

# MISSIONAL FAMILY

## COMMITMENT & PRIMER



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## Introduction | A Note From Your Leaders

Our greatest desire at Onelife Community Church is to truly BE the church in our city! Onelife exists to be a Christ-centered family on mission in our city making disciples by displaying and declaring the Gospel of grace. This means that we want to learn to love God with our whole hearts, we want to live life together in community as his family, and we want to share the great news of the gospel with anyone who will listen through both word and deed. We believe that Jesus changes everything, and we think that our lives should radiate this truth in every way.

Because of this, we don't want to be a church that sinks back into the walls of its building and gets busy and distracted with programs and events that only serves it's people. Instead, **we want to be a family of disciples who radically re-orient our lives around Jesus, his church, and his mission of making disciples that make disciples— all for God's great glory and our happiness in Him.** This is what it means to be the church. We believe that missional families are the best way to accomplish this by providing us with the arena to bring renewal to our city by living out our new identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Our hope is that this guide will help you transform from a weekly meeting in a living room, into a Christ-centered family in your area of the city that loves, serves, and shares with the world around you a true and better picture of God. We believe that if you will commit whole-heartedly to this process that you will be amazed at all that the Spirit will do in, through, and around you, as you become a **missional family.**

With you on mission,

Onelife Leadership Team

Week One

# **The Gospel We Believe**

## Exercise

*Be prepared to share your thoughts from this exercise with your MF.*

- **Read Mark 10:13-31.**
- **Read it again just to make sure you didn't miss anything!**
- **What do we learn from this passage about the reality of following Jesus?**
- **How is Jesus' teaching here different from your experiences with Christianity in America? Explain your answer in a paragraph.**

## Week One | The Gospel We Believe

In Colossians 1:6 the apostle Paul tells the Colossian church that the gospel they have "heard and understood" has been "bearing fruit in them since the first day it came to them". Paul also mentions that this same gospel "is bearing fruit in the whole world"! In this passage Paul makes it clear that the gospel of Jesus is a message that brings about continual change both in our lives personally and in the world around us. But the question that we must ask is—**What is this gospel that changes our world and us?**

Before you go any further, we feel that it is critical that you stop to discuss and consider the gospel that we believe. As you consider the gospel, we ask that you do so carefully and prayerfully. Be sure to use your bible, a journal, and a friend or spouse to help you dig deep into the truths of the gospel. At your next missional family meeting you will be discussing this section. We encourage you to be open and honest about the things that you might find un-believable, encouraging, or challenging as you dig through the scriptures and the section below.

**I believe the gospel is the good and true news that Jesus has defeated sin, death, and evil through his own life, death, and resurrection and is making all things new, even us. It is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ that we are saved.**

## **I believe I have been saved from the penalty of sin...**

- I believe I was an enemy of God because of my sin and rebellion against him, deserving his wrath. (*Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18-22, 2:1-16; Col. 1:21*)
- I believe Jesus is the Son of God who is fully God and fully man, and that he lived his life fully submitted to God the Father. (*Col. 2:9; John 1:1-18, 15:10, 4:34; Heb. 1:1-15; Rom. 9:5; Phil. 2:5-11*)
- I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sins according to the Scriptures. (*Matt. 20:28; 1 Thess. 5:10; John 1:29, 10:17-18; 2 Cor. 5:21; Acts 2:21*)
- I believe Jesus rose again on the third day and appeared to many people. (*Luke 23; Acts 25-26; 1 Cor. 15; John 20-21; Acts 10:40*)
- I believe Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father and sent his Spirit to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. (*Acts 1; Heb. 6:20, 9-10; Rom. 8; Eph. 1:20-23; John 14:16-17*)
- I believe the Holy Spirit has made me alive in Christ and I am now no longer condemned, but now a new creation loved by God as Father, submitted to Jesus as Lord, and sent and empowered by the Spirit for his mission of making disciples. (*2 Cor. 5:17; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezek. 36:26; Eph. 2, 3:16; Acts 2:1-4, 6:5; 2 Tim. 1:7-8; Romans 8; 1 Cor. 12; Joel 2:28-29*)

## **I believe I am being saved from the power of sin...**

- I believe that the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from dead now lives in me, and I have access to resurrection power to overcome sin and Satan today. (*1 Peter 3:18; 1 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; Rom. 8*)
- I believe it is God's will that I be sanctified – set apart to do his will. (*1 Thess. 4; 1 Peter 2; 2 Tim. 2:21*)
- I desire to obey God and continue to grow in becoming more like Jesus and accomplishing his mission. (*2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Pet. 3:18; Acts 5:29; Matt. 28:16-20*)
- I believe I have all I need to make this a reality—his Spirit, his word, and his church. I intend to steward all of this for his glory. (*2 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Tim. 3:16; Eph. 1*)

## **I believe I will be saved from the presence of sin...**

- I believe Jesus will one day return and will make an end to sin, suffering, evil, and brokenness. (*Psalm 110:1; Mark 12:36; Rev. 21, 17:14; 1 Cor. 15:25*)
- I believe there will be a new heaven and a new earth. (*Rev. 21; 2 Peter 3:13; Isaiah 65:17*)
- I believe he will judge the living and the dead and all those who put their trust in Jesus' life, death and resurrection on their behalf will enjoy being in God's presence forever in the new heaven and new earth. (*2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5; Rev. 20:13*)
- I believe all those who trust in something or someone other than Jesus for their life and justification before God will be separated from God forever. (*2 Thess. 1:9; Isaiah 33:14; Rev. 19-20; Matt. 25:41-46*)
- I believe it is our job as the Church to therefore proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls, and to display the foretaste of God's kingdom so that people will hunger for it and put their faith in Jesus Christ. (*Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15; Matt. 28; 2 Cor. 2:16; 1 Peter 2:9-17*)

## **Notes and Discussion Questions**

1. What about the gospel we believe stood out to you as you looked over it?
2. Was there anything in this section that you had never considered before or have never learned?
3. Have you personally put your faith in the Gospel of Jesus? Can you fully affirm *the gospel we believe* above? If not, what parts challenge you?
4. If you believe the gospel, have you been obedient to celebrate God's work in your life through believer's baptism? If so, when and where? If not, what is preventing you from being baptized?

Week Two

# **Gospel Identity**

## Week Two | Gospel Identity

British philosopher Alan W. Watts once said, “Trying to define yourself is like trying to bite your own teeth.” His point in making this statement was that we cannot and should not try and define ourselves, but rather should just be who we are. Whether you think Watts is right or wrong, the fact of the matter is that human beings are constantly looking for definition—for an identity. Typically, we find our identity (fundamental self worth, value, and happiness) in the *people* we belong to or affiliate with, the *purpose* or cause in which we are living for, and the *pursuit* of the things that will provide us joy. This means we define ourselves by what we do, how we look, how much money we have, how our kids behave, the accomplishments we have or have not achieved, education, race, hobbies—the list could go on and on.

Think about the last time you had a conversation with someone for the first time. The first thing that you usually exchange other than your name is your occupation. For you maybe it is John the accountant, Sue the stay at home mom, Kayla the nurse, Jay the construction worker, Laura the teacher, Paul the un-employed guy, or David the barista. Regardless, we see that with identity comes value and worth. But do we really want our fundamental self worth, value, and happiness to be based on our jobs and possessions? This can be problematic and can lead to an “identity crisis” if/when we lose our job, our kids misbehave, our marriage struggles, we get into debt, tragedy strikes, our friends move away, or any other difficulty in life arises.

### Reflection

- **Fill in the blank: My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I \_\_\_\_\_...**
- **What things in life do you find your value and worth in?**
- **When in life do you feel good about yourself?**
- **When in life do you feel negative about yourself?**
- **Have you experienced an “identity crisis” as described in the paragraph above?**

The truth is, Jesus has freed us from our need to prove our own value and worth by building for ourselves an earthly identity. In fact, he has not only freed us from this slavery, but he has re-discovered for us an ancient identity—an identity that God intended his children to have from creation.

In chapters 1 and 2, the book of Genesis tells us that God created humanity in his own image and gave them the purpose of displaying his image in all the earth. After the fall of man (Genesis 3), that image was broken and the rest of the Old Testament is a story of humanity's "identity crisis". But as we learned in the gospel, God is rescuing humanity through Jesus—promising to redeem and restore all that was broken during the fall. In Jesus, we have been given new identity. This identity is true, better, and can never be taken away from us. Consider the following verses:

- *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come."- 2 Corinthians 5:17*
- *"I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who lives, but Christ that lives in me."- Galatians 2:20*
- *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."- 1 Peter 2:9*

So we know from these verses that we have been made new in Christ, and these are just a few of the many places throughout the New Testament that speak of our renewed identity in Christ. When we look at this thematically across the scriptures, we see three key descriptors of a disciple that stand out. We call these three descriptors our **gospel identity**.

1. **Family**- we are sons and daughters of God our father, we are no longer orphans, we have a people to belong to— a true and better family to share life with—the church.
2. **Missionary**- we are the sent ones of God, ministers of reconciliation, we have been given a new purpose and cause to live for—God's glory in all the earth.
3. **Servant**- we are a people who belong to God for his work, we no longer look to serve ourselves—but take the posture of servants pursuing joy in serving as Christ served.

Over the next three weeks you will be discussing gospel identity with your missional family. Much of what it means to be a missional family is to learn how to live out these gospel identities together through life's everyday rhythms. You will be asked to make a commitment to one another as to how you will be a family, how you will live as missionaries to our world, and how you will take the posture of servants. But before you move into your commitment we want you to take some time to explore and reflect upon your new identity as a disciple of

Jesus. Understanding who we are in Christ—a family of missionary servants—should radically change the way we live!

## Reflection

*Be prepared to share your thoughts from this exercise with your MF.*

- **Look back to the *Reflection* you completed earlier. Answer those questions again with your gospel identity in mind. Any difference?**
- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.**
- **How do you see our gospel identities in this passage (family of missionary servants)**

## Notes and Discussion Questions

1. Why is it so important for Christians to understand their gospel identity?
2. What Jesus did for us in the gospel isn't just about eternal life, but about also about current life. How does understanding gospel identity help us live out our faith here and now?
3. Which aspect of your new identity in Christ resonates with you the most? Family (having a people to belong to), Missionary (having a better purpose to live for), Servant (pursuing joy in service to Christ)?

Week Three

# **The Family We Have**

## Week Three | The Family We Have

As you learned in the last two sessions the gospel of Jesus is really great news! In the gospel we have been given new life, new purpose, and a new family—the church. This week you will be focusing on understanding your *family identity* and committing to how you will be the church to one another. You might be thinking...*why do we need to make a commitment to one another?* Well, the truth is, the scriptures are clear that we need one another in a real and tangible way. Without other Christians in our lives to encourage us and speak the truth to us on a regular basis, we will be sure to forget that our identity is in Christ, and will be tempted to become consumers of the culture and its messages. This is not who God has made us to be; rather, he has made us to be a true picture of God to our world.

The author of Hebrews speaks with urgency as he instructs 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians to commit to one another in real and tangible ways as they lived on mission in their context.

*“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another all the more as you see the Day is drawing near.”- Hebrews 10:24-25*

In this instruction to the church we see four key elements that we think are often overlooked, and are critical to us being the people Jesus has made us to be.

1. **Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works-** We need to make a plan and consider how we will help one another love Jesus and experience his love.
2. **Meeting together-** Meeting together regularly is critical to being a family, and we must not neglect it but prioritize it.
3. **Encourage one another-** Satan is determined to discourage us and distract us, but through being a family we are a constant reminder to one another of God’s goodness and faithfulness.
4. **See the Day drawing near-** We must help one another remember that this world is not our home. We do this through engaging in corporate worship together, discussing the scriptures together, and praying for one another.

Whether you have or haven't experienced life together with God's family, we know that this is who God has made us to be in Christ. The remainder of this section will be for you and your missional community to decide what you will do to truly begin

living life as a family. We want to encourage you to not be afraid to commit to one another in specific ways this week. We promise that by stopping to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" you will bring so much grace to one another's lives. Just think—this is the beginning of you no longer just attending church but becoming the church!

## Reflection

- **Reflect on times when another Christian was "family to you" in the ways that Hebrews 10:24-25 calls us to be family. How was/has this been powerful in your life? What would your life be like without it?**
- **Maybe you have never experienced the grace of Christian community. How would your life be different if you experienced life together with God's family in community and on mission?**

*The questions following are for your missional family to answer together. We want you to prayerfully consider them and answer them on your own or with your spouse prior to your meeting night. You will then discuss your answers as a group during your MF meeting this week and your MF leaders will guide your group toward your commitment.*

## The Family We Are Committed To

### **Our Commitment to Onelife (larger church family)**

We are committed together to value and anticipate our Sunday worship gathering by regularly participating and serving. How will each of us take part in valuing our worship gathering?

We are committed together to giving of our resources to God's mission. This includes financially supporting Onelife's mission of making disciples locally and globally. How is God calling each of us to give?

We are committed to sharing stories of God's grace at work in our lives with the larger Onelife family. What has God done in your life that you could share? How would you share it?

**Our Commitment to our Missional Family (immediate church family)**

We are committed to be a family together. What would it look like for us to be a good family? How is the Spirit leading us to accomplish this?

We are committed to growing together in Christ, as disciples who make disciples. Are we each involved in a fight club? How will we intentionally help each other cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus?

We are committed to sharing the burden of responsibilities for our MF together. What gifts has God given you that you would like to use in our MF?

What roles need to be filled or created to carry the weight of responsibility (ex. meal planner, social coordinator, discussion leader, care coordinator, service point person, prayer leader, etc.)?

We are committed to praying for each other and regularly encouraging one another. How will we make sure this happens and doesn't get lost in our busyness? How will we create space for one another to speak the truth in love?

We are committed to playing a role in God's work among unreached people groups by praying for and supporting Christians working among them. How will we do this? What missionary team will we "adopt" to support and pray for regularly?

Week Four

# **The Mission of God**

## Week Four | The Mission of God

Consider this question for a second—*What is the mission of God?* Maybe another way of asking it would be to ask—*What is God working to accomplish in the world?* No seriously, go ahead and think about this for a second. Write your answer in the space below before going any further.

*The mission of God is...*

The way we answer this question will ultimately form and shape the mission of our church. Therefore, we want to make sure that we are all on the same page and working toward the same goal as God's family of missionary servants. We also want to be careful and make sure that we are leading a church that is about what God is about. The purpose of this week is to help one another understand the mission of God as the bible teaches and to begin to explore where your group fits into this mission during this time in our city.

As we think about the mission of God we want to do so with the whole of scripture in mind. We want to think about the Bible as one big story about God and what he is doing in the world. It could be said that the entire bible can be summed up in four words—Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. God **created** man and woman in his image and gave them the command to be fruitful, multiply, and cultivate the earth. What we see in creation is *God's desire to fill the earth with his image and glory* (Genesis 1:26-31). You don't have to read much further into the story to see the **fall**. Adam and Eve chose creation over the creator. They chose to disobey God's one command, and in doing so sin and death fills the earth rather than God's image and glory (Genesis 3). This is bad news for everyone. But the story doesn't end as a tragedy; God shows his great love for his children and begins to write an epic story of **redemption**. He promises to create a family that he would use to bless the nations (Genesis 12:1-3). He promises a savior that would come from this family that would bring rescue and salvation through his death and resurrection. In Christ he is creating a new family, his church, which he has empowered through his Spirit and is using to bring good news to the world (John 20:21, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). And he has shared with us how the story will end—with a new heaven and new earth. Total **restoration**. Worshipers from every tribe, tongue, and nation filling the earth with God's image and glory.

This is the mission of God: redeeming and restoring a broken world full of sin by replacing it with his image and his glory once again. He is doing this through

transforming his people in Christ and using them to bring renewal to our cities and world by making disciples. God's mission won't stop until the earth looks just like heaven. What a beautiful day that will be!

## Reflection

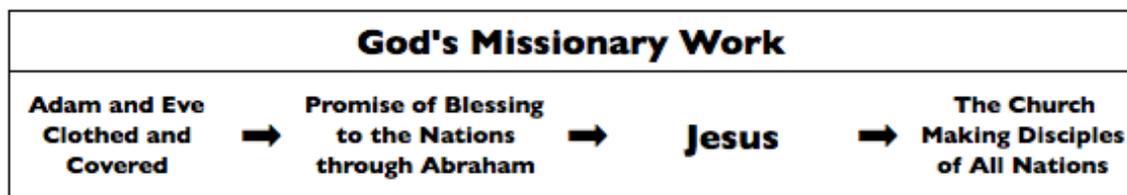
- **What is God working to accomplish in the world?**
- **How is he accomplishing this? Read Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, John 20:21, Matthew 24:14.**
- **In your opinion, what does it mean to be sent by Jesus to make disciples?**
- **What one thing about our city/world do you desire most to look like heaven?**

Now that we have defined the mission of God, we want to take a second to try and understand it. We want to be a family that understands that mission is an ancient work, we want to approach mission reactively and proactively, and we want to accept that mission happens in seasons. We believe that the following three teachings are critical for us!

***Would you pause for a second and pray that God would open your minds and hearts as you read and prepare to discuss the remainder of this section with your missional family this week? Ask God to use the truth in these three teachings to empower your missional community in ministry!***

## Ancient Work | Understanding The Mission of God

From the moment that Adam and Eve sinned against God in the garden, it could be said that God's missionary work began. It started when he pursued Adam and Eve in the garden and provided them with clothes to cover their shame, continued to a promise that through Abraham he would bless the nations, culminated in sending Jesus into the world and to the cross, and now sits with the church that has been tasked with making disciples of all nations.



God's commitment to his glory in all the earth is the foundation of our understanding mission. What we must first realize and digest is that mission is God's work and it is an ancient work. We must be certain that God is committed to accomplishing his purposes, and he will do it!

The enemy wants to make mission feel weighty to us. He wants us to feel burdened and overwhelmed by the task of making disciples of all nations. Are you familiar with this feeling? The truth of the matter is that you are right. There is no way **you** could do it. But God, on the other hand, has promised from the beginning of time that he will accomplish his purpose of making disciples of all nations, and he is doing it and will complete it (Ephesians 1:10)!

We must learn and believe that mission is not up to us. It is something that God has been doing throughout redemptive history and is simply calling us into. Mission is more about our obedience as disciples than our production of disciples. We must value missional obedience more than we value missional activity. This means that sometimes we will labor and see no fruit—but that is okay because God values our obedience. Other times we will immediately be thrown into a harvest—and we rejoice because we know that God has been doing something great and we got to share a small part in it. When we view mission as an ancient work of God, rather a new work of man, it isn't burdensome or overwhelming to us. Instead, mission becomes about journeying with God, enjoying God, and joining God in his work to redeem and restore brokenness—and that is beautiful!

## Reactive and Proactive Mission | Understanding The Mission of God

Not only is it important to understand that we are joining God in an ancient work, but we must also understand that our missional activity is dependent upon the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the book of Acts and the Epistles we see the Holy Spirit acting as the guide, compass, and fuel—empowering, leading, and directing the church into the mission of God. We want to try and understand this leading and directing of the Holy Spirit into mission as Reactive and Proactive mission.

Let's begin with definitions. Reactive mission can be defined as *mission in the moment*. This would include the opportunity for gospel conversations that the Spirit provides in the "everyday" moments of life (on a lunch break at work, in line at the grocery store, at the park while your kids play, with a neighbor while you are working in the lawn, etc.) Reactive mission happens in the moments of life that we have little control over, so it is critical that we are walking in the Spirit and have eyes to see and ears to hear the Spirit as he leads us into reactive mission. We must be careful not to become so busy and consumed with our own agendas throughout the day that we are not open to opportunities for reactive mission. On the other hand, proactive mission can be defined as *mission by design*. This means that we intentionally shape and form the controllable aspects of our lives (spare time, weekends, hobbies, where we live and work, meals we eat, celebrations, vacations, how we spend our money, where we shop, etc.) around the mission of God. Proactive mission requires a team that is committed to God, each other, and disciple making. Together as a family, we should always be asking *how could we organize our lives in such a way that those around us will know the gospel?* This involves sacrifice, but remember, in Christ we are servants—and what better thing to sacrifice for than the mission of God!

Consider for a second the disciple-making movement that explodes in the book of Acts. We see both proactive and reactive mission working together like it should, leading to fruitful ministry. In Acts 1:8 we see mission by design: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"*. The plan is in place—receive the Holy Spirit, begin in Jerusalem and then move outward from there with the gospel. But as you keep reading the book of Acts you see persecution and other unexpected events that develop along the way. It might seem as if the plan is falling apart, but we know that the Spirit constantly leading, guiding, and fueling the church the entire time. The disciples are forced to become reactive missionaries following the leading of the Spirit in the moment, yet always looking to reorient their lives together around disciple making (proactive mission). We can also point to the

numerous examples in the Epistles where we see Paul stating his plan and strategy for mission, but always being open to the possibility of the Spirit opening new doors of ministry (see 1 Corinthians 16:6-9 for one example).

What we can say then is that the key is to look for where God is opening up the opportunity to develop reactive mission into proactive mission. This could be as simple as your missional community committing to eating weekly and tipping generously at a specific restaurant because one person in the group recently had the opportunity to share the gospel with a waitress while eating there. It could also be as complex as planting a new missional community in an apartment complex because the Spirit is constantly leading a group member into gospel conversations there. Either way, the only way that we will have success in reaching the lost around us is if we are looking to the Spirit to lead us, guide us, and fuel us in both reactive and proactive mission.

## Seasons of Mission | Understanding the Mission of God

The final thing that is important for us to understand about the mission of God is that mission happens in seasons. Being a good missionary isn't only about leading people to Christ and baptizing them. There is so much more to it. It is helpful to think of it this way—a good farmer does much more than just harvest his crop. *He invests his life into farming and knows the importance of every season of the harvest.* Good farmers spend months preparing and cultivating the soil. This means hard work plowing the ground, turning over the soil, and removing the rocks. When the soil is cultivated and ready then comes the season of sowing the seed (whatever he hopes to see grow). This time of sowing also means the hard work of watering, nurturing, and protecting the seed as it takes root and begins to grow. When the crop is ready and mature comes the season of harvest. Harvest involves carefully reaping the crop and producing it in a proper manner (i.e. grapes become wine). *In the same way, good missionaries invest their lives into gospel ministry and know the importance of every season of mission.* We think that it is important for your missional community to always be identifying what season of mission you are in. We have seen and lead many groups that “spin their wheels” and never make any missional traction because they are sowing gospel seeds without having done the hard work of cultivating the soil first.

Below you will find a description of the three seasons of mission we want you to learn. Our hope is that every missional community will always be in one of these three seasons of mission. An important thing to remember is that not one of these seasons is more important than the other. They are all equally necessary to making disciples that

make disciples. What is most important is that your missional community is able to identify what season you are in, and you allow the Holy Spirit to lead your MC as you cultivate, sow, and harvest for God's glory in our city!

**Cultivating** – cultivating (or plowing) is the part of the discipleship process where we are praying for our focus area, making friends, learning their stories, and finding people of peace in our missional families' focus area. We are building relationships, listening to the Spirit in prayer, and focusing the majority of our time together in relational settings that connect us to the people we believe God has called us to reach.

Key Activities During This Season – praying for people by name, prayer walking in our focus area, building relationships, throwing parties in order to meet people, and including our new friends with the family. During the season of cultivating, a missional family should spend less time in the living room and more time out making friends and building relationships.

**Sowing** - sowing is the season where we begin to share our lives with the people we have connected with and sow "gospel seeds". We are sharing our story, speaking of Jesus, and displaying a gospel centered life to our friends. Remember, because we have done the hard work of plowing, our friends trust us and love us at this point, so our sharing of Christ is only natural. As the Spirit leads, we are beginning to invite them into our expression gatherings, missional family meetings, Sunday gatherings, and other social activities in our church family. Sowing also involves nurturing, watering, and protecting the "gospel seeds" we have sown. This might look like additional conversations, clearing up any confusion, praying fervently for salvation, and serving the people we are sharing with. During this season, a missional community might spend more time in the living room and around the dinner table discussing the scriptures, going through the Story of God, and planning proactive mission.

Key Activities During This Season – sharing the gospel in conversations and through everyday rhythms, inviting friends into the life and gatherings of church family, deepening relationships and trust, and fervently praying for friends by name.

**Harvesting**- harvesting is the season where we see our friends come to believe in Christ and trust in him for salvation and life. This usually happens in mini-stages, but we know we are in the season of harvesting when we see the Spirit at work in our friend's lives. We know we are in the season of harvesting when we see our friends responding to our sharing of the gospel in positive ways. They have recognized their need for Jesus in their lives, they are reading the Bible and praying with us, and they are motivated to serve with us. The pinnacle of the harvesting season comes when our

friends officially repent and believe in Christ and are adopted into God's family! Once this happens, we continue the discipleship process as we live life as a family.

Key Activities During This Season- sharing the truth of the scripture, praying with our friends, serving others with our friends, encouraging faith decisions, and calling our friends to believe.

## Exercise

*Be prepared to share your thoughts from this exercise with your MF.*

- **Read Acts 8:26-40.**
- **How does Philip experience God's "Ancient Work" in this passage?**
- **Is Philip a proactive or reactive missionary in this example? Explain.**
- **How do you see the "seasons of mission" in this passage? Does he cultivate, sow, or harvest?**

## Discussion Questions and Notes

1. What in this section has been the most helpful to you in your understanding mission? Explain how/why it has been helpful.
2. What about joining God on mission in our city is exciting to you?
3. What about joining God on mission in our city is scary to you?
4. Why is it so important that we do mission together as a family and not as "lone rangers"?

Week Five

# **Making a Missional Commitment**

## Week Five | Making a Missional Commitment

Just as you made a commitment to one another as to how you will truly be a family in Christ, this week you will be making a commitment with one another as to how you will specifically live on mission in our city. Again, we want to encourage you to not be afraid to make a specific commitment. We truly believe that life is only found in Christ, and it has been our experience that we find more of Christ when we join him on mission. Remember our gospel identity as disciples; we are missionaries (people who go with the Gospel). This is who we have been recreated to be.

The remainder of this guide is for you and your missional family to prayerfully consider the role you play in the mission of God. We want you to take your time in making a missional commitment. Pray, discuss, argue, disagree, and pray more until God makes it clear where he wants you to focus your ministry. The questions below are designed to help you discern where (neighborhood or network of people) in our city God is leading you to focus your missional efforts. Your missional community leaders will help lead you through this section. Trust their leadership and listen to the Spirit.

**The Mission Jesus is Calling Us To** *\*If the answer to some of these questions is no, that is okay, just move on to the next question.*

### **Discerning where God is asking our missional family to join His work:**

1. Are there any neighborhoods or networks of people where God has placed us and is already using us to make disciples? If yes, share a story with the group of how God has been using you to share the gospel and make disciples among these people.
2. Are there any neighborhoods or networks of people where God has given you friends who are open to you and trust you? If yes, share with the group about your experiences.
3. Is there a neighborhood or network of people that God has burdened your heart for? Why do you love this place/people? Why is your heart burdened for this place/people?

### Neighborhoods or Networks of People We've Discussed | Write Below

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4. What would it look like for this family to join together on mission in one of these places? Begin to dream and discuss some of the things that you could do to display and declare the gospel in each neighborhood or network.
5. Which neighborhood or network would be most receptive to our parties?
6. Which neighborhood or network provides us with tangible ways in which we can serve and bless?

### Neighborhoods or People We're Getting Excited About | Write Below

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7. What is the first thing we would do in the neighborhoods or networks above to begin making disciples? Thinking about your next step might help you decide where God is sending you.

*Hopefully the Spirit is opening your eyes to where he wants to use you, and you are getting closer to making your missional commitment.*

*If your group is still uncertain as to where God is calling you, spend some time praying for each place. We would encourage you to take your time here and discern where God wants you to focus your efforts. Remember, we are always on mission in all of life, but this is where we will proactively be on mission together. If you need to take a week to pray, do so. Possibly schedule a prayer walk or a hang out at each place asking God to lead, guide, and clarify where he is calling your missional family. When you are ready, move forward to the Missional Commitment.*

## **Our Missional Commitment**

Our Missional Family is committed to joining God at work by seeking to make disciples in the \_\_\_\_\_ neighborhood or network of people.

We are committed to living out our identity (a family of missionary servants) through everyday rhythms (knowing God's story and others' stories, listening, blessing, eating, celebrating & suffering, resting & working) among the people where God is sending us. We will engage people with the Gospel of Jesus through building friendships and displaying and declaring the good news of Jesus.

We are committed to meeting people where they are and prayerfully seeking God's wisdom on how we can take part in the discipleship process. We are joining God in places he is already at work.

*As a follower of Jesus and a child of God, I commit with my missional family to live out my gospel identity, and approach mission with patience—realizing that we are joining God in his ancient work for his glory and our joy.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Week Six

# **Our Next Steps**

# Week Six | Our Next Steps

## Where Are We At In This Process?

Lets revisit the Seasons of Mission. Discuss with your MF where you think you are in this process. Read through each season together and use the questions to help you determine what steps you need to take next as a family on Jesus' mission. After you have determined where you are, make a proactive plan of mission.

**Cultivating** – cultivating (or plowing) is the part of the discipleship process where we are praying for our focus area, making friends, learning their stories, and finding people of peace in our missional communities' focus area. We are building relationships, listening to the Spirit in prayer, and focusing the majority of our time together in relational settings that connect us to the people we believe God has called us to reach.

Key Activities During This Season – praying for people by name, prayer walking in our focus area, building relationships, throwing parties in order to meet people, and including our new friends with the family. During the season of cultivating, a missional community should spend less time in the living room and more time out making friends and building relationships.

## **Do we already have close friendships in our focus area or do we need to focus on cultivating new ones in our neighborhood or network?**

If we already have close friendships, lets move forward to sowing. If not, we need to decide how we are going to begin cultivating relationships with the people in our network or neighborhood.

## **What specifically do we want to commit to doing over the next 3 months to cultivate relationships with the people we are trying to reach? (Think through our everyday rhythms. What rhythms best fit the culture of our neighborhood or network?)**

Examples- weekly prayer walk, plan a game night, taking cookies to neighbors to get to know them, cookouts in the front yard, weekly lunches with coworkers, looking for ways to serve and bless, holiday parties, go to HOA meeting and volunteer to help with something, etc.

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**Sowing** - sowing is the season where we begin to share our lives with the people we have connected with and sow “gospel seeds”. We are sharing our story, speaking of Jesus, and displaying a gospel centered life to our friends. Remember, because we have done the hard work of plowing, our friends trust us and love us at this point, so our sharing of Christ is only natural. As the Spirit leads, we are beginning to invite them into our expression gatherings, missional community meetings, Sunday gatherings, and other social activities in our church family. Sowing also involves nurturing, watering, and protecting the “gospel seeds” we have sown. This might look like additional conversations, clearing up any confusion, praying fervently for salvation, and serving the people we are sharing with.

Key Activities During This Season – sharing the gospel in conversations and through everyday rhythms, inviting friends into the life and gatherings of church family, deepening relationships and trust, and fervently praying for friends by name. During this season a missional community might spend more time in the living room and around the dinner table discussing the scriptures, going through the Story of God, and planning proactive mission.

**What specifically do we want to commit to doing over the next 3 months to sow the gospel among the people we are trying to reach? (Think through our everyday rhythms. What rhythms best fit the culture of our neighborhood or network?)** Examples- plan a guys night or girls night where you can invite your friends into the life of the group, invite those you are the closest with to go through the Story of God with your MC, ask your friends how you can pray for them and let them know when you do, etc.

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**Harvesting**- harvesting is the season where we see our friends come to believe in Christ and trust in him for salvation and life. This usually happens in mini-stages, but we know we are in the season of harvesting when we see the Spirit at work in our friends' lives. We know we are in the season of harvesting when we see our friends responding to our sharing of the gospel in positive ways. They have recognized their need for Jesus in their lives, they are reading the Bible and praying with us, and they are motivated to serve with us. The pinnacle of the harvesting season comes when our friends officially repent and believe in Christ and are adopted into God's family! Once this happens, we continue the discipleship process as we live life as a family.

Key Activities During This Season- sharing the truth of the scripture, praying with our friends, serving others with our friends, encouraging faith decisions, and calling our friends to believe.

**What specifically do we want to commit to doing over the next 3 months to call our friends to life in Christ?** *Remember, if we are in the season of harvest, our friends trust us and the Spirit IS WORKING in their lives. (Think through our everyday rhythms. What rhythms best fit the culture of our neighborhood or network?)*

Examples- consistently invite our friends to Sunday gatherings, study a gospel-rich book of the Bible as a missional family and invite friends to join you, get together weekly as a missional family to pray for their salvation, etc.

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# The Next 3 Months | Our Missional Plan

Use the space below to brainstorm and chart your proactive plan for the next three months. Add the things you discussed and wrote down on pages 30-32 to the rhythms they best fit.

*Remember the importance of blending reactive mission with proactive mission. (See page 21)*

**Season of Mission** we are in:

**Friends we are praying for:**

**Everyday Rhythms** | bringing gospel intentionality to things we are already doing to reach the lost!

How we will be **story-driven**:

How we will **listen** to God and others:

How we will **celebrate & suffer**:

How we will **bless**:

How we will **eat**:

How we will **rest & work**:

## Conclusion | What Now?

Now that you have completed this *Missional Family | Commitment and Primer* we hope that there is a lot of excitement about the things that your group has discussed and committed to. Our hope in all of this was that God would use this booklet to move your group from being a weekly meeting in a living room, and form you into a Christ-centered family in your area of the city that loves, serves, and shares the gospel with those around you. We want to thank for working through this process and hope that you would stop and reflect on the things that God has shown you over the last few weeks.

Keep this booklet and come back to it often as a missional family to evaluate the health of your family, and discuss where you are in the seasons of mission. As new people come into your family, use the exercises, reflections, and teachings throughout this booklet as a tool to disciple one-another, and share with others your vision and mission.

We believe that Jesus changes everything when he calls us to follow him. He gives us his word, his Spirit, and his church, and invites us to experience abundant life as we make disciples. You have responded to the call to follow him, therefore what's next for you is exciting. You can be certain that God wants to use your **missional family** to bring renewal to our city. Enjoy it! Enjoy Jesus! Enjoy the gospel, enjoy community, and enjoy mission!



# MISSIONAL FAMILY

## COMMITMENT & PRIMER



Learn more about Onelife Community Church at [onelifecc.org](http://onelifecc.org)

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