

DISCIPLESHIP HANDBOOK

XO
RESOURCES



07

Lesson 7 | The Mission

What is the Mission of The Church?

As a follower of Christ, we have been given a great gift that includes salvation, freedom from the penalty of sin (eternal separation from God), and a new life in Christ. But what about everyone else around us?

What is our response to a hurting world (people who do not know Jesus)? Are we supposed to just keep it to ourselves or start engaging with those around us?

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared and spoke with many of His followers before He ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' final instructions to His disciples can be found in Matthew 28:16-20 (The Great Commission) - Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus quite clearly stated we need to make disciples and teach these disciples His ways. (Definition of Disciple: a dedicated follower of Jesus)

Terms used for those who don't know Jesus are: unsaved, unbelievers, lost, unredeemed, those without hope.

What Does it Mean to Make a Disciple?

What is my role in missions? Evangelism!

(Definition of Evangelism: the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness)

There are two primary ways we share the Gospel.

(Definition of "The Gospel: is the good news of Jesus. This is told in "The Gospels" which are the first four books of the New Testament - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

1. With our actions

When we live a life of worship to God, God isn't the only one that notices but everyone around us too. A life lived for Jesus and pleasing Him, reflects Christ to everyone else. As you begin this journey of faith, people will start to notice differences in you, and when they do, tell them why!

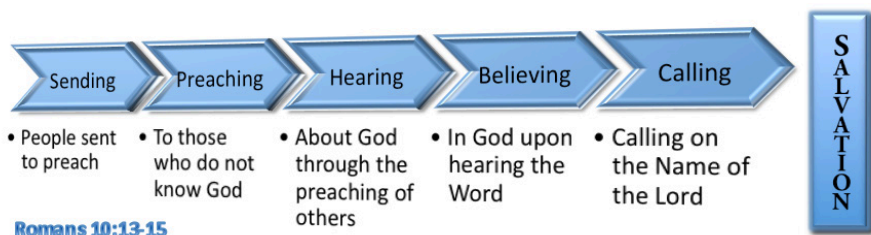
Matthew 5:14-16 You are light for the world. A city cannot be hidden when it is located on a hill. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. Instead, everyone who lights a lamp puts it on a lamp stand. Then its light shines on everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven.

2. With our words

Yes, we are to speak about the Gospel (the good news of Jesus)!

Romans 10:13-15 - for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?



Usually this is done two different ways:

a. **Sharing your personal testimony**

This sounds intimidating; however, as your life starts to change while you are walking with God, people notice this change and can often ask about it. This is a great opportunity to tell them what has gone on in your life. That is the power of a personal testimony.

Mark 5:19 - But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been."

1 Peter 3:15 - 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.

Tips to sharing our testimony:

- There should be a "before you met Jesus", what happened when you met Him, and life after
- Be authentic: honesty is the best policy, just share the truth
- Prepare a three-minute testimony and practice it. If the thought of telling it

is intimidating to you, keep practising with another Christian, as with time, it will become more natural.

b. **Sharing the Gospel through Scripture**

Again, I know this sounds like a big leap, especially if you are a very quiet person, but memorising some scripture about the Gospel could be a good place to start.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes

God's Word is alive, and people can sometimes be moved just by hearing it.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

If you meet someone and you believe they want to know more about the Gospel, feel free to send them Lesson 1 of this study which clearly walks through what it means to start a relationship with Jesus. Also, by inviting them to church, they will have further opportunities to hear the Gospel.

Let's look more at The Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20.

After the person that you are discipling becomes saved, the next steps are:

- Baptism – this is done through local churches (see Lesson 5).
- Teach Them - this is lived out through the church and individuals helping/equipping the new believers to learn the truth in the Bible. These lessons equip you so that you can equip others.

What is Prayer's Part in Evangelism?

As in every part of our journey of faith, we need God's help and direction. These are some of the ways we can pray:

That the lost would see their need - 2 Corinthians 4:4 - The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Definition of "the god of this age" - (note that god has a small "g" which means it is not referring to God, but a counterfeit of Him. Therefore, "the god of this age" refers to Satan who darkens the understanding of men and tries to keep them from the light of knowing Christ.)

Opportunities to share the Gospel - Psalm 2:8 - Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

Boldness/Courage - even when we are afraid, we can ask God for help to share the Gospel in spite of fear - Ephesians 6:18-19 - And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly (boldly) make known the mystery of the gospel.

Who Should We Tell?

Jesus talks about being His witnesses, and He also says where we should go.

Acts 1:8 - 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."

In Jerusalem - this was the disciple's home town. We should first share the Gospel here in our hometown by telling the good news of Jesus and showing God's love to the lost. Serving at your local church is also a part of local mission work.

Judea & Samaria – Within our region to reach our entire country.

To the ends of the earth. That's right! Mission work is about sharing the gospel everywhere!

How Can I Be A Part of Missions?

These are some of the ways for us to help those who are spreading the good news about Jesus:

Pray for them - 1 Timothy 2:1-4 - I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Give financially - Romans 16:1-2 - I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.

Also, Paul was so grateful to the Church of Philipi for their financial partnership and prayers. He called them “partners in the Gospel”. Even from far away, we can express love and encouragement to those working at sharing the Gospel.

Philippians 1:3–5 - I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Many churches have people/organisations they support through prayer and giving. Ask your local church who they support.

Go ourselves. Yes, you might be called to go one day! For some people the thought of approaching others and sharing the gospel is intimidating and maybe scary but remember in the last verse of The Great Commission, Jesus says, “I am with you always” He doesn't leave us by ourselves. Trust in the knowledge that God is with you!

Finally, remember it's all about love! From Lesson 6 we talked about the greatest commandment, which was to love God first, and then to love your neighbour as yourself. Let love be your motivation, whether it's your spouse, neighbour, co-worker or enemy. Remember God's love for them as you go about telling them about Jesus.

Luke 10:27 - So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbour as yourself.' "

Dig a Little Deeper

How can I evangelise my friends and family without pushing them away?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpDa9hAyzlo&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1SKytrYJ_kMzrIJif6Su5jvN5W64IKmhk84MOLZL0y3TQnFN-4RKe0pzXQ

Biblical Basis of Missions / God's Heart for the Nations

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmtfBZyO_hl&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3Mqf5CPUBjLS3nC9c_y_ZTfWKQ3RxHRrngXnZCzsYF2mILdRb5pECq6dc

Questions & Notes

Lesson 7

- 1. What are two ways we can tell people about Jesus?**
- 2. What can you do to be a part of missions around the world?**
- 3. Write a brief personal testimony**

