

Lesson #3

My Mission Starts Here

Following our conversation in the last session on priorities, we want to look specifically at our own mission within the Great Commission (Jesus' command for us to make disciples of all nations, as stated in Matthew 28:19-20). The reason God has us on earth today, and the reason our hearts are still beating right now, is that this mission is not yet complete!

CURIOSITY QUESTIONS

When in your own life can you remember having a very clear mission to accomplish (not necessarily "spiritual")? In that situation, what gave you clarity of mission? Did you accomplish it?

What holds people back, in your opinion, from living out the Great Commission? It is quite obvious this was a priority for Jesus, so why do so many of His followers lack focus on it?

MOVING INTO GOD'S WORD

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 – Paul was clear about the mission he had been given: He was an ambassador for Christ in the world, offering people the good news of God's love and reconciling grace. Who was the "ambassador" who introduced Jesus to you for the first time, and what was the scenario?

What do you think motivated that individual (or group) to make the effort to reach out to you?

Have you ever had an opportunity to share the gospel with someone? Tell the group about it.

The idea of being an ambassador implies more than just occasional volunteering or a temporary mission project; rather, it is an identity. What would change about your life if you owned the "ambassador" title in a personal way? What might change about your interactions with your work, school, or community?

Luke 5:1-11 – Peter was also given a clear metaphor to describe his mission in life. In this case he would become a fisher of men, rather than just a fisherman. He would be mobilized by Jesus to share the good news and invite many others into the kingdom of God.



In the miracle that precedes Peter's calling, we see a contrast between his own best efforts and those efforts empowered by Jesus. How does this apply to our mission in life?

At the core of discipleship is a humble yes to God—the choice we were encouraged to make when Life Action was in our church, and really, the choice the Holy Spirit has always been calling us to make. What were some of the things that happened in Peter's life because he said yes? (Make a list as a group of the ways God used Peter from this point forward.)

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Is there anything holding me back from saying yes to God and to His mission for my life?

I understand that a key part of my mission is sharing my faith and making disciples, as explained in Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; and Acts 1:8. Where are some of the most obvious places I can begin doing this today?

Being a witness for Christ involves sharing what we've seen and experienced. Which stories would I be ready to share with someone if the opportunity presented itself to do so (or if I made the opportunity to do so)?

- My testimony of becoming a Christian
- My story of coming back to God after being away from Him
- A recent story of God's power or intervention in my life
- The testimony of how God has revived or refreshed me recently
- A story of sharing my faith with someone, and the impact it made
- An important lesson about faith or life I had to learn

Being ready with stories of this nature can help us feel confident in our "ambassador" or "fisherman" role. We don't necessarily have to have an answer to every question, but we can always be ready to give the reason for our hope—see 1 Peter 3:15.

PRAYER TIME

Select one person you could pray about sharing one of your stories with over the next few weeks. Begin praying for that person today, and continue to pray until God answers!

Name: _____

Use your group prayer time to "commission" one another regarding the work God is calling you each to do. Pray for each one to gain clarity, boldness, joy, and opportunity in Great Commission endeavors. Pray that each one will understand how to use their specific gifts to extend the gospel. Pray for each other what Paul asked for in Ephesians 6:19-20.