

S1 - Sermon Theme: The Gospel You Can Taste

S2 - Scripture: Psalm 34:8 – "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

Faith & Mission = is not a spectator sport. God invites us to experience His goodness firsthand, even across the globe.

The Context: King David wrote Psalm 34 after a narrow escape from danger. He wasn't speaking theoretically; he had just experienced God's survival rescue.

There's a difference between looking at a recipe book and actually eating a meal. You cannot experience a steak just by reading about it.

As an outreach team, we didn't want to just read about God's global church. We wanted to step out and "taste" it.

So, we went to Russia.

Feedback from the team:

Photos from outreach

More Than We Could Ask or Imagine

S3 - Scripture: Ephesians 3:20

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us."

S4 - S11- Slides - Taste - food

When we left South Africa, we had three simple goals:

- 1. To reconnect with our current Liveschool leaders and encourage them and their schools.**
- 2. To meet new pastors who were interested in starting a Liveschool.**
- 3. To establish monthly Zoom Learning Communities where leaders could continue walking and growing together.**

We travelled through 12 cities in three nations.

We met with and ministered to around 70 pastors and Liveschool students..

What we hoped would become a small Learning Community has grown into a movement. Twenty-eight pastors have already committed to meeting monthly on Zoom to learn, encourage one another, and pursue healthy, reproducing ministry together.

One of the greatest surprises came in Kemerovo. We were told, “This is your home. Come and stay as long as you need—even 365 days a year!”

The Lord also opened unexpected doors among army personnel and military veterans. We sensed a deep hunger for healing, hope, and the Father’s love in a season marked by uncertainty and loss.

This journey was also a gift to our own team. Twelve South Africans experienced the Church in Moscow and Kemerovo firsthand. They saw that the Kingdom of God is bigger than one nation, one language, or one culture. They encountered a family on mission—a people whose generosity, hospitality, humility, and love made the Gospel visible.

People weren’t primarily asking for better sermons, bigger conferences, or more information. They were longing for spiritual father- and motherhood.

In the Bible, this spiritual fatherhood and motherhood, is not about authority first: it is about relationship that produces maturity.

Spiritual fatherhood: it’s the ministry of someone who

- gives identity before instructions
- Loves people for who they are, not what they can produce
- Walks with them over time, instead of merely speaking to them occasionally
- Corrects with affection, not control
- Celebrates their success even when they surpass their mentor,

Why is the cry so loud?

Many churches have

- **leaders, but few parents**
- **programs but little family**

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People are asking questions like ...

- **Who really knows me?**
- **Who believes in me?**
- **Who will walk with me when I fail?**
- **Who will rejoice when I succeed?**

The Gospel you can taste

The greatest mission field we encountered was not a hunger for better preaching, but a hunger for fathers and mothers who reveal the Father's heart.

The Challenge to the Church: We went to Russia, but you don't have to cross an ocean to taste God's goodness. He is inviting you to trust Him in your workplace, your neighborhood, and your family.

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S13 - The Call to Action: Step out in faith. Pray for the church in Russia, support missions, and take a risk for the Gospel. Taste and see for yourself.