



Shorter Study

■ **Open the session with prayer**

■ **Read together Acts 1:6-11 & Acts 28:23-31**

- What is Jesus asking his disciples to do in Acts 1:8?
- As you turn to Acts 28, the last chapter of the book, what do you notice about the mission of God? What did it look like? How far did it expand?
- Jesus sends out his disciples on an unmistakably global mission. Roughly thirty years later, the gospel had spread to much of the known world. Do you believe that God still orchestrates these sorts of incredible movements today for the sake of his mission? How is your church advancing that mission?

■ **Watch the video entitled "Session 5: Having a Missional Vision".**

Session Outline:

1. The Church is at the heart of God's mission to the world.
2. As leaders of the church, elders *should* be concerned about the task of global missions.
3. The work of missions is a challenge for churches because it forces us to think of "the others".

Reflection Questions:

1. Does your church have a strong focus on overseas mission work? How does this compare with your church's sense of local mission? Is one seen more favourably than the other?
2. How well are you communicating news and feedback from the overseas mission work you support to congregation members? How can this be improved?
3. How much preaching and teaching is given on the importance of congregation members being engaged in "missions" (at all levels of teaching - eg. Sunday school, profession of faith/baptism classes, small groups, worship services)?

■ **Close in prayer**



Longer Study

■ **Open the session with prayer**

■ **Read together Acts 1:6-11 & Acts 28:23-31**

- What is Jesus asking his disciples to do in Acts 1:8?
- As you turn to Acts 28, the last chapter of the book, what do you notice about the mission of God? What did it look like? How far did it expand?
- Jesus sends out his disciples on an unmistakably global mission. Roughly thirty years later, the gospel had spread to much of the known world. Do you believe that God still orchestrates these sorts of incredible movements today for the sake of his mission? How is your church advancing that mission?

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Theological Questions:

1. How have you normally used or defined the term "mission" in reference to the church? What is "church mission" in your mind?
2. Does your church have a strong focus on overseas mission work? How does this compare with your church's sense of local mission? Is one seen more favourably than the other?
3. How does the theological concept of "Missio Dei" (the "mission of God") challenge and inform our understanding of why we should be "missional churches" (see John 20:21)?

Practical Questions:

1. Various authors on church mission (eg. Newbigin, Guder, Bosch) point out that a church is missional when it offers "a contrast community" where something "different to the world" is offered. How are your current mission projects offering "something different" to those you are reaching?
2. How well are you communicating news and feedback from the overseas mission work you support to congregation members? How can this be improved?

