whole GOSPEL

MISSIONSFEST 2026: WHOLE · LUKE 7:18-23 · OCTOBER 11, 2026 · DR. BRIAN FIKKERT

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER BEFORE THE SERMON:

- Why did Jesus come to earth?
- What are you supposed to do after the alarm clock goes off on Monday morning?

SERMON OUTLINE:

Getting Our Story Straight

- The Shaping Power of Stories
- John's Confusion about the Story
- God's Story
- The False Stories that Shape Us
- Our Role in God's Story

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Compare your answer to the first pre-sermon question with Jesus' answer in Luke 4:43, noting any differences. Is Jesus' mission bigger than you thought? If so, why does this matter?
- Compare your answer to the second pre-sermon question with II Cor. 5:16-21 and I Peter 2:9, noting any differences. How might you adjust your approach to your work in light of these differences?
- Reflect on your behaviors. In what ways are you living into God's story, and in what ways are you pursuing a different story? What changes could you make to live more consistently with God's story?

DIG DEEPER:

Dr. Brian Fikkert is the founder of the Chalmers Center for Economic Development. Since 1999, the center has helped the Church rethink poverty and respond with practical, biblical principles—so that all are restored to flourishing.

If what was shared today challenged you, or sparked your interest, and you want to dive deeper, here are a few steps you can take:

Exploring Faith

- Want to learn more about what Scripture has to say about poverty alleviation and community development? Visit the Chalmers Center website to explore their various videos on the subject at *chalmers.org*.

New Disciples

- Visit the ministry booth in the lobby and take a look at the *Becoming Whole* book and the field guide. Consider purchasing one or borrowing one of the books at the booth.

Growing Disciple

- The Chalmers Center has developed several self-paced online training courses that you can explore and go through to dive deeper into what we discussed today. Some are for individuals, and some can be done as a small group.
- Eastbrook Church is hosting a book study for *Becoming Whole* starting in January on Sunday mornings. If you would like to connect with the team hosting the class, contact Pastor Dan Ryan at *dryan@eastbrook.org*.

Christ-Centered Disciples

- Chalmers Center has developed a certification track that equips people to help transform their ministry's approach to poverty. It is called the Chalmers Ambassador program, and is a nine-week online course with both self-paced and live training sessions. More information can be found at *chalmers.org*.