LIFE GROUP
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We Go Despite the Difficulties
November 22, 2026

Summary
In this sermon, Pastor Dale Hummel reminds us that following Jesus and sharing the good news can come with difficulties, but the hope of Christ is worth the cost. Paul understood this well. Even while imprisoned, he remained committed to telling others about Jesus because of the grace he had received. His example reminds us that we are called to cross boundaries and reach people who may be different from us or difficult to approach. Sometimes this means risking our comfort, acceptance, security or even our safety. Believers around the world continue to share Jesus despite persecution and danger. We may never face those same challenges, but we can pray for them, support their work and look for opportunities to share Christ with people where we live. Because Jesus gave so much for us, we can be willing to give of ourselves so others can know Him.

Scripture
For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. Ephesians 3:1-13 (NIV)

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:11-13 (NIV)

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Let's Start
What's the most adventurous thing you've ever done? Would you do it again?

Gratitude and Prayer
How has God been at work in your life since we last met?

Let's Talk
1. What stood out to you most from the story of Adoniram and Ann Judson? What do you think gave them the courage to go?
2. Dale said, "The grace that brought us near should move us toward people who are still far away." What does that statement mean to you?
3. Paul considered sharing the gospel a gift of God's grace. How does remembering the grace you've received change the way you think about sharing your faith?
4. Jesus crossed many social and cultural boundaries to reach people. What boundaries might we need to cross today to build relationships with people who don't know Jesus?
5. What might keep you from sharing your faith with someone? Fear of rejection, not knowing what to say, concern about offending someone or something else?
6. When you think about following Jesus, what would be hardest for you to put in God's hands: freedom, finances, acceptance or security? Why?
7. Pastor Dale reminded us that we can support believers who are sharing the gospel in difficult places through prayer and generosity. What is one practical way you could ***live more generously*** to help others hear about Jesus?

Let's Act
Think about the three areas Dale mentioned: Here, Near and Far. Where might God be asking you to take a next step in sharing the hope of Jesus with someone?

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