

Life on Mission

S2/Session 11

Introduction

When we think of missions, we typically picture traveling to another country to share the love of Jesus with the people there. We think of building churches, running a VBS or event, or helping with restoration/building projects. But this is not the only option for missions.

Today, we're going to explore what it means to live on mission as a way of life. It can begin right where you are, with your neighbors, coworkers, and community.

We are going to break down Jesus' words to His followers just before He ascended into heaven and then talk about both our ultimate and our personal mission.

Diving In

Let's look at a passage that shows us Jesus' final words before He ascended to heaven after His resurrection:

Acts 1:8 (NASB) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.*

There are a few things that we can learn about mission from His statement.

First, the Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses for Jesus. The Greek word translated as "witnesses" is *martyres*, which primarily conveys the idea of someone testifying in court.

We can rely on the Holy Spirit for the power and ability to testify about Jesus. The Holy Spirit also gives us discernment, compassion, and supernatural wisdom. He leads us to people, prepares hearts, and empowers our words.

Then Jesus tells His followers where to go to testify about Him. He said they would be witnesses in Jerusalem, which symbolizes our hometown, our family and friends, and our co-workers. Then He says Judea, which is like sharing the Gospel with people who are like you in background, belief, and heritage, but outside your immediate circle.

Then Samaria, or those considered outsiders or even enemies. This represents taking the Gospel across cultural, racial, or religious boundaries. And finally, the remotest part of the earth, which is the global mission of the church.

From Jesus' statement, we learn that He sends us with a mission to reach people in other countries and also those who surround us. A mission is much more than an event and travel; it is our life. Jesus wants us to have a heart for people wherever we are.



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Ultimate Mission

As believers, our ultimate mission is to make disciples of all nations. To share the gospel and love of Jesus with intentionality with the people we meet wherever we go.

Discussion Question: *What are some practical ways of doing this?*

When we meet people in our local area and have the opportunity to share Jesus with them, they may have needs beyond what we can help with. It may be wise to know what services are available to help them.

To do this, you can familiarize yourself with services in your local area for homelessness, food distribution, domestic violence, mental health crisis, suicide prevention, senior services, or sex trafficking. When you know what is available in your area, you can ensure that you have all the necessary tools to help those in need around you.

Matthew 25:35–40 (NIV) *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

Personal Mission

God has given each of us unique gifts, passions, and opportunities. These are tools He's placed in our hands to fulfill the mission He's given us. While we all participate in God's greater mission of making disciples and sharing the Gospel, we each also have a personal mission, which is the specific way we're called to live it out.

You may already have a sense of your personal mission. But if you're unsure, start by asking:

- What am I good at?
- What do I love doing?
- Who or what breaks my heart in a way that stirs me to act?

Then, don't be afraid to try new things. Sometimes, discovering your personal mission comes through simple obedience and small steps. Say yes to opportunities to serve, even if they feel outside your comfort zone. God often clarifies our calling through action.



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For example:

- If you love kids, consider serving in an after-school youth program.
- If your heart breaks for the homeless, volunteer at a shelter or food pantry.
- If prayer is your passion, gather others to intercede for your city or go on prayer walks.
- If you love to cook, prepare meals for elderly or disabled individuals, or at a soup kitchen.
- If you see a need at one of the community outreach organizations for domestic violence, mental health crisis, suicide prevention, senior services, or sex trafficking, then volunteer to help.

There are endless ways to live missionally in your everyday life. Whether it's in your neighborhood, workplace, school, or church, you are surrounded by opportunities to love, serve, and represent Jesus.

Serving

Serving others is at the very heart of the Gospel. It's one of the clearest ways we reflect Jesus to the world around us. When believers choose to live lives of selfless service, we reveal God's love in practical ways.

Serving was central to Jesus' mission.

Mark 10:43–45 (NLT) *But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

If we are called to follow Him, then serving must be central to how we live as well.

The Church is most like Jesus when we serve others, especially the poor, the broken, the overlooked, and the hurting. This happens in neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, grocery stores, anywhere people are in need.

Our role as believers is to be present in the community, meeting fundamental needs with no strings attached. This is not necessarily about getting people to go to church, but about being the Church to people right where they are.

Some acts of kindness may seem small, but they create open doors and soften hearts. They prepare the soil for the seeds of the Gospel to take root. When people experience God's love in action, they become more open to hearing about the God behind it.



Break students into small groups to share their passions and to pray for one another.

Wrap-Up / Challenge

Living on mission means being empowered by the Holy Spirit to testify about Jesus and demonstrate His love to those around us. We can do this with our friends and family, our community, our state, our nation, and the world.

Our ultimate mission is to share the gospel and make disciples of all nations (including our own). However, we each have a personal mission that requires the gifts and talents we have been given. Being like Jesus means serving and loving, being His hands extended in our communities and beyond.

Take time this week to explore opportunities to get involved in your community. What ways can you serve without any agenda other than sharing the love of God?

