

Life On Mission

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**Life On Mission Guide:
Overview (week 1)
Acts 1:8 and Matthew 9:37-38**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. As we begin, what's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the title of this study, Life on Mission?
2. What is the most extraordinary thing you have ever witnessed?

VIDEO NOTES

1. The problem is, telling people about Jesus has become such a _____!
2. If _____ isn't applied, it's _____.
3. Christians are supposed to make things _____.
4. A _____ relationship is the key.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think about your life. Where has God given you influence? (For instance, your school, neighborhood, workplace, etc.) In other words, where are you already connected with other people?
2. Think about people you know who don't follow Jesus. How would you describe them? When you think about building a friendship with them, what's your gut reaction?
3. Lee Strobel shared Jesus' metaphor about being salt and light, and said that Jesus tells us to "live lives that are salty, that makes people thirst for God." How can the way you live your life make people thirst for God?
4. Which of the following most accurately describes your view of sharing your faith:
 - A. *It makes me so nervous, I go out of my way to avoid it.*
 - B. *I'll answer questions if someone asks, but I don't bring it up.*
 - C. *I feel guilty that I don't do it more often, so occasionally I'll try.*
 - D. *I evangelize regularly and start conversations about God with strangers all the time.*
5. Tim said we were called to be witnesses: not judges, defense attorneys, or prosecutors. Generally speaking, how can we expect people to react when they feel they're being judged and attacked versus being compassionately told good news?
6. Read Acts 1:8. When you think of Pastor Tim's phone and current location analogy from the DVD teaching, who are the people in your family, neighborhood, or workplace who need some salt and light?
7. Read Matthew 9:37-38. The need is obvious and immediate. How does this inspire you to live a life on mission?
8. **ACTION:** This week, pray for a renewal and a revival in your community. Pray that the Holy Spirit would shake your neighborhood; that it would shake your workplace. Pray that lives would be changed because of the power of the Lord within you.
9. Close group with prayer.

DAILY QUIET TIME

Each day, read the daily verses and give prayerful consideration to what you learn about God, His Spirit, and His place in your life. Then record your thoughts, insights, or prayer on the space below each verse.

DAY 1: *“Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”*
John 4:35

- **What “fields” are around you? What keeps you from seeing “the harvest” (the people who need to know Jesus)?**

DAY 2: *“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”* Luke 15:10

- **How does it make you feel to realize that God and His angels have rejoiced over you? How will living life on mission lead to rejoicing?**

DAY 3: *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”* Colossians 2:6-7

- **What practices or habits will help you stay “rooted and built up in Him”? What is one**

thing in your life that would change if you were continually “overflowing with thankfulness”?

DAY 4: *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Romans 5:8

- **How has God demonstrated to you that you are dear to Him?**

DAY 5: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Acts 1:8

- **In this verse, Jesus restates His commission to His disciples. To what degree would you say this is a description of your life? What needs to change?**

**Life On Mission Guide:
Life On Mission:
Connect (week 2)
Matthew 9:10-13**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Tell about a time when you were welcomed to a gathering or meal as a newcomer. What happened and how did it make you feel?
2. Today's teaching takes place in a health club, a great place to connect with people. Where's your favorite place to hang out with friends?

PLAY VIDEO ...

1. Jesus was sent on a _____.
2. Your mission is _____.
3. If the body's not moving, its not _____.
4. Jesus said His mission was to _____ and _____ the lost.
5. When you go out to your Jerusalem to be God with men, just be _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. What are some of your non-church activities where you could connect with people who aren't Christians? Since you're already in those places, what can you do to initiate relationships with others?
7. Gene Appel talked about the importance of good questions. These are not "pickup lines" or interrogations. They are not yes/no questions. In your own life what kind of questions draw you into conversation?
8. Read Matthew 9:10-13. Eating with someone is a way of demonstrating how much you value a person. Why was it so shocking to people when they saw who Jesus was sharing a meal with?
9. What barriers get in the way of you inviting your neighbors (or non-Christian friend(s)) into your home for a simple meal and conversation?
10. What places would you consider visiting in order to connect with people who need to meet Jesus?
11. Who is your Jerusalem right now that you can connect with, and what are you going to do about it?

ACTION

12. Actively look for opportunities to share unwarranted love with the people around you in your day-to-day life, whether it's holding a door, sharing a meal, buying a coffee, or anywhere else that you see an opportunity to do good. Do it without an agenda. Simply try to love the people around you.
13. Take some time this week to identify behaviors in your life that might be stumbling blocks that prevent others from being open to hearing Jesus.
14. Close group with prayer.

DAILY QUIET TIME

Each day, read the daily verses and give prayerful consideration to what you learn about God, His Spirit, and His place in your life. Then record your thoughts, insights, or prayer on the space below each verse.

DAY 1: “Share with the LORD's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

Romans 12:13-16

- **How much of this passage would you say reflects your lifestyle? What does this list have to do with connecting with others?**

DAY 2: “But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” *Matthew 9:13*

- **What have you done since the Life Group session to “go and learn” what Jesus said?**

DAY 3: “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

Hebrews 13:1-2

- **What are some ways you can “show hospitality to strangers”?**

DAY 4: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” *Luke 19:10*

- **We often talk about people being spiritual “seekers,” but who does this verse say is doing the seeking? What does that imply**

for us as His followers (those who want to live as He did)?

DAY 5: “Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” *Matthew 5:15-16*

- **What does it mean to let your light shine? What is one way you can do that? How would it help you connect with others?**

Life On Mission Guide:

Life On Mission:

Serve (week 3)

Matthew 25:40

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What opportunities did God give you during the last week to Connect with someone who is far from God?
2. Moving from one house to another can be really stressful time in our lives: a time when we really need others to help us out. How many times have you moved in your life?
3. Share a story (funny or not), about a time that you moved to a new home. Did your friends step up or did they make excuses? Did all your belongings arrive in one piece?

PLAY VIDEO ...

1. It's going from being a _____ to being _____.
2. In the backyard, they are still _____. When you start to serve them, they come _____.
3. I believe the problem with modern Christianity is that the world sees us as _____ way more than they see us as _____.
4. 2 mission busters: _____ and _____.
5. I honestly believe that the greatest _____ to the mission of Jesus is the _____ of His agents.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Most of us hate interruptions, but it is often life's interruptions that provide us with opportunities to serve others. How do you typically respond to interruptions or inconveniences?
2. Read Luke 10:33-37. The good Samaritan was inconvenienced and had to go out of his way to help the man in the story. Has there been a time when you were willing to step out of your comfort zone to meet a pressing need?
3. What are some needs that you've noticed lately - opportunities where you could possibly serve others? How did you respond to those needs?
4. In order to introduce people to Jesus, we have to genuinely love them - we need to make them not just friends but family. What steps are you taking (or do you want to take) to love people in this way?

ACTION

5. Are there any non Christians in your life (co-workers, family, friends, neighbors, etc.) that have immediate needs that aren't being met?
6. What are some skills or resources that God has given you that you can use to meet these needs (e.g. cooking, providing transportation, construction, mowing, etc.)? If you are not able to meet the needs yourself, do you know someone who could? Make a plan to serve them this week.
7. Consider inviting a friend this week to join us this Sunday for service.
8. Close group with prayer.

DAILY QUIET TIME

Each day, read the daily verses and give prayerful consideration to what you learn about God, His Spirit, and His place in your life. Then record your thoughts, insights, or prayer on the space below each verse.

DAY 1: “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27and whoever wants to be first must be your slave- 28just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” *Matthew 20:26-28*

- **Spend some time praying and asking God to show you how He wants you to live out this verse in your life. Specifically, who is He asking you to serve?**

DAY 2: “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

- **How would someone know by examining your life that this two-part commandment is the driving force in your life?**

DAY 3: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” *Romans 12:1*

- **How is serving others a way of “offering your body” to God?**

DAY 4: “Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. 4Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” *Psalms 82:3-4*

- **God calls us to not only serve those who can return the favor, but to serve who are poor and oppressed. How often do you interact with “the oppressed and the destitute”? How is your life insulated from people in this situation?**

DAY 5: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” *John 13:34-35*

- **As you participate in this Life Group, what opportunities are you finding to love and serve others?**

Bonus Homework:

Serving others has a lot to do with the way we see the world. If we see the world as a place where we have to get what’s “ours” because no one else will look out for us, then serving will be difficult. If we see the world as a place where God provides exactly what we need, when we need it, then serving becomes easier.

Here are a few ways you can change the way you see the world: Look up “serve” in the Bible. Use a resource like www.biblegateway.com and do a Keyword search for the word “serve.” What do you notice about the way people serve and what is God’s perspective on serving?

Life On Mission Guide:
Life On Mission:
Share (week 4)
1 Peter 3:15

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What opportunities did God give you to serve others last week?
2. Who is the first person you call or text when you want to share good news? Why?
3. What 's the weirdest thing someone has shared with you lately?

PLAY VIDEO

1. Because at some point - _____ HAVE TO BE A PART OF THE MISSION.
2. Always be _____ to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the _____ that you have. 1 Peter 3:15
3. You have a story: a _____ story.
4. What's the best way to get into telling your story? One way is to _____ for v that Jesus has helped you with.
5. You can also just sort of relate to a _____.
6. Friends don't keep _____ from other friends.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7. Who explained the good news about Jesus to you? How did they do it? What was your initial response?
8. What do you think keeps people from talking about Jesus or sharing the Gospel?
9. Read 1 Peter 3:15. Are you living a life that motivates people to ask about the hope that is in you? Explain.
10. Read John 9:25. When the blind man was asked a question that he didn't know how to answer, he simply said, "I don't know." How does it relieve your fears to hear that "I don't know" is an acceptable way to answer a question about God?
11. Read Colossians 4:5-6. In order for your conversations to be full of grace, you must be able to listen. How will listening well empower you to share the Gospel more effectively?

ACTION

12. Do you know your faith story? What do you think are the most important parts of your story?
13. Practice: Share your story in 2 minutes using these prompts: 1) Before Christ I was ____; 2) I came to Christ because ____; 3) Now because of Christ I am _____.
14. Who is one person in your life who seems to be curious about spiritual matters? Spend a little time praying for that person, and for the opportunity to share the two minute version of your story sometime in the near future.

DAILY QUIET TIME

Each day, read the daily verses and give prayerful consideration to what you learn about God, His Spirit, and His place in your life. Then record your thoughts, insights, or prayer on the space below each verse.

DAY 1: *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

Hebrews 11:6

- **What does it mean to seek God, and how should that affect our willingness to share with fellow travelers in life?**

DAY 2: *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans 5:8

- **How can you incorporate this verse into your story? Try writing out your faith story (Before Christ, Meeting Christ, After Christ) and put this verse into your own narrative.**

DAY 3: *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”* Acts 4:12

- **Can you think of two or three friends or acquaintances who don’t know this truth? How could you begin to share with them? Spend some time pring about that.**

DAY 4: *“Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.”* Psalm 66:16

- **Based on your story, what would you say to someone if he/she wanted what you have in Christ? What has God done for you?**

DAY 5: *“But in your hearts revere Christ as LORD. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”* 1 Peter 3:15

- **What specific words would you use to convey “gentleness and respect” when you share your story? What words would you avoid? (What Christian jargon can you weed out of your faith story?)**

Life On Mission Guide:
Life On Mission:
Grow (week 5)
Romans 12:2

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What was one idea that you took away from the SHARE discussion? Did God give you an opportunity to share your two minute story with anyone during thee past week?
2. Do you have a green thumb? Share with the group any gardening successes (or failures) you have experienced.

PLAY VIDEO ...

1. Matthew 28 doesn't say, "Go and make _____."
2. This is about a _____ of _____.
3. _____ and _____ are not two different things we do. It's all a part of a process.
4. When we are the _____ of Christ, then we can serve the _____ of Christ.
5. It's not until you grow that you can _____.
6. Learning can happen in the _____, but spiritual growth has to happen in _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has there been a spiritual mentor in your life? If so, how has that helped you to grow?
2. Kyle Idleman talked about the words of Jesus in John 15, where he compared branches (us) to being connected to the vine (himself). Kyle offered, "A simple challenge to Christians; be the branch." What do you think that means? How can you "be the branch"?
3. As you are out there making disciples, you (as a disciple yourself) get a chance to grow through those relationships. Describe a time that you grew as a result of helping someone else understand Jesus better.
4. What spiritual disciplines or practices help to connect you with the Holy Spirit and train you for godliness? How does that help you "put the Gospel on display" for others.
5. Pastor tim challenged us to make disciples, not converts. He noted that evangelism and discipleship are not two different things we do, but that each of them are part of one process: that of making disciples. What happens when people separate evangelism and discipleship?

ACTION

6. In Katherine's testimony, she talked about discipling people in her life. She said, "you really only need to be one step ahead of them." What does that mean to you?
7. Who in your life are one step ahead of, and currently discipling? If you are having a difficult time coming up with a name, commit to praying and watching for an opportunity to help someone grow as a Christ-follower.
8. Close group with prayer.

DAILY QUIET TIME

Each day, read the daily verses and give prayerful consideration to what you learn about God, His Spirit, and His place in your life. Then record your thoughts, insights, or prayer on the space below each verse.

DAY 1: *“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 1:6

- **Growth is affected by how we respond to what God wants to do in our lives. How are you responding to God’s good work in you?**

DAY 2: *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* *Hebrews 12:1-2*

- **What are three things in your life that need to be “thrown off” so that you can run with perseverance?**

DAY 3: *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”* *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

- **In what ways are you loving the Lord your God a continual practice and topic of conversation in your house as you grow together?**

DAY 4: *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as LORD, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”* *Colossians 2:6-7*

- **In what ways would you say your roots are growing down and your branches are growing up in Christ?**

DAY 5: *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* *John 15:5*

- **What are you currently doing to remain connected to the vine. What fruit are you seeing as a result?**

Life On Mission Guide:
Life On Mission:
Pray (week 6)
Ephesians 6:18

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

9. Did anyone have any opportunities to help someone GROW in his or hers faith?
10. Today we are going to focus on prayer. Have you ever prayed about the outcome of a sporting event? Discuss!
11. When you were growing up, how did you pray (if you prayed at all)? How has your understanding of prayer changed over the years?

PLAY VIDEO ...

1. I have to admit to you that ending up here is _____ and _____ at the same time.
2. God does want to _____ you, it's just not _____ you.
3. That's what prayer is my friends. It's our _____ point to God's _____.
4. You have to take the _____ to God before you take _____ to the people.
5. But when I take the time to _____, I see them the way God sees them — as a lost child that the father can't wait to have _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How can you begin to make prayer a habit or automatic to times both difficult and joy?
7. Have you ever been mad at God for not saying yes to one of your prayers, only to realize later that God's plan was far better than what you wanted?
8. Tell the group about a time someone prayed for you in a moment of need and you felt God's presence more powerfully as a result.
9. Read Ephesians 3:20. When you pray for someone who is far from God, or for someone whose spiritual condition you really don't know, what are you expecting God to do?
10. Do you ever find yourself drifting from communication with God? How does that impact your ability to live a life on mission?
11. In what ways has your prayer life been challenged by this session's teaching?

ACTION

12. Very few people would turn down the offer to be prayed for. Who can you offer to pray for this week?
13. Read Luke 10:02. Pastor Tim asked us all to set our alarms on our phones, or on our bedside tables, to 10:02 and pray specifically for the Lord of the Harvest to send workers. It's exciting to think about the thousands of people who have done this study, all praying together at the same time for God to send more people who will be living LIFE ON MISSION!
14. Six months from now, what do you think you will be doing differently as a result of this study?
15. Close group with prayer.

DAILY QUIET TIME

Each day, read the daily verses and give prayerful consideration to what you learn about God, His Spirit, and His place in your life. Then record your thoughts, insights, or prayer on the space below each verse.

DAY 1: *“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” Mark 1:35*

- **What do you think Jesus was praying about during those regular times alone with God? What would have to happen for your priorities to be closer to His?**

DAY 2: *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:6*

- **Why is it important for some of our praying to be done in secret?**

DAY 3: *“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.” James 5:13-14*

- **What is your typical response to times of trouble or happiness? What does this verse tell us it should be?**

DAY 4: *“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so*

that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.” Colossians 4:2-4

- **Pau; encouraged prayer, and he also asked for prayer. Who prays regularly for you? Who is someone you could ask to pray for you?**

DAY 5: *“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”” Matthew 9:37-38*

- **Why do you think that instead of simply telling them to go be workers, Jesus says, “Ask the Lord of the harvest ...”? What does this tell us about our first priority when living life on mission?**