

# The Model Church: Extending Our Reach

Acts 2

**MAIN IDEA:** Jesus commands us to extend our reach beyond the church.

1. Why do we reach?
  2. Who do we reach?
  3. How do we reach?
  4. When do we reach?
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- Consider verses such as Acts 2:36-41, Matthew 28:18-20, and Acts 1:8. What is the goal/purpose when reaching others? What is the motivation and why behind reaching?
  - Consider Acts 2:36-41, Acts 8:4-5, Acts 13:4-5. Who and where are we called to reach?
  - Reaching others will need to involve both our words and actions. What do 1 John 3:18, 1 Peter 2:12, and Romans 10:13-14 say about how we are called to speak and act when reaching others?
  - What does Scripture say about when we should reach others? Consider verses such as 2 Timothy 4:2 and 1 Peter 3:15.
    - What are common reasons given to excuse the when of “reaching?” How does Scripture contradict this?
  - Jesus is our ultimate model for reaching others. Take some time to examine the interactions he had with others, especially non-believers. What observations can be made about the why, who, how, and when of his “reaching” interactions?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

- What experiences have you personally had with reaching out to those who do not believe in or know Jesus? Reflect on those experiences and consider the following:
  - How did you reach out to that person? Consider your words and deeds in your interactions.
  - What prompted the interaction? What role did the Holy Spirit play?
  - What results, if any, have you seen since you first started reaching out? How have you seen God at work (in their life and yours)?
  - If you have not seen significant change, what can your continued interactions with this person look like?
- If you have struggled with reaching out to those who don't believe in or know Jesus, reflect and consider the following:
  - What is the root behind that struggle?
  - Can you remember a time when you felt prompted to reach out but didn't? What stopped you from doing so? How could you use this information to change future interactions?
  - Who are you relying on when attempting to share? Consider Scripture such as Acts 1:8.
  - What is one step you can take to grow in reaching out to others? Ask someone to help hold you accountable in this step.
  - Are there any lies you are believing about your ability to reach non-believers? Find Scripture that directly counters these lies.
- If reaching out to non-believers is something you have not spent much time considering or pursuing:
  - Reflect on the Scripture and questions posed in the Main Idea section of this study. How does this impact your perspective on "reaching?"
  - What is one step you can take to grow in reaching out to non-believers? Ask someone to help hold you accountable in this step.
- In the Main Idea section of the study, a question was posed about common reasons we may give to excuse the *when* of "reaching." Do you personally identify with any of these reasons? What steps can you take to change or remove these reasons/excuses?

## REPRODUCE

- The command from Jesus to go and reach non-believers (specifically outside of the church) is clear in Scripture.
  - Who can you take active steps to start reaching? Ask for the Lord's leading in who he wants you to reach, but consider:
    - Someone you personally know
    - Your workplace/school
    - Your neighborhood or town
    - Your state/New England
    - Beyond New England
  - Consider the above question. What can you do specifically in word and/or action to reach this person/group? Choose a tangible step or make a specific plan of how you are going to do this. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you in this endeavor.
  - Find someone to help you in this endeavor. (Consider Mark 6:7)

## KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Acts 2:36-41
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Acts 1:8
- Acts 8:4-5
- Acts 13:4-5
- 1 John 3:18
- 1 Peter 2:12
- Romans 10:13-14
- 2 Timothy 4:2
- 1 Peter 3:15