



# Why Mission?

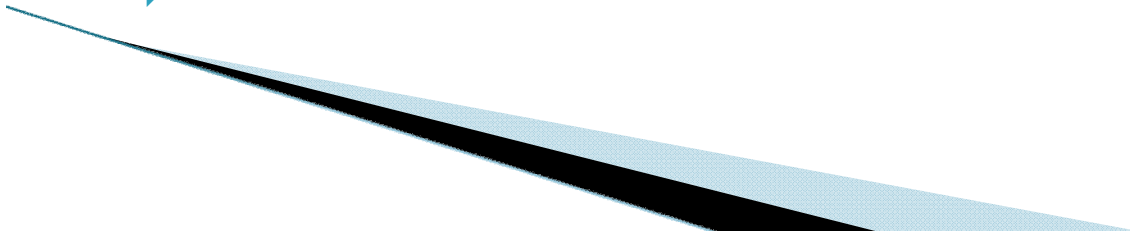
Presbytery of Yellowstone

March 6, 2015



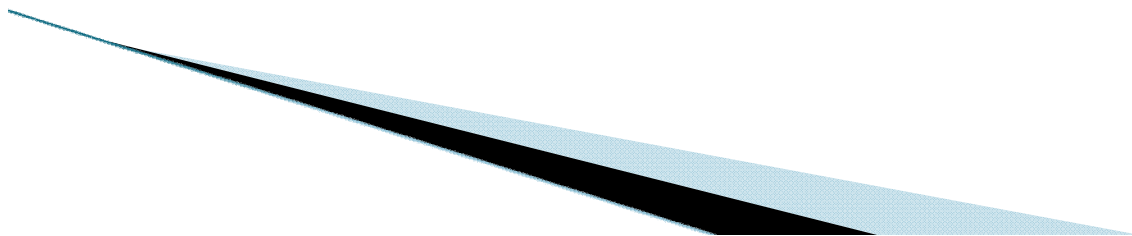
# What is mission?

- ▶ Our Vision
- ▶ Yellowstone Presbytery – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer--is a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.
- ▶
- ▶ We will . . .
- ▶ Gather Together
- ▶ for God's glory and spiritual synergy\*.
- ▶ Equip and Encourage
- ▶ disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel . . . intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.
- ▶ Go Out to join Christ in Christ's mission in our communities, Montana, and the world . . . embodying and sharing Christ's Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.
- ▶
- ▶ \* Synergy: from the Greek
- ▶ syn-ergos, συνεργός meaning "working together"
- ▶



# What is mission?

- ▶ Going out into the world
- ▶ Making disciples
- ▶ Sharing God's love
- ▶ Sharing God's abundance
- ▶ Teaching about Christ
- ▶ Teaching that which will improve life on earth
- ▶ Improving others' health and well-being
- ▶ Living with others and showing Christ's way
- ▶ Establishing social justice



# What is mission?

- ▶ Foreign
- ▶ A program of the church
- ▶ The work of a church committee
- ▶ Benevolence
- ▶ Mission trips
- ▶ God's purpose
- ▶ God's project
- ▶ God's activity
- ▶ God's intention to establish God's reign
- ▶ God's movement toward the world

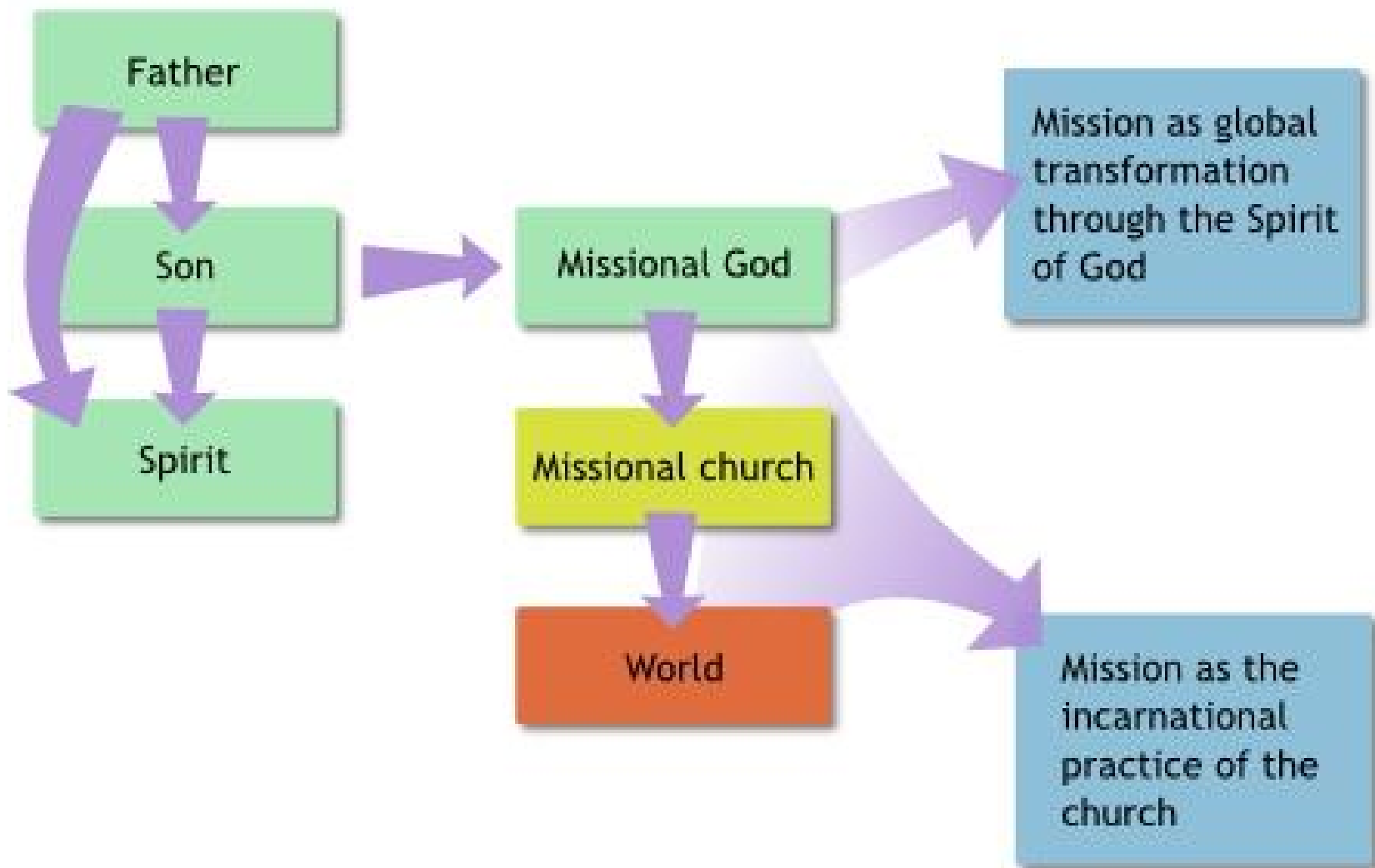
HUMAN ACTIVITIES

*MISSIO DEI*



Karl Barth, 20<sup>th</sup> century Swiss theologian

Barth first proposed that mission must be understood as an activity or attribute of God in 1932.



One picture of the *Missio Dei* concept

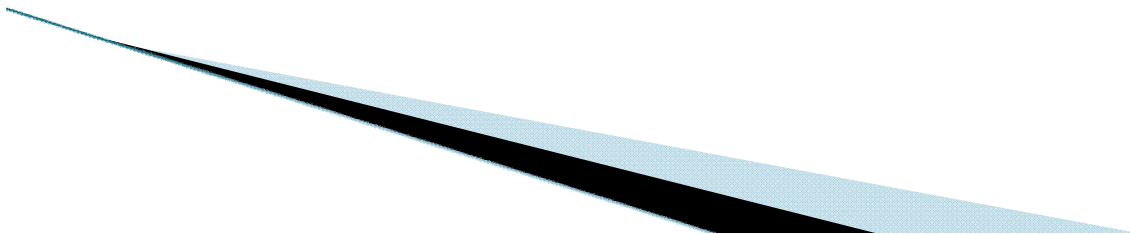
# God has a mission.

*The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.* (John 1:14)

# God's mission has a church.

*“Just as the Father sent me, I send you.”*

(John 20:21)





# Why mission?

- ▶ Mission is the identity, reason, and purpose of the church's existence.

SO . . .

Our first task is to ask,

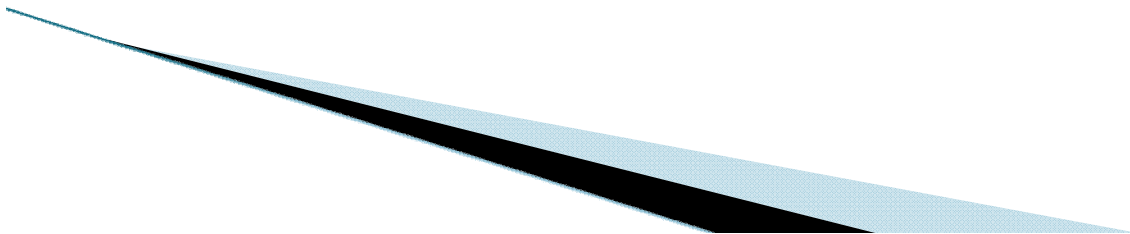
1) What is God's mission? What is God doing in the world? AND THEN . . .

2) How are we called  
invited

gifted for

needed for

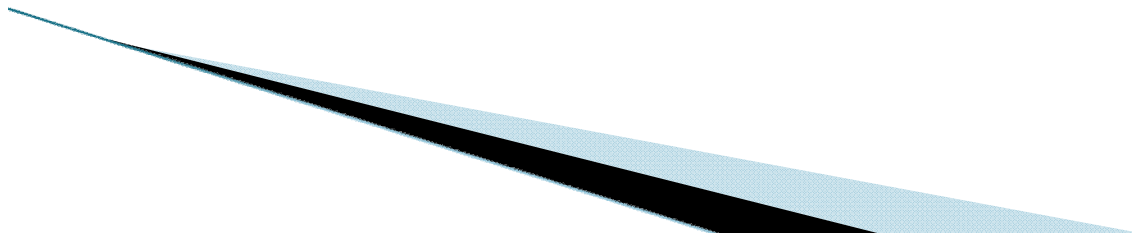
**GOD'S MISSION???**



# Why mission?

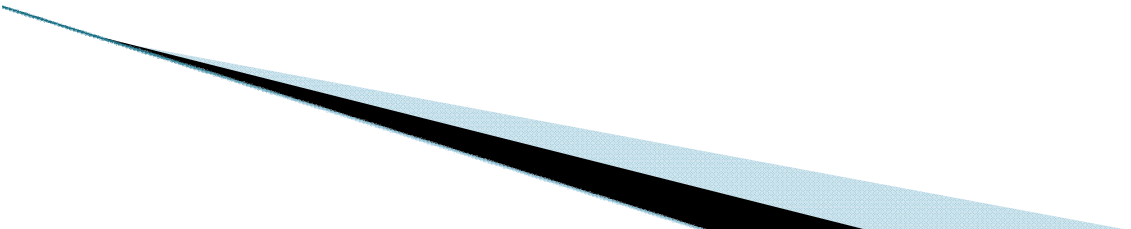
*What is God's mission?*

- ▶ Genesis 12:1–3
- ▶ Exodus 3:7–10
- ▶ Isaiah 42:5–9
- ▶ Luke 4:16–21
- ▶ John 10:7–15
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:17–21



# Why mission?

*How are God's people part of God's mission?*

- ▶ Genesis 12:4
  - ▶ Exodus 6:28–7:7
  - ▶ Isaiah 49:5–10
  - ▶ Matthew 28:18–20
  - ▶ John 20:19–23
  - ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:17–21
- 

**THE CHURCH  
MISSIONAL  
COMMUNITY**

- Incarnational: living in the midst of people in a specific location
- Loving and Serving
- Bringing Redemption to every part of life
- Proclaiming the gospel

Preaching

serves

Music/  
Worship

serves

Sacraments/  
Ordinances

serve

Adult  
Programs

serve

Global  
Missions

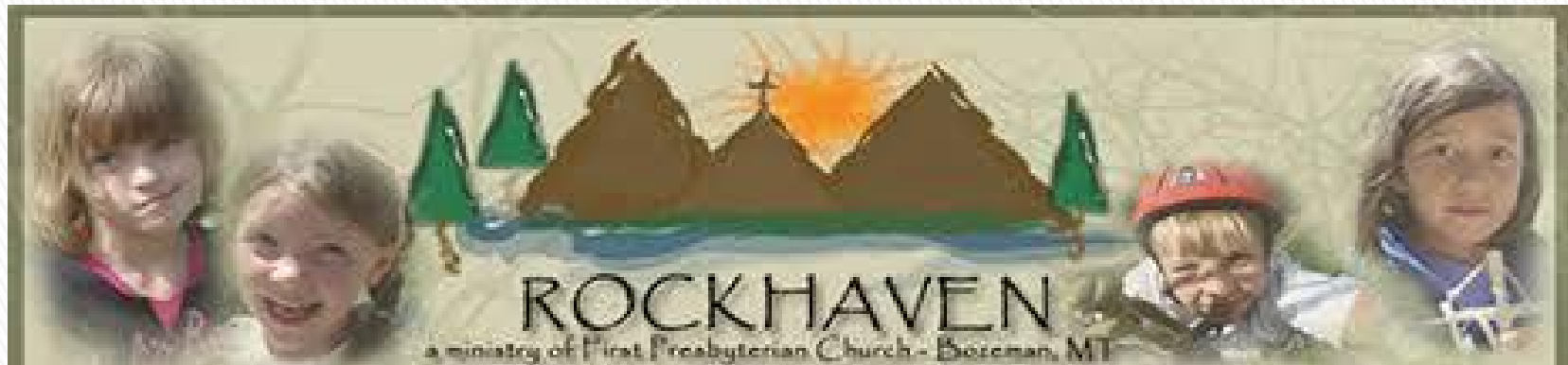
serve

Childrens',  
Youth, &  
College  
Programs

serves

serves

Care



## Rockhaven Camp and Retreat Center





Where in the world is God calling  
the Presbytery of Yellowstone?

## Thy kingdom come;

1. Prayer of discernment

“Where is God at work in our part of the world?”

“Where is God’s kingdom (rule, reign) most needed? Where is God’s kingdom coming?”



## Thy will be done. . . .

2. Prayer of vocation

“What are the needs of the world around us?”

“What gifts have we been given so that we might join in God’s mission?”

“How is God inviting us to share those gifts?”

