

# Movement Into Culture

God sent Jesus from Heaven to earth with a mission of restoration and redemption. His mission is clearly seen in the message that he preached about the possibility of living for God instead of ourselves

## Read Matthew 4:17 & Luke 19:10

In Jesus we find the first missionary, who leaves his context and enters into a new culture 'to seek and to save what was lost'. As followers of Jesus, our lives are to follow the road map he laid out for us in his life. Just as Jesus was sent from God to us with a mission, so Jesus sends us out to continue this mission of restoration and redemption.

## Read John 20:21

The first step of joining God's movement involves us being sent into the world just like Jesus was. We should be people who go into culture and invite others into the movement of God.

- How can we do this? What does it look like in our lives today?

## Listen to *This World* by Caedmon's Call

- Do you find yourself in the lyrics of this song? How so?
- How does this song talk about the tension of being in the world but not of it?
- Is there anything we can learn from it?

In his work *Adventures in Missing the Point*, author Brian McLaren explores what being in the world but not of it can look like for us. This is what he says:

"Consider this scenario. In a seedy downtown club, there's a lot going on tonight: illicit drugs are being sold,

### *This World* by Caedmon's Call

There's tarnish on the golden rule  
And I wanna jump from this ship of fools  
Show me a place where hope is young  
And a people who aren't afraid to love

This world has nothing for me  
and this world has everything  
All that I could want  
and nothing that I need

This world is making me drunk  
on the spirits of fear.  
So when he says who will go,  
I am nowhere near.

And the least of these  
look like criminals to me  
So I leave Christ on the street

This world has held my hand  
and has led me into intolerance  
But now I'm waking up,  
but now I'm breaking up  
But now I'm making up for lost time

bought, ingested...alcohol is being abused...prostitutes are soliciting and being solicited...gangs are planning violence.

Let's zoom in on four patrons in particular: Jake is looking for a hooker. He's lonely, desperate, and flush with cash after a robbery in another part of town

Shannelle is looking for a dealer. She's a heroin addict and badly needs a hit. She was in treatment until yesterday, when she fled the treatment center. She's back on the street, broke, and asking herself what she's willing to do for a hit.

Bruce is looking for an audience to show off for. He's got a lot of pent-up inferiority and aggression, and needs to

impress somebody in order to feel good about himself. Maybe he can start a fight tonight.

Donna is looking to hook up-friend or stranger, it really doesn't matter when you're this lonely, she things.

Over the next hour, stepping over empty bottles and litter, four other individuals enter the club. They look no different from the rest of the crowd milling around in the dim blue light.

Marcus is an undercover agent. He's looking for Jake hoping to make an arrest.

Charice is Shannelle's sister, and wants to convince her to go back into treatment.

Leshawn is an AIDS activist. He's distributing pamphlets that urge people to avoid high-risk behaviors.

Marie is a journalist, writing a story on the band playing on the stage.

The difference between the first and second group of patrons, of course, is that the second group are there on their own missions- and those missions make them *in* the club but not *of* the club."

- How can we help each other be in the world but not of it – like the second set of club patrons?
- How are you doing developing friendships with people who don't know God?
- What can you do to improve in this area?

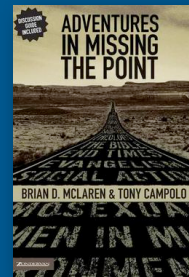
### Read 1 Corinthians 9:19b-23

- In what ways did Jesus and Paul use wise cultural communication in their ministry?
- Do you know what is happening in secular culture?
- How can pop culture and current events help us understand and communicate with people who don't share our beliefs?
- Is there anything that you need to change to join Jesus mission in the world?

Notes:



This World  
by Caedmon's Call  
from their self-titled debut  
album



Adventures in Missing  
the Point  
by Brian McLaren and Tony  
Campolo