



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry Discussion Guide

Section 1 - Discussion Questions

For the following Discussion Questions, please use [this link](#) to re-listen to these specific portions of the Evangelism & Frontier Ministry podcast.

How would you describe the difference between a “mission mindset” and a “survival mindset”?

- Consider your congregation’s recent decisions and conversations—do they reflect a focus on mission or on preserving what already exists?

The podcast compares church life to the “pioneering” and “colonizing” phases of science. What phase do you feel your church is currently in? Why?

- What signs of pioneering (experimentation, innovation) or colonizing (maintenance, tradition) do you see?

What non-traditional or innovative approaches to evangelism have you encountered or heard about?

- Are there any that you think could resonate with people in your community who do not have a church background?

Discipleship involves listening to God’s Word, sharing personal faith stories, and spiritual practices. How is your congregation equipping people to live out this kind of discipleship?

- Are there opportunities for people to grow in their faith and share their journey with others?

The podcast states that the church should focus more on “why we are the church” than on “how we are the church.” How would you describe the *why* of your congregation?

- In what ways can that “why” be made more visible or accessible to those outside the church?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry Discussion Guide

What are some practical steps your congregation could take to shift focus from preserving institutional structures to living out its mission?

- What would be hard to let go of—and what new possibilities might open up?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Section 2 - Discussion Questions

For the following Discussion Questions, please use [this link](#) to re-listen to these specific portions of the Evangelism & Frontier Ministry podcast.

How do you see Christian character reflected in the leaders of your congregation?

- In what ways do leaders model worship, prayer, Scripture study, or service?
- How does their character influence your trust and engagement?

What does a healthy balance of mission and maintenance look like in our church?

- Are we more focused on getting things done, or on caring for those doing the work?
- How can we better support one another while remaining mission-focused?

Why is authenticity in leadership important to you personally?

- Can you recall a moment when a leader's vulnerability or honesty helped you grow or feel more connected?

How do generational differences affect leadership styles and expectations in our congregation?

- What does "status" mean to you in a church setting, and how might mutuality build stronger relationships across age groups?

How are decisions made in our congregation—and how could that process be improved?

- Do you feel included or informed?
- What would it look like for us to make decisions that honor both the mission, and the people involved?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry Discussion Guide

How well do we as a congregation handle conflict, and what role do leaders play in that?

- Do we tend to avoid, escalate, or resolve conflict in healthy ways?
- What communication or listening habits might help us improve?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Section 3 - Discussion Questions

For the following Discussion Questions, please use [this link](#) to re-listen to these specific portions of the Evangelism & Frontier Ministry podcast.

What does it mean to "fall in love" with someone in the context of Christian mission?

- How does this idea challenge or expand your understanding of evangelism or outreach?
- Can you recall an experience when someone showed you this kind of love?

Paul's description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 sets a high standard.

- Which aspects (e.g., patience, kindness, not being boastful or irritable) are most difficult to practice when relating to people outside the church?
- How might a congregation intentionally cultivate this kind of love?

The podcast says mission is "not transactional" but "the beginning of a love affair."

- In what ways have churches sometimes approached mission as transactional?
- How can we shift toward building authentic, loving relationships?

How have Word and Sacrament shaped your understanding of God's love?

- How does this shape the way we are called to love others, especially those unaffiliated with the church?

What might it look like for your congregation to "fall in love" with your surrounding community?

- What would need to change in how you listen, serve, or interact with neighbors?
- Who are the people or groups in your community you haven't yet gotten to know?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Trust is named as essential for witnessing.

- What are some practical steps your congregation can take to build trust with people who may be skeptical of the church?
- How do patience and consistency play a role in this?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Section 4 - Discussion Questions

For the following Discussion Questions, please use [this link](#) to re-listen to these specific portions of the Evangelism & Frontier Ministry podcast.

What are some "arbitrary norms" you've encountered in your church or upbringing that may not be grounded in Scripture?

- Invite participants to reflect on values or expectations they assumed were essential to faithfulness, but that may be more cultural than biblical.

How might narrowly defined norms affect people who are new to the church or who come from different backgrounds (e.g., adopted families, LGBTQ+ individuals, etc.)?

- Consider how such norms can create barriers to inclusion and how the church can become more welcoming without compromising its core teachings.

Can you think of a time when you held two seemingly opposing viewpoints in tension? What was that experience like for your faith?

- Discuss how embracing both justice and holiness—purity and compassion—can be challenging but also deeply faithful, as reflected in biblical stories.

What does Psalm 25's definition of "integrity" mean to you in light of Brueggemann's idea of living in tension?

- Explore how spiritual maturity may involve holding complexity rather than seeking black-and-white answers.

How can Christians remain faithful to Jesus while also listening to and engaging with the concerns of younger generations, such as Millennials?

- Review the list from "Boomers to Millennials" and talk about how the church might respond constructively to these social and ethical concerns.



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry Discussion Guide

What practical steps can you take to examine and reshape your personal norms so they align more closely with Christ rather than with tradition or culture?

- Encourage self-examination and personal growth, considering how one's lifestyle, choices, and judgments reflect Jesus' example.



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Section 5 - Discussion Questions

For the following Discussion Questions, please use [this link](#) to re-listen to these specific portions of the Evangelism & Frontier Ministry podcast.

Guilt vs. Shame: Can You Relate?

- How have you experienced or witnessed the difference between guilt (feeling bad for what you've done) and shame (feeling bad for who you are or that things didn't turn out right)? How do these two struggles shape people's faith and sense of spiritual well-being?

Generational Spirituality: Different Hopes, Can You Relate?

- The podcast suggests both older and younger Christians ask the same question: "*What must I do to get things right?*" How does your generation tend to answer that question? Do you find yourself more focused on eternal life or present-day impact—and why?

The Cross and the Two Thieves: Who Do You Identify With?

- In Luke 23, we meet two thieves—one mocking Jesus, the other seeking redemption. Jesus is in between, having done everything right. In moments of spiritual struggle, do you relate more to the thief burdened by guilt or to the one overwhelmed by unmet expectations (shame)? How does Jesus' response speak to each?

Forgiveness and Shame: A New Mission Field

- We often talk about forgiveness in terms of relieving guilt. How might the church begin to speak more directly to people experiencing shame—those who feel they've done all the right things but still feel like failures?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Reframing Success in Faith

- If shame stems from *doing the right things but not getting the right results*, how might we redefine “success” in the life of faith? How can we begin to measure our spiritual lives by something other than outcomes?

The Church’s Voice: Comfort or Pressure?

- In what ways has the church helped relieve your guilt or shame—and in what ways might it have unintentionally added to it? What would it look like for your congregation to be a place of healing for both?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Section 6 - Discussion Questions

For the following Discussion Questions, please use [this link](#) to re-listen to these specific portions of the Evangelism & Frontier Ministry podcast.

What does it mean to “go” in your everyday life?

- Jesus’ Great Commission includes the word “go,” implying movement beyond familiar places. How might you understand “going” in your current context—whether that’s your neighborhood, workplace, or online community? Where might the Spirit be nudging you?

How has our congregation been more focused on the building than the mission field?

- Reflect on ways the life of the church has been centered on physical space. What would it look like to shift focus toward the people and needs outside the walls of the church?

What small experiments could we try in our community to explore spiritual connection?

- Blair Pogue and Dwight Zscheile suggest practical, low-risk experiments like prayer walks or spiritual interviews. Which of these ideas feels most approachable? Can you think of other small ways to bring spiritual practices into public or relational spaces?

Have you ever had a meaningful conversation about faith outside of a church setting?

- Describe the experience. What made the conversation impactful? How did it shape your view of evangelism or spiritual formation?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry Discussion Guide

How do you understand the idea of a “Mixed Ecology” in the church?

- What are some strengths of our traditional congregational life? What new expressions of church life might complement or enhance it? How can we embrace both without losing our identity?

What fears or hesitations do you have about moving “outside the building”?

- What concerns arise when thinking about engaging your faith in more public or unfamiliar spaces? How might the Spirit be challenging or comforting you in this?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Section 7 - Discussion Questions

For the following Discussion Questions, please use [this link](#) to re-listen to these specific portions of the Evangelism & Frontier Ministry podcast.

How have you seen communication methods change over your lifetime, especially within the church?

- What were some ways information was shared when you were younger, and how does that compare to today's digital habits (email, social media, streaming, etc.)?

In what ways do you personally engage with your church's messages or announcements?

- Do you prefer bulletins, emails, social media, or face-to-face updates? How does your preferred method compare with that of younger or older members?

Do you think our congregation has a clear message or online presence?

- If someone were to learn about our church through social media, what would they find out about us? Would that message reflect who we are as a community?

What obstacles have you experienced—or seen others experience—when trying to engage with digital church content?

- Has anyone you know struggled with access, technical know-how, or comfort with online tools? How might the church support them?

What kinds of content do you think would foster more connection and engagement online?

- Would devotionals, personal stories, behind-the-scenes videos, or interactive posts help you feel more spiritually connected during the week?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry Discussion Guide

How can print materials and social media work together in a congregation's communication strategy?

- What print materials do you still value? How can they support or point people toward more dynamic digital engagement?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry

Discussion Guide

Section 8 - Discussion Questions

For the following Discussion Questions, please use [this link](#) to re-listen to these specific portions of the Evangelism & Frontier Ministry podcast.

Why are personal faith stories important in conversations about Jesus?

- Reflect on a time when someone else's story helped you in your faith. How can sharing your own struggles and experiences in a humble way open the door for others to engage with the Gospel?

What does it mean to “listen with a posture of curiosity rather than control”?

- In what ways can your church practice deeper listening in the community? How might we better hear the longings, losses, and hopes of our neighbors?

How can we recognize and support God’s work beyond the walls of the church?

- Think about your daily life—at work, in your neighborhood, or with friends. Where do you see God already at work? How might the church affirm and bless this work as ministry?

How should we prepare to welcome people who are “recovering evangelicals”?

- What expectations might these individuals bring? How can Lutheran congregations be hospitable while offering grounding in a different theological and worship tradition?

What aspects of liturgical worship might speak to the hearts of younger generations?

- Consider the role of silence, communal prayer, and rhythm in worship. How does this differ from more performance-based styles, and why might it be meaningful today?



Evangelism & Frontier Ministry Discussion Guide

What does it look like to step out in faith “by paths as yet untrodden”?

- The closing prayer speaks of trusting God in uncertainty. How does this resonate with your experience of evangelism or congregational ministry? Where do you feel God is leading your community?