



# Living THE Mission

**WEEK 3 / FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

## ★ DEVOTIONAL ★

### READ ACTS 3:1-10

The mission of PazNaz is to seek to know Christ and join him on mission in our local and global neighborhoods. This mission statement is a communal mission, but it is also an individual mission. As a community, PazNaz pursues this undertaking, but as individuals who are a part of the community, you too must pursue the mission in your daily life. Both parts of the equation are necessary to accomplish the goal. You are needed to carry out the mission in small daily ways and the community is needed to encourage and give you strength. One way this happens is through communal worship gatherings. The purpose of the gathering is to glorify God who goes before his people accomplishing mighty things, but it is also so much more. In worship the people of God are given the opportunity to edify and build one another up. In worship the community of God is declaring the already but not yet kingdom of God come to earth. In worship the people of God are being formed and empowered to carry out the mission of God.

Communal worship is important to the individual's faith, but it misses the mark if it stops at making you feel good and fails to accomplish its other purposes. As Pastor Tara Beth said on Sunday, "If we make it about me in church, we are going to make it about me in the world." Peter and John would not have been able to heal the lame beggar with their own power; they needed the empowering of their community to carry out their individual missions. They had been gathering with their community every day for weeks and were even on their way to a community prayer gathering before God used them to carry out his will in healing the beggar. To think that this daily habit did not have a huge impact on the amount of ministry they were able to do is foolish. Think about how much more you could accomplish for God if you weren't relying solely on your own power and strength? Think about how much more PazNaz could accomplish for Christ in this world if the congregation put the encouragement of its brothers and sisters before the needs of the individual?

## ★ ACTIVITY ★

- Write down 20 reasons that you are thankful for your community and congregation.
- One day this week switch all of the music you and your family listen to solely to worship music. Listen for what God may be speaking to you. Many times it is hard to hear what God might be saying because of the distractions surrounding us.
- Ask someone to join you in praying for next Sunday's worship service and each Sunday through the rest of the series. Pray specifically that a spirit of unity will rest among the congregation and that gathering as a community for worship would be empowering for everyone participating.
- Commit to turning off all media in the car for a whole day. Pray and ask God how you can impact the places that you drive past each day. If you have kids in the car, ask them to pray and seek how God would want them be on mission in the places they go to in a given week.
- Spend 10 minutes in prayer confessing your tendency to focus only on what you want out of church. Make a decision to intentionally put the needs of someone else in front of your own the next time you gather with the church community.