

## Sermon Discussion Questions for Small Groups and Families:

*Revelation 10:1-11 ~ Ministry: Sweet & Sour*

1. Have you come to grips with the fact that, if you're a follower of Christ, you are called to be a faithful witness to Jesus? How do you understand that calling? Talk about what you think this means for your life, and evaluate your faithfulness in this area.
2. We live in a very fast-paced and noisy culture that places a high value on efficiency and being in constant contact with people. All of these work against our spending time in solitude and silence before our triune God. Talk about how you're currently trying to "marinate" in God's presence in this kind of culture. What's working and what's not working? In what ways do you sense God calling you to a deeper place with Him? *It might be helpful to read Pastor Bill's hand out on Spiritual Practices and set a goal of engaging with God through one more of these practices—alone or in community—over the next few weeks.*
3. Pastor Bill talked about the temptation he often faces to let God's Word by-pass his own heart en route to teaching it to others. Is this ever a temptation for you—and if so, how so? How can we discipline ourselves to allow God's Word to do its work in us before we share it with others?
4. What would it look like if we *embodied* the truth before we *professed* the truth? Or—what would it look like for you to become a living parable of Jesus? How does that happen?
5. Talk about a time when sharing your faith left you feeling sour. What happened? How did you respond? What impact did that have on future efforts to share your faith?
6. Reread Jeremiah 20:7-18. In what ways have you or can you identify with Jeremiah? What is going on in verse 9? Have you experienced that tension in your own life—the tension between the "I can't go on" and the "I can't give up"? Talk about that.
7. Pastor Bill shared about his friend Joy who has experienced some highs and lows in her prison ministry. Talk about some times in your life when sharing your faith left your feeling helpless, frustrated or defeated. Talk about some times in your life when you sensed God using you in a powerful way.
8. Spend some time in prayer asking God to slow you down and help you to find meaningful ways to deepen your relationship with Him. Talk to God about one or two people you feel called to share your faith with. Ask Him for guidance, courage, wisdom and perseverance; and ask Him to move in that person's life in a supernatural way.

### For Further Reading:

- Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading (Eugene Peterson)
- Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth (Richard Foster)
- Life Together (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) – especially the chapter entitled *Ministry*
- Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith (Bill Hybels)
- Ezekiel 2-3, Jeremiah 20