<u>**5.5.19 - Missions Month - Jason Kelly (YWAM) & Mackenzie Colby (Bethany Christian Services)**</u>

Local Missions!

Leader Prep Section
- Prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select a few questions that are best suited to your group.
- Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.
- When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.
- What are some things that stood out to you from Sunday's missionary sharing time and sermon?
- Does anyone have any May Day traditions or did you receive anything from your neighbors this year?

Background / Reading
Read: Acts 1:8; Psalm 67. Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Or observations that stand out to you immediately? Hold the rope story?

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.
- Acts 1:8 - Jesus gives His Spirit to us, **so that** we would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Geographically, what do you think the modern equivalent of those places would for us in Bellingham today? Put another way - where is Jesus sending us to be his witnesses?
- Psalm 67 - The psalmist sings to God, asking that "all the peoples praise Him" and that the "nations be glad and sing for joy". What would it take for all of Bellingham to know our gracious, forgiving God? What areas of need do you see for people in the Bellingham community?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.
- Think about some of the local ministries that we as a Hillcrest community support. What personal experience do you have with giving/serving in these ministries or receiving care from them? Share your stories with each other. How is each ministry being Jesus' witness in "Jerusalem" (Bellingham)? (RFKC, Engedi Refuge, Lighthouse Mission, Bethany Christian Services, Southside Food Bank, Skookum Kids, Fircreek, CCF/Talk Time, etc)
- Christian shared about how sending missionaries well means being consistent in giving, encouraging, equipping, praying, and supporting those in the mission field. How do you see are community doing this? What are some ways we could grow in "holding the rope" for our local supported ministries?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.
- Take an extended time to pray for the needs in our Bellingham community. Pray mighty prayers that God pour out His Spirit on each person who knows Him in our town (including YOU) to be

His witnesses to those who don't yet know Him. Pray for Bellingham, your neighborhood, your kids' schools, your school, your workplace, the ministries Hillcrest supports, etc. Use lines from Psalm 67 and the song "Build Your Kingdom Here" to guide and shape your prayers. (Note for leaders: you may want to print a few copies of the lyrics before small group)

Build Your Kingdom Here

Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your Church
We need Your power in us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt; the sick; the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray

Unleash Your kingdom's power
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope on earth