Spirit as a “sent” people? Why must Christ be at the forefront and the glory of our Christian mission in this world?

**2. What does this passage teach us about us?**

- a) Before our salvation, we were once those living in fear of condemnation. As a result, our actions were symbolic of a people who were not loved and did not love (Titus 3:1-3; 1 Jn 4:17-18). In what ways did our previous life without Christ give us a sense of purposelessness?
- b) “We love because Christ first loved us”? How does the fact that Christ loved us first influence our Christian mission in the world? In other words, how does the pioneering love of Christ lead us to “Go to all nations...” (Titus 3:4-8; 1 Jn 4:19-20)?

**APPLICATION**

- a) Discuss any that resonate with you as you think through the following application.
  - **All believers are sent to all nations:** “Get Jesus right and find your spot” in the missional commission.
  - **All nations are equal in value:** “Go to all nations and peoples,” not because they are lovable but because we have been loved first.
  - **All believers are empowered:** Since the Holy Spirit in you points you to Christ, the empowerment is that you can **“go,”** knowing that the mission is not all about you (ability, strength, inabilities, disabilities, and past failures), but about the glory of God, who is reconciling the world in Christ. “It’s no longer about you, but Jesus.”

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for the privilege of participating in His mission for the world.
- Confess how you have neglected/minimized the need to be proactive in “going” as Christ was proactive in loving you.
- Thank God for sending Christ, who sent the Spirit to you as your encourager, helper, and comforter.
- Ask God to give you the strength to pursue the great commission and persevere in it.