

DANGER ZONE

DATE: SUNDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2020 | SERIES: ENGAGE - PART: 2

ACTS 20:22-24

'And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.'

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'

EPHESIANS 4:16

*From him the **whole body**, joined and held together by **every supporting ligament**, grows and builds itself up in love, as **each part does its work**.*

NOTE TO LEADERS:

The key objectives this week are to:

1. Help people find a way to engage by serving (if they aren't already)
2. Become mission-minded in our daily lives
3. Encourage people to attend our prayer meeting next week

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message?
2. The ship is sinking! Each person is allowed to bring one object into the life raft – ideally something that represents them or something that they enjoy. Ask people to describe what object they would bring and why. (This need not be realistic. If someone loves music, they may choose to bring a guitar, or a foodie might choose to bring fillet steak. Encourage people to be creative).

START THINKING

1. Aircraft carriers (and the planes that they launch) go directly into danger zones. In Acts 20:22-24, Paul expresses how he is willing to go through hardship for the sake of the Gospel. What are you willing to risk for the sake of advancing the Kingdom of heaven?
2. Read Ephesians 4:16. Paul once again uses the analogy of the body to describe the Church. Did you know that there are over 900 ligaments in the human body? The ligaments, along with tendons and muscles, hold the joints together - allowing movement and maintenance of balance. What do you need to start (or stop) doing to help the body (church) move with ease and maintain balance?

START SHARING

1. On Sunday, Steve said that we should live with a mission-mindset (Matthew 28:19-20). He also shared how our reach and impact through mission trips has grown from 2015 to 2019.
 - Have you ever been on a mission trip? If yes, how were you impacted in terms of your faith and spiritual

growth?

- Where is God prompting you to reach out? (It could be as close as your neighbour or a distant country). Share with the group.
 - What could we do as a group to reach out together?
2. Have you been part of one of our church-wide series before (Transformed, Better Together, Detox)? What one thing from one of those series has had the biggest life-changing impact for you?

START PRAYING

Last week we were encouraged to make lists of who we could invite to the Bestseller series. This week is time to launch some missiles! Spend time praying for courage for those extending invites, and for a stirring to "know more" in the hearts of those receiving the invites.

START DOING

On Sunday, Steve likened our prayers to missiles that have global reach. Next Tuesday, the 4th of February, is a day of fasting and prayer. One of the main focuses of the day is to pray for people's lives to be changed during the Bestseller series. The prayer meeting will take place from 6pm to 7pm at CityHill, and kids are welcome! We will break our fast with a meal (which will be on sale) after the meeting. This is a great opportunity to connect and enjoy fellowship with your group.

For those that would like more information on fasting, there is a resource which can be downloaded [here](#). We also have a great resource on fasting and prayer for kids - [click here](#) to download.

Please also invite your group to attend our Sunday prayer meetings which are before our morning and evening services (8:30am and 5:30pm).

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, we continued with our Engage series and the theme of an aircraft carrier. Steve began by reminding us of some of the differences between an aircraft carrier and a cruise ship. The primary goal of a cruise liner is pleasure and entertainment - to keep everyone happy! Whereas the aim of an aircraft carrier is to advance the agenda of the country it represents by carrying out orders.

We then looked into some more key differences between aircraft carriers and cruise liners:

1. Aircraft carriers sail towards danger zones

They are armour-plated (flight decks as well as hulls) and are equipped with weapons and resources, ready to engage in battle - sailing on a mission toward the danger zones. Cruise ships, on the other hand, would be looking for calm seas and interesting destinations.

Aircraft carriers represent the military power and dominance of their country of origin. We represent something far higher - the King of kings and His kingdom breaking into this world. God has equipped us - His army - for battle. We are 'armour-plated' with the armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-17), and our prayers are like missiles with global reach.

Paul understood that there is a real spiritual war going on, and did not shrink away from hardships and sacrifice. This is how he puts it: *'And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. Acts 20:22-24.* We too should have missional thinking, that should affect how we carry out our lives. Before we're South Africans (or any other country), we're citizens of heaven, living here on a heavenly mission.

Aircraft carriers are also involved in humanitarian aid e.g. where there are natural disasters. Imagine that there was a shipwreck and many people were floating in the ocean, needing to be rescued, and both the cruise ship and the aircraft carrier received the S.O.S. call and responded. The response of the cruise ship passengers might be something like: "Glad we were able to help, but that kind of ruined our holiday!" Whereas the crew of the aircraft carrier would be something like: "We are fulfilling the mission."

2. Aircraft carriers have flight decks

Where planes are taking off and landing as part of the mission. This is similar to the mission that Jesus speaks of in Matthew

28:18-20: *Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

As a church, we have worked very hard to increase our flight deck capacity (and will continue to do so). In 2015, we sent 12 people on 2 trips to 2 countries. In 2019, 184 people went on 25 trips to 7 different countries. This year, and in future years, our heart is to see many more teams go out through CityReach, and more churches planted.

3. No Passengers

Reinforcing this point from last week, Steve reminded us that when we're in cruise ship mode, it's all about our happiness and enjoyment, but on an aircraft carrier, each one of us has a specific role to fulfil to carry out the mission. *From him the **whole body**, joined and held together by **every supporting ligament**, grows and builds itself up in love, as **each part does its work**.* Ephesians 4:16.

Every one of us onboard the CityHill "aircraft carrier" has a role to fulfil in order to help move the mission forward - bringing the Good News to the world. In 2015, we filled 825 volunteer roles, and in 2019 that had grown to 1684 volunteer roles. There is an onus on each one of us to ask God what role we have to play.

Finally, Steve reminded us of our church-wide series, Bestseller, which begins on Sunday the 9th of February. This is a great opportunity to be "missional" by reaching out to friends, family, neighbours, colleagues etc. inviting them to join a Bestseller group. Your invitation is a powerful weapon in the spiritual battle raging over souls!

FOR THE ENGAGE SIGN UP FORM: [CLICK HERE](#)