



# Questions and Passages

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As with any decision about mission and ministry, studying God's Word is critical when contemplating or planning a partnership. In this document, you'll find a list of general questions that can be used as the basis for a variety of partnership Bible studies, along with suggested passages, grouped by topic area. Feel free to mix, match, add, or delete as needed for your particular context. (If you're looking for a ready-to-use example, check out the study on 1 Cor. 12—a good foundation for partnership discussions.)

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

- How would you summarize this passage?
- What was the context? What was happening when this account took place or when it was written?
- How is this passage relevant to "partnerships in the Gospel" (Philippians 1:3-5), both then and now?
- Are there truths in this passage that contradict the ideas we encounter in the world? Do any of those truths challenge your own way of thinking?
- What's your primary takeaway about partnerships in the Gospel from this passage or study?
- What can you or your congregation do with respect to partnerships with others, considering this Word from God? (This might range from holding some joint activities with a neighboring LCMS church to forming an official congregational partnership.)
- With whom can you talk about next steps?
- What can you pray for in light of this Bible passage and study?

## **BIBLE PASSAGES**

### **Church/Mission**

- Matthew 28:18-20: The Great Commission
- Romans 10: The Message of Salvation to All
- Heb. 10:19-25: The Full Assurance of Faith
- Is. 40:9: Zion Herald of Good News

### **One Body, Working Together**

- I Cor. 12:12-31: One Body with Many Members
- Ephesians 4: Unity in the Body of Christ
- Acts 6:1-7: Seven Chosen to Serve
- Gal. 3:28: One in Christ

### **Philippians: Partnership in the Gospel**

- Phil. 1:3-5 (or the entire chapter, if time allows)
- Phil. 4:14-20

### **Churches Working Together**

- Acts: Building up the Church (Samaria, Judea, Jerusalem, etc.)
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- 2 Cor. 8:1-7: Macedonian Churches

### **Fellowship of Believers/Church Through the Ages**

- Acts 2:42-47: Fellowship of Believers
- 1 Peter 2: A Living Stone and a Holy People

### **The Need to Plan**

- Proverbs 15:22: Planning, Ours and God's
- Luke 12:49-56: Interpret the Times
- Genesis 41-50: Joseph's Wise Management

### **Encouragement/Trust in God's Promises**

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: A Time for Everything
- 2 Cor. 9:8: Grace Abounds
- Rom. 8:28: All Things Work Together for Good
- Is. 55:10-11: God's Word Will Not Return Empty
- Eph. 1:15-23: Thanksgiving and Prayer