



# Discussion Guide

## Sermon Synopsis

What comes to mind when you hear the word “missionary?” Perhaps you envision a few select people who accept a call to take the Gospel to a foreign land. While this is an applicable and understandable mindset, we have done a great disservice to the idea of missions and missionaries by assuming that this only applies to the few who take the Gospel across the ocean. Scripture is very clear that the mission of every follower of Jesus is to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ everywhere we go. The mission of Jesus is not limited to the select few but is for everyone who bears the name of Christ. We invite you to listen to this message today to be challenged to consider what it means to be “All Out on Mission.”

**May 19, 2024**

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

### Multi-Liner of the Week

When there’s good news about an engagement or wedding, we promote it everywhere. When there’s good news of a team’s victory we shout and hug people we’ve never even met. But when there’s good news of the salvation for man’s soul we largely keep it quiet? How is this possible?

### Food for the Soul

**Monday:** Acts 15:1-41

**Tuesday:** Acts 16:1-40

**Wednesday:** Acts 17:1-34

**Thursday:** Acts 18:1-28

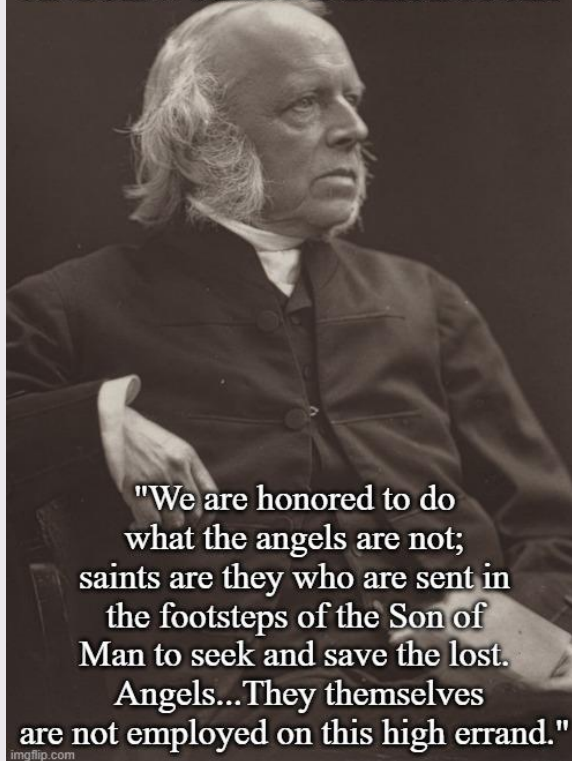
**Friday:** Acts 19:1-41

**Saturday:** Acts 20:1-38

**Sunday:** Acts 21:1-40

*Read 2 Thessalonians 2:8-13 as a group*

ANDREW ALEXANDER BONAR



**Question 1:** Reflecting on your personal experiences, can you share a time when you felt the challenge of evangelism was particularly daunting? What were the circumstances, and how did you handle the situation?

**Question 2:** What are some practical ways we can train and prepare ourselves for evangelism? What theological messages or biblical passages should we know deeply to effectively share the Gospel?

**Question 3:** As we acknowledge the cost of naming Jesus in our lives, how can we support each other in facing these challenges? Can you think of a time when the support of fellow believers made a difference in your evangelistic efforts?

# Leader Guide

*The great privilege of this life, for every believer, is to proclaim who Jesus is and what He has done.*

Andrew Alexander Bonar was a simple 19<sup>th</sup> century Scottish Pastor. We are greatly blessed to have his lifetime diary to read as we seek to understand how common Christians throughout the generations have understood the Great Commission. Regarding spreading the Gospel, Bonar wrote “We are honored to do what the angels are not; saints are they who are sent in the footsteps of the Son of Man to seek and save the lost. Angels... They themselves are not employed on this high errand.” Let me modernize that for you. Being “All Out on Mission” isn’t a burden. We shouldn’t groan about it. We shouldn’t tremble at the thought of being a beacon of Gospel light in both word and deed. We **should** recognize it as the greatest privilege and honor of our existences. The Lord Jesus has called us to be His emissaries in this world. That is an honor that He has not even given to the angels. Let that sink in for a moment because it’s true.

In our group discussions over the past several weeks, we’ve talked a great deal about evangelism: Its importance, its universal applicability to every single person who is truly united with Jesus, and quite a bit about the “how” of evangelism. The reality of it all is this: Engaging the lost with the good news about who Jesus is and what He has, is, and will do is a hard thing today. We live in a culture that is quite simply opposed to everything the Kingdom of God stands for as well as that Kingdom’s King, the Lord Christ. It can and almost always does cost us something to name the name of Jesus publicly. It’s okay to admit it if that scares you. It scares me too. Engaging the lost can cost you relationships. It’s okay to admit that this thought hurts you. It hurts me too. Being “All Out on Mission” requires preparedness. It’s okay to admit that you feel like you aren’t up to the task. I feel that way too. My friends, you are not alone. You were never meant to walk this Christian life alone, nor are you meant to engage the lost alone. The fact is, all of our strength is found squarely in the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God and in our brothers and sisters within the Church. So what do we need to do to overcome all of those things I just mentioned? We need to train. We need to prepare. We need to have a plan that we can call upon when God does what He does so well: Namely, when he puts you and me face to face with another image bearer who does not know Jesus savingly. There are things you must know in both your head and your heart to be an Evangelist. There are theologically accurate messages that you should be familiar with as an Evangelist. There are hurdles that you must overcome if you really want to live “on mission”.

So what are those things we must know? What are the hurdles? What are the methods? I would like to encourage you to seek to get your group to openly discuss times when you and they have made efforts to proclaim the Good News to the lost people in their paths. Discuss the wins as well as the fails. If we’re honest, we have both. I know I sure do.

Beyond this, as a Church, we are very excited for the month of June! I will have the honor of leading an Evangelism focused personal growth opportunity on Sunday mornings during the first service for anyone who wants to be “All Out on Mission” but doesn’t feel equipped for the calling. As a Church, we desire to equip every follower of Christ that we can with the tools they need to be a faithful witness of Jesus to their lost family, friends, and neighbors! One thing we know for sure is this: “The Gospel is the power of God for salvation...” And, as a Church, that is what we are all about. So, let’s get together, get trained, and go out and proclaim this life saving Good News. And let’s watch God raise the dead as the result!

*May grace and peace be multiplied unto you all in ever increasing measure!*

*~Wills Kitchen*