

Module C | *Christ's Mission*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of mission?

Month 9 | On Mission with God

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Everyday Mission

Scripture Passages: Genesis 22:16-18; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 7:9-10

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer

Discuss how The Great Commission impacts us on a personal level

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Preparing for Fruitful Discipleship

Pray and SOAP in Scripture together

Week 4: In Action

Discipleship in Action. Break into Huddles and share the Gospel

Week 1 | Bible Study

The Great Commission

Before You Study

- Read Genesis 12:1-3; Mathew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 7:9-10
- Pay special attention to what this teaches us about God and man.

What is God's mission?

God's ultimate goal is to bring glory to Himself. As people who have been saved by Jesus Christ for God's glory, we have the responsibility and joy to share the good news of the Gospel to the world as a part of God's plan to have all nations worship Him. During His time on earth, Jesus clearly communicated that He had come to be the Savior of the world. His teachings to His followers 2,000 years ago have personal implications for us today and the part we play in His story of redemption.

God's plan to bring salvation to all peoples has been from the very beginning. We see God make a promise of blessing to the whole world in Genesis 12:1-3. God is saying that through Abraham's descendants all the nations will be blessed. Just as Abraham was blessed by God, He also blesses us to be a blessing. God's heart is to bless all peoples of the earth. God's promise of His ultimate blessing will be fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ and His life, death, and resurrection.

As people who have been saved by Jesus, God now invites us into His mission:

Matthew 28:18–20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Acts 1:8

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 end of the earth.”

From these passages we see the scope of God’s mission: the ends of the earth. This mission can seem overwhelming and out of reach, but God has promised He will always be with us and has empowered us with the Holy Spirit. Jesus even prays for us as we are sent out (John 17:17-23). We’ve learned that God’s mission has been from the beginning and fulfilled in Jesus. Now, God invites us into His mission and one day it will be fully realized when all nations will worship God and give Him glory (Revelation 7:9-10).

What does the Bible Say?

1. Read Mathew 28:18. In this verse Jesus states His authority over the heavens and the earth before giving His command to make disciples of all nations. Why is it important that Jesus states His authority?
2. Read Mathew 28:19-20. Jesus is speaking to His disciples (them then and us now). What are the commands Jesus gives and how do they apply to us today?
3. Read Revelation 7:9-10. What can we know about God’s heart if His mission is to all nations?

How do I apply what I Learned?

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. The Holy Spirit lives inside each believer. How does Acts 1:8 show us how the Holy Spirit can help us navigate our call to be involved in the mission of God?
2. In Acts 1:8 it describes believers receiving the Holy Spirit as being given power. How has the Spirit shown you power to be a witness for Jesus? How can you let the Spirit help you make disciples in this world?

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, he took on our sin and death while giving us his righteousness and life!

Admit. Confess times when you have kept the Gospel hidden rather than as a lamp unto the world.

Request. Ask that God would give you and your group a passion to be on mission to reach the lost - to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the Earth.

Thank. Thank Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to make His home in us and be a seal on us to present us holy and blameless before the Father.

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together.

1. What's something new that you learned last week?
2. How does the promise of the Holy Spirit encourage you to step into God's mission?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

Preparing for Fruitful Discipleship

Jesus has invited us into His Father's mission as His chosen people. That mission is to be a disciple who makes disciples (Matthew 28:19). The call to reach the nations is vast and we need to be prepared for whatever God calls us to. Let's look at a few ways to prepare to share the Gospel and make disciples.

Pray for Guidance

Many chances to share the Gospel and make disciples are going to come up in our lives. To best focus on God's Great Commission, we simply have to ask Him where our focus should be. Start by praying for Jesus to shine a light on opportunities for you to share the Gospel. Through continued prayer, God will uncover pathways for discipleship to occur.

Psalm 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Study Scripture

Learning any new information takes time and this is true with the Word of God. For us to be truly equipped to share Scripture and teach others to obey it (Matthew 28:20), we must first know it and obey it in our own hearts and lives. Study will not only help your understanding of the Lord grow, but it will also deepen your relationship with Him. As you learn more about our God, your trust in Him will grow. By seeing His promises and blessings come true not only in Scripture but in our lives today, your confidence in discipling will flourish.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Seek Accountability

In your City Group, there could be people serving missionally in multiple ways or you may all have the same missional goal. In either scenario, having a team of people to encourage and hold you accountable through your discipling journey is important. Scripture shows us that we are not serving on Jesus' mission alone and to use one another for support.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing .

Share the Gospel

Sharing the gospel can be intimidating. Taking the first step is the most difficult, so encourage yourself by practicing with your Huddle or City Group. Sharing with people you are comfortable with will help you find a rhythm and may make taking that first step less daunting.

Proverbs 24:27

Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

How are we practicing this?

Great news, you already learned how to do this!

Pray for Guidance -- In Month 5 you learned the importance of praying Scripture. Specifically, the Psalms are always God centered and help focus your mind on God.

Study Scripture -- In Month 1 you learned the importance of spending time with God through His Word and using the S.O.A.P. method to read the Bible.

Seek Accountability - In Month 6 you learned the importance of Huddles and their role in keeping people accountable in their walk with Christ.

Share the Gospel - In Month 3 you learned how to share the Gospel using the One-Verse Bridge Illustration.

Spend some time...

Praying through Psalm 67 as a group.

1. What encouraged you in Psalm 67?
2. How does this Psalm prepare you for sharing the good news with others?

SOAPing through Psalm 67 as a group.

1. What did you learn about God
2. What did you learn about yourself?
3. What did you learn about others?

Week 4 | *In Action*

Living Out Fruitful Discipleship

Why do we come back to the basics of discipleship?

As disciples of Jesus, we never graduate from practicing the basics of following Him. These discipleship rhythms continually ground us and remind us of who God is, His mission, and the role we play. Imagine what would happen if you began studying advanced theology without maintaining a personal walk with Jesus through prayer and personal Bible reading. Your life would slowly begin to be marked by knowledge about God, but you would lack a personal walk with God.

Reviewing and practicing the rhythms you have already learned will help ensure these discipleship basics become second nature. This week, you will break into Huddles to talk about sharing the Gospel and spend time practicing sharing the Gospel with one another.

Let's Practice!

Break into Huddles or small groups (refer to Module B - Month 6 - Week 3).

1. Share your fears about sharing the Gospel
2. How can you hold each other accountable on your discipleship journey?

Practice Sharing The Gospel

1. While still in your Huddles, practice sharing the Gospel with one another using the One-Verse Bridge Illustration (refer to Module A - Month 3 - Week 3).

Module C | *Christ's Mission*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of mission?

Month 10 | *On Mission with the Family of God*

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Everyday mission towards others.

Scripture Passages: Matthew 4:18-19, 5:13-14; Mark 16:15; John 1:45; Acts 4:13; Colossians 4:2-6

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer

Discuss challenges when sharing the Gospel in familiar places.

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Nine Rhythms of Everyday Mission

The group will watch a video together and develop a plan for week 4.

Week 4: In Action

Everyday mission in action!

On Mission with the Family of God

Before You Study

- Read Matthew 4:18-19, 5:13-14; Acts 4:13; Colossians 4:2-6
- Pay attention to who, how, and what Jesus calls His disciples to.

How do we live out our mission toward others?

God's passion is for His Glory. Everything He does is done for the sake of His name and fame. He created us for His Glory and, through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, He has saved us for His Glory. As heirs to God's promise to Abraham, we are blessed to be a blessing to all peoples. As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we have been commissioned to make disciples of all nations and, as He ascended into Heaven, Jesus declared that His followers, by the power of the Holy Spirit, would be witnesses to His great power in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

It's important to realize that God's mission has a Church with a global purpose. The local church is made up of a community of individual believers, a people with a purpose. Our purpose, as His people, is to glorify Him with our lives, live in unity with one another and Christ, and proclaim the Gospel as the power of God for salvation so that all peoples might also glorify God (Romans 15:1-13.)

This month, we will focus on reaching our 'Jerusalem', our local community, for Christ. Who are these people Jesus spoke of in Acts 1:8? To answer that, we must look to Jesus as our example. He came to earth with a clear mission, to seek and save the lost (Luke 9:10.) He pursued the neglected, the suffering, and the marginalized. He sought out people in need of redemption and reconciliation that only comes from God. These people are all around us, we only need to ask for eyes to see them and the love and courage to pursue them as Jesus did us. As individuals and, as a community, on mission, it's good to consider what people and places in our city would capture Jesus' heart and then go to those people, serve them in love, and tell them the good news.

God is drawing people to Himself, opening doors for the Gospel to be received, and calling us into His mission. He has set us apart for the work He has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10) and we must be ready at all times to share the hope that we have with those He places in our paths (1 Peter 3:15). Understanding that God's heart is for all peoples is crucial to mission.

Equally important are the breaking down of cultural barriers that could keep us from connecting with people who are different from us. In addition, we need to develop spiritual rhythms in our lives that keep our hearts and minds aligned with Christ and focused on the mission.

Every Christian receives the same commission, to make disciples of all nations. We all receive the same Holy Spirit through whom we have the power to live out that mission. God blesses us in numerous ways that we might be a blessing to others and they, like us, will worship Him. We are each given spiritual gifts and placed in communities of believers, according to His purposes, to be resourced for His mission to be worshipped by all nations. We are a sent people – sent next door, around the corner, down the street, and across our city – and called to reach our Jerusalem so that they might be reconciled to God and worship Him!

What does the Bible say?

As you read the passages this week, what did you notice? What challenged you?

1. Read Colossians 4:2-6. What was Paul's first suggestion to prepare believers for sharing the Gospel? Why is this important?
2. Who opens the door to sharing the Gospel? How does God prepare and equip you?
3. Why is our behavior important to those that do not know Christ?

How do I apply what I learned?

How can I take practical steps to every day mission?

Be relational. Build friends, not targets.

Be intentional. See every situation as an opportunity and yet, God directs our steps.

Be present. Building relationships depends upon trust.

Be available. God-moments might be unexpected and inconvenient.

Be a blessing. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Be generous. As God, in Christ, has been generous to us.

Be hospitable. As God, in Christ, has welcomed us home.

Be patient. As God, in Christ, has been patient with us.

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. How can you pray today for opportunities tomorrow?
How can you make the most out of every opportunity?
2. What attitudes, thoughts, and intentions do you need to change to better love the people around you?
3. Start by identifying 3-5 people that you will commit to praying for and asking God to give you the opportunity to share the Gospel.

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that just as He adopted us into His family, He is actively working to adopt others into His family as well. Our family is growing!

Admit. Confess times when you've invested in a relationship without sharing the Gospel..

Request. Ask that Jesus' kindness shown to us in the Gospel empowers us to show others that same kindness by sharing the Gospel with them as well!

Thank. Thank Jesus for His grace in giving us His Word so we may meditate on it day and night.

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

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- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together!

1. Where is God challenging you to take a risk to share the Gospel?
2. How does God's mission in our everyday lives give you greater encouragement and purpose to your life?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

Nine Rhythms of Mission

Watch this videos together:

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ImJB7uPV-o>

How can we practice and prepare?

Charles Spurgeon said, “Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor.” Thankfully, with the rise of the missional movement, more Christians have accepted this call to live on mission in whatever community God has placed them. But, how do we engage the sphere of influence God has entrusted us with most effectively? Here are nine practical ways to live on mission in your community:

Pray

We begin with the acknowledgement that we are absolutely dependent on God to move if we’re going to make any real impact in our community. Pray for one another.

Love

Our effectiveness will be severely limited if we don’t authentically love the people we’re trying to reach. Do you actually love the people in this community? Do you see them as God sees them?

Schedule Margin

It’s easy to be so regimented in our schedule that we don’t have time for the glorious inefficiency of a life on mission. Do you have enough margin in your schedule to allow for unexpected relationships and extended conversations?

Do What You Love With Others

God has gifted us with unique gifts and abilities, and there are people in our community who share these passions. As we explore how our hobbies can be done alongside others in our community, we’ll find that we already have a greater level of credibility and kinship with those whom we share these similarities. The gospel is intrinsically powerful—unleash it from its cage and see what happens. Be bold, and be amazed at the way lives are changed.

Ask Good Questions

As we connect with people, we want to ask good questions that express our genuine interest in their lives. In most conversations, people have to fight to get in a word about themselves. When we carry a posture of servanthood in a conversation by asking good questions, we're being countercultural and expressing our desire to authentically know another.

Listen

People have a boss that will talk at them or a spouse who will criticize them, but few have people who will actually listen to them. As we ask good questions, we want to listen well so we can accumulate information of how the Gospel can uniquely speak into someone's hopes, fears, and life stage.

Share Your Story

While people might initially resist the firm truth claims of the Gospel, I've yet to meet anyone who isn't intrigued by how the gospel has shaped your life story. Know how to authentically, winsomely share how Jesus has blessed you and shaped who you are, and be ready to share that story as these people ask you really good questions in return.

Invite Into Community

Because we're created in the image of a Triune God, we were created and long for community. However, most people don't feel close to others relationally, even though they might live close to others in proximity. Inviting someone into your church community—where people can taste the goodness of life amongst the people of God—is an incredibly powerful tool for mission. Throw parties, celebrate holidays, watch football and create a culture where the “outsider” is welcome.

Share The Gospel

Too often the missional movement has been prone to drift towards being really effective at developing friendships with non-Christians without being honest about the ultimate hope of the friendship—to see this person reconciled to God through the work of Jesus Christ. It can be scary to think about altering the dynamic of a friendship, but

Christians are often way more scared to talk about the Gospel than non-Christians. The gospel is intrinsically powerful—unleash it from its cage and see what happens. Be bold, and be amazed at the way lives are changed.

Living on mission is a difficult, glorious mess, but when we take practical steps of faith to live on mission for Jesus, his assuring words from the Great Commission become more precious and real than ever: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Discuss together:

1. How can your City Group practice the nine rhythms of living on mission?
2. What will your group do next week to reach people in your mission field? Think about your mission statement and how to fulfill it.
3. Schedule a prayer walk or an outing to your Third Place. See Week 4 for more guidance.

Spend some time...

1. Reviewing how to share the Gospel
2. Reviewing your own personal testimony
3. Thinking of one person you can invite to your City Group.

Week 4 | *In Action*

Everyday Mission in Action

This week you will be entering your mission field once again. Having a regular and visible presence is crucial for mission. Hopefully prayer walks and Third Place events have become a regular part of your City Group. As you engage your mission field, keep praying that God will move in the hearts and lives of the people you meet.

Coaching for the Prayer Walk

1. Break into groups of 2-3 to prayer walk your Third Place.
2. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads or use the prompts from Module B - Month 8.
3. If opportunities present themselves, stop and start a conversation with someone you pass by.
4. As a group, agree to meet back up at a specific time and location. Spend time debriefing and close in prayer as a big group.

Coaching for Third Place

As a reminder, a Third Place is informal and naturally fits into the rhythms of life. It's neutral, natural, and regular. Ask yourselves—where do people naturally go and how can we gather there instead? Or how can we plan an event that will help build new friendships? For more information, see Module B - Month 7.

Remember to discuss the important details:

1. Where is the event taking place?
2. What time is the event taking place?
3. What do you need to bring?
4. Don't forget to invite people!
5. Send reminders.

Everyday Mission Options to Explore

1. Host a bbq or cookout.
2. Host a breakfast for dinner party! Everyone loves breakfast.
3. Host an “open invitation” to City Group.
4. If your mission field is a network of people, use this week to scatter for mission. Each group member spend time with an unbelieving friend by going to dinner, coffee shop, or another activity.
5. Challenge your City Group to have one intentional spiritual conversation this week. The simple question, “Do you go to church anywhere?” can open doors to learn more about the person you’re trying to reach.

Helpful Resources

<https://www.navigators.org/being-a-missionary-where-you-are/>
<https://www.christianfaithatwork.com/7-easy-steps-to-be-a-missionary-where-you-are/>
<https://www.namb.net/send-network-blog/10-practical-tips-for-living-on-mission-in-your-community-1/>

Module C | *Christ's Mission*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of mission?

Month 11 | *Christ's Mission to the Nations*

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: On Mission in the Nations.

Scripture Passages: Isaiah 42:6-13; Psalm 67; John 4:39-42.

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion and prayer

How can you participate in God's mission to reach the nations?

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Six Ways to Reach the Nations

Brainstorm ways to participate in the mission of bringing light to the nations now

Week 4: In Action

How will your City Group reach the nations?

Create an action plan for your group

Week 1 | *Bible Study*

On Mission in the Nations

Before You Study

- Read Matthew 24:14; John 4:1-42; Revelation 7:9-10
- Consider the importance of global missions.

God's Heart for the Nations

This week we are going to be focusing on our call as Christ's chosen people to be a light to the nations. We learned in Month 9 that God saves us for His glory, blesses us to be a blessing, and commissions us to make disciples of all nations declaring that we will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In Month 10, we looked at what the Great Commission looks like when applied to our communities, our Jerusalem. This month, we are going to consider the ways in which we might fulfill His call on our lives to reach the nations, those He has brought to our city and those who live across the seas.

In Revelation 7:9-10, we see this incredible vision of the completion of God's mission to reconcile the world to Himself. People from every tongue, tribe, and nation are standing before the throne worshipping our Holy God! Jesus, the light of the world, came as Savior for the whole world and we, as His ambassadors, are commissioned by Him to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, that is, every people group.

Jesus understood His Father's heart for all peoples and much of His ministry included breaking down the cultural biases of His disciples and the religious leaders of the day. In John 4: 1-42, we witness Jesus revealing Himself to a Samaritan woman and using the opportunity to share with His disciples His Father's will to deliver all peoples. In John 17:18 Jesus prayed, "As You sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." God's will for us is that our hearts would align with His and that we would have a love for all nations just as He does, being obedient to His call to engage in His mission as He directs.

As followers of Jesus, we all have a part to play in proclaiming the Gospel to the nations. In Matthew 24:14, Jesus tells the disciples that, “this Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” It’s not hard to imagine that the disciples may have seen this as a daunting task and it’s likely that we might feel the same. There are still about 7,000 people groups in the world that have yet to hear the name of Jesus and many of those people live in cultures hostile to the Gospel. Praise God that He is the one who opens doors, prepares the fields for harvest, raises up laborers, empowers us through His Holy Spirit, and provides creative ways for us to reach the unreached. May we be faithful and obedient to His call.

What does the Bible say?

1. What key themes stuck out to you in this week's reading?
2. How does the glorious picture of the future displayed in Rev 7:9-10 encourage you to more eagerly pursue and remain faithful to the Great Commission?
3. How does Jesus’ example of cross-cultural ministry impact you as you consider that He is calling you to the same?
4. God sent Jesus and He is sending us out. How has God uniquely gifted you to fulfill the Great Commission?

How do I apply what I learned?

In John 4, we see that the disciples are a bit taken aback by Jesus’ interaction with the Samaritan woman. Her people were hated by the Jews and were not worthy of their time or attention and certainly not salvation, but Jesus shows us a different way. As in Jesus’ day, we tend to hold cultural biases and might even think that certain groups of people are unworthy of the Gospel, incapable of receiving it, or, at the very least, best left for someone else to evangelize. As we have learned, though, we are all called to take all of Jesus to all of the world.

1. What biases are common in your circle of family and friends? Do you have any prejudices against certain groups of people that might keep you from sharing the Gospel with them? If so, how might you break through those barriers?
2. What are ways that you could reach different cultures and backgrounds right here in Omaha?

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that the Gospel is for all people.

Admit. Confess times when you've acted out of uncomfortability rather than an urgency to spread the good news of the Gospel.

Request. Ask that Jesus would dwell in your hearts and He would be the source from which you draw the power to live on mission.

Thank. Thank God for the diversity in his Kingdom, that we aren't from one tribe, one, tongue, and one nation, but that there will be those called from EVERY tongue, tribe, and nation.

Helpful Resources

Scripture: Isaiah 42:5-13; Malachi 1:11; Matthew 4:23-25; Luke 13:22-30, 17:11-19;
John 3:16-17, 4:1-42, 6:38-40, 12:30-49; 1 John 4:14

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

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"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
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- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God's love for all nations tell you about His character?
2. What fears do you have about reaching and serving the nations?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

Six Ways to Reach the Nations

This week we are going to look at how we can reach the nations and serve them from wherever we are located. Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). He loves the world and wants people to know Him. So, while it can seem daunting, God has given us an important commission to help spread His Word to everyone. We are all called to this mission regardless of whether we are to physically go to the nations or support this initiative right where you are.

Six Ways to Reach the Nations

Pray

Praying for the nations is fundamental for God's mission. Whether it is praying for wisdom on where Jesus wants you to serve the nations, or a missionary family overseas, prayer is always needed. When we pray, God listens and works.

Learn

Learning means that we take time to gain a deeper understanding of the world and unique circumstances. This might mean, for example, learning what parts of the world have little or no chance of hearing the Gospel without a missionary team.

Go

Going is one of the more commonly known ways of being involved with missions. For some, this means taking part in a short-term mission trip or for others, God may call them to long-term missions work.

Send

Every missionary that Citylight has sent out has an entire team behind them. Missionaries need support prayerfully, financially, and communally. There are multiple ways that we can support those going out to the nations.

Welcome

God is bringing the nations to us in the form of international students, immigrants, and refugees. Sometimes they come from countries we cannot access. We can welcome them in many ways. It could be hosting a family in your home or providing community through meals and social activities.

Mobilize

Mobilizing means that you help involve others. *This can look like sharing what you are currently doing to reach the nations. Through your story, others may feel called to serve the nations alongside you. The more people that are involved in reaching the nations, the more we will see God's work in them.*

How can we begin practicing this?

1. Learn more about what each of these methods looks like. View the video resource: <https://joshuaproject.net/>.
2. Ask your group to pray and think about ideas for how your City Group could become involved in reaching the nations for next week.

Helpful Resources

Links:

- 9 Practical Ways to Prepare for Missions
<https://vimeo.com/228755241>
- Reaching the Unreached
<https://vimeo.com/127875015>
- 6 Ways to Reach God's World
<https://vimeo.com/17625553>
- Leverage your Life
<https://vimeo.com/414909981>
- Sending the Gospel Even When You Can't Go
<https://www.scbaptist.org/articles/sending-the-gospel-even-when-you-cant-go/789/>

Books:

God's Heart for the Nations - Jeff Lewis

Scripture:

Matthew 24:14; Mark 16:15; Luke 10:19; Acts 1:8,8:5-25; Romans 10:18

Week 4 | *In Action*

City Groups for the Nations

How can we practically serve the nations?

This week your City Group will spend your time praying and discussing how you can reach the nations for Jesus. Review the six ways to reach the nations from last week. Discuss and pray how your group could engage in each of the six ways. Some examples may look like:

- 1. Praying at the beginning of each meeting for the nations.*
- 2. Financially supporting a missionary family.*
- 3. Build relationships with international students or refugee families.*
- 4. Go on a short-term mission trip together as a City Group.*

As God leads, begin to take actual steps toward seeing your ideas turn into reality. If you need help doing what God is leading you to do, contact your location pastor, City Group Director, or Missions Director. The church staff team exists to equip you for missions. You can do it, they can help.

Use these questions to help you put your plans into actions:

- 1. Where is the first area God is calling your group to serve?
What's the first step you will take to make that happen?*
- 2. What do you need to do or who do you need to talk with to help you reach your goal?*
- 3. How will you make sure that the nations are an important part of your City Group?*

Module C | *Christ's Mission*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of mission?

Month 12 | Living out Christ's Mission

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: City Groups for Local and Global Missions

Scripture Passages: Psalm 67:1-2, Psalm 96; Luke 24:44-48; Romans 1:1-6

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer.

Pastoral Visit: Reflect on the last year as you look forward to the next.

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Stages of Missional Communities

Review City Group Mission Statement

Determine where you are as a group and where you want to be.

Week 4: In Action

Decide how the group is going to continue to look for local and global missional opportunities

Celebrate completion of the pathway and give thanks to the Lord in communal prayer.

Local and Global Missions

Before You Study

- Read Psalm 67:1-2, Psalm 96; Luke 24:44-48; Romans 1:1-6
- Consider God's heart for local and global mission.

What is the Goal of Missions?

Worship of the God of the universe is the goal of missions and that, along with a great compassion for the lost, is the fire that fuels our passion to reach all peoples with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The past three months we have walked through God's passion for His glory, His mission to redeem all peoples, and His call for us as followers of Christ. God desires His followers to be marked as a people who are so tightly gripped by the glory of God and His global purpose that we seek with all our hearts to align our lives with His mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory just as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14.)

Below are three guiding principles of mission for every follower of Christ:

1. **Mission exists because worship doesn't.** The ultimate purpose of God has always been and will always be worship. He is passionate about His glory and His name. One day, the redeemed from every tongue, tribe, and nation will fall on their knees before our holy God and worship Him forever. Until that day comes, our passion for His mission is fueled by our desire for all peoples everywhere to worship the one, true God.

2. **As followers of Christ, we are blessed for a purpose.** God's ultimate blessing for His people is salvation through Jesus Christ and we are saved for His glory. We have received this blessing and many others and, as heirs of Abraham, we have a responsibility to be a blessing to others for the sake of their salvation and God's name. Just like Jesus, we are called to have compassion on those who have yet to experience His amazing grace, His endless mercy, and His extravagant love. We should share what we have been given with them so that they might experience abundant life in Christ as they join us on mission to proclaim the name of Jesus among the nations for the glory of God.

3. **We are to proclaim the Gospel here and there.** We are all commissioned by Jesus to make disciples of all nations starting in our own neighborhoods and networks and extending our reach to the ends of the earth. As we learn more about God's heart for all peoples (and those who have yet to hear of Jesus) and pray to align our hearts with His, we will know Him more intimately. As we know Him more we will worship Him more and our desire for all people everywhere to worship our great God will become the passion that drives our mission to reach the lost right here in our city, on the other side of the globe, and everywhere in between.

What does the Bible say?

1. Read Psalm 96. What does God communicate about His desire for the world? Does your personal and corporate worship reflect the God of all nations?
2. Read Romans 1:1-6. How do you see God's blessings in your life connecting to God's plan to save people from all nations? What does our study of blessing and purpose show us about how we are to our lives?
3. Read Luke 24:44-48. When considering the Great Commission, how important is a full understanding of God's global heart in discipleship? Why?

How do I apply what I learned?

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. What are the most important things you've learned the last three months and how have you put them into practice in your life?
2. What are some ways you can apply what you have learned from these studies of God's glory and mission that might change the way your City Group is living on mission right in your own backyard?

Praying Truth

Praise. Praise God because He is worthy of our worship!

Admit. Confess times when you have allowed personal comfort, financial security, or fear of the unknown to keep you from engaging in God's mission.

Request. Ask God that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes to see and your heart to have compassion on the people who live near you and those who live a world away.

Thank. Thank God for His promises, His faithfulness, and His mission by which you have been saved through Jesus Christ for His glory!

Week 2 | The Family Meal

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

1. Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together and with the visiting pastor:
2. What was the most valuable thing you learned from the City Group Pathway?
3. How will what you learned impact your life and City Group moving forward?

Week 3 | *In Action* City Group Growth

As your City Group has journeyed through the pathway, you have grown in your understanding of spiritual formation (UP), community (IN), and mission (OUT). As missional communities, City Groups are focused around a local mission that will prayerfully, through God’s grace, have a ripple effect that will reach farther than we could ever imagine. Knowing where your City Group has come from and where you still need to grow is important to see this happen.

As a group, take some time to reflect on the following diagram of the growing stages of a City Group:

Discipleship & Group Formation Process

SUNDAY ATTENDER	FAMILY	FAMILY OF MISSIONARIES	MISSIONARY FAMILY
Social Group	Small Group	City Group	City Group
Gathers Socially	Gather for Community	Gather for Community	Gather for Community
Like each other, but won't sacrifice for one another	Will sacrificially love one another	Group members live for more than themselves	Whole group lives for more than themselves
Believe the group exists only for themselves	Believe the group exists for more than themselves	Scatter for Mission - Different Neighborhoods - Different Networks	Gather for Mission - Shared Neighborhood - Shared Network
Need City Group Basic Training	Need Coaching for living on Mission	Multiplies Disciples & Groups Need Ongoing Equipping	Multiplies Disciples & Groups Need Ongoing Equipping

WHERE PEOPLE ARE

WHERE WE DESIRE TO BE

There are four common stages in the life of communities:

Stage 1 – Social Community Group

After forming communities from our Sunday gatherings, most groups begin with this DNA. A Social Community Group is one where the people enjoy spending time together in a gathered event, possibly desire to go through a book or bible study, but lack any impulse towards those outside of the church.

Primarily, these kinds of communities come into existence because a group of people have a felt need for community – hence “social community group”. These kinds of groups have relationships that are newly forming or shallow, and generally gather only for an event.

Stage 2 – Small Group

As a Community Group begins to have a heart change, a Small Group emerges. This is a community where people have a desire to make disciples but don't quite know how. Rather than needing a change of heart, these kinds of groups need to work through a host of practical challenges.

Many times, Small Groups still have relationships that are newly forming, but they have gone through a significant experience together (a training that casts compelling vision, a crisis in the group, etc.) or there are very few natural barriers to their community (the groups that just “click”).

Stage 3 - Family of Missionaries

As a Small Group begins to implement the practices of missional communities, there are often some realizations that take place within that community. The first is how life giving a missional expression of community can be, and second is how challenging this kind of community lifestyle actually is.

As individuals in the community understand their identity as missionaries and put practices in place consistent with that identity, a Team of Missionaries emerges.

A Team of Missionaries is a group that is seeking to make disciples in each individual's separate sphere of influence. While the group members may live in different parts of the city, work in different places, and have different interests, each individual is praying for people by name and seeking to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus.

We often say this kind of community “gathers for community, but scatters for mission”.

Stage 4 - Missionary Family

A new City Group often begins as a Community Group, then transitions from a Small Group to Family of Missionaries. As these transitions take place, the mission of the group is growing in clarity, and often going from generic to very specific and local. A Missionary Family has the same characteristics of a Family of Missionaries, however, the main difference is that the core group of committed people are trying to reach a very specific and defined neighborhood or network of people.

Spend some time discussing...

What kind of group is your City Group?

1. Social Community Group
2. Small Group
3. Family of Missionaries
4. Missionary Family

How have you and your City Group grown in the last year?

How will your City Group continue to grow?

Review your City Group Mission Statement.

1. How has God brought clarity to the neighborhood or network you're trying to reach?
2. Imagine your City Group one year from now. What do you want to see God do?
3. What steps does God want you to take to keep moving forward and reach your goal?

Week 4 | *Celebration Checkpoint*

Assessing Growth

Congratulations, you've made it through Module C and the City Group Pathway! As you look back on the past year, take a moment to reflect. Each module is not independent of the other modules, but rather works with them in order for you to experience greater depths of learning and discipleship.

As you reflect on your past four months with your City Group, discuss these questions:

1. What has God been teaching you and your group?
2. How has your group grown together as missionaries?
3. How can your group keep growing as missionaries?

Don't forget the Gospel

If the most important Core Value at Citylight is the Gospel, why don't we dedicate a module to that? Actually, the Gospel is necessarily interwoven throughout each module. While spiritual formation, community, and mission are the focuses of each module, the Gospel is the foundation on which they sit. The Gospel is the cause, while spiritual formation, community, and mission are the effects it should have on one's life.

As you continue reflecting, ask yourself how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has impacted your learning and discipleship:

1. How does Christ's mission give you a greater understanding of the Gospel?
2. How does the Gospel empower you to live out Christ's mission?

Pray and Celebrate!

1. Reflect and celebrate over the last 12 months how God has changed you and your City Group through your study of Scripture, community with one another, and equipping for mission.
2. Pray and thank God for His love that He has shown us through Jesus Christ. Ask God to continue to transform your life and use your City Group as a missional community for His glory!