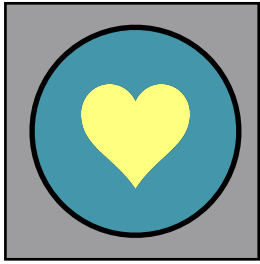


PATHWAY

to missional discipleship





Introduction

GOD'S HEART FOR MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Definitions:

- Mission (missio) = _____
- Discipleship = “inviting others to _____ from and _____ with Jesus.”
- Missional Discipleship = Making disciples where we _____, _____, and _____.

Key Question: Who am I sent to disciple this year? _____

God's Heart For The Lost:

A. Luke 15:1-7

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

*So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not **leave** the ninety-nine in the open country, and **go** after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

B. Biblical Images Depicting “The Lost”

Folly

Death

Darkness

Missing the mark

Blindness

Deafness

Judgment

Thirsty

Lonely

Broken

Hard hearts

Shaken

Wandering

Wasting

Weary

Hell

For Reflection & Discussion:

- Does my heart beat like God's heart for those who are lost?
- Am I willing to step out of my comfort, stability, security, and perceived safety to go, risk, trust, and sacrifice, so I can join God in His mission of seeking and saving those who are lost?

The Missionary Nature of God and the Church:

A. **Shelah** = The Hebrew verb for “send” in the Old Testament is used _____ times with God as the object. God is a “sending” god.

✦ **Moses** (Exodus 3:10-15)

“Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

But Moses said to God,

“Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

He said,

“But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Then Moses said to God,

“If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?”

God said to Moses,

“I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

✦ **Isaiah** (Isaiah 6:8) - *I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”*

✦ **John the Baptist** (Malachi 3:1) - *Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.*

✦ **Paul to Romans** (Romans 10:14-15) - *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they too preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*

✦ **Jesus** (John 21:20) - *“As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.”*

“We are a missionary church because God is a missionary God”

*“Rather than seeing ourselves as a ‘sending body,’
we see ourselves as a body that is sent
to participate in Jesus’ redemptive mission.”*

Christopher Wright

B. The _____ Problem

- ✦ 85 million Americans have no interest in going to _____.
- ✦ The growing rate of “churchlessness” in America.

2000

2019

2038

“If we fail to go to people, then they will have to come to us to encounter the gospel – we’re asking the nonbeliever to do all the cross-cultural work to find Jesus.”

Brad Brisco

C. The _____ Problem

“The church is not meant to call men and women out of the world into a safe religious enclave, but instead to call them out in order to send them back as agents of God’s kingship.”

Lesslie Newbigin

D. Two Models For Consideration: Hilton Hotels & AirBNB



Step #1

NEIGHBORING

“Love Your Neighbor”

Jesus

“The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.”

John 1:14 (MSG)

“Outreach and evangelism visit the neighborhood. Mission moves in.”

Unknown

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

A. **Neighbors** = The people where we _____, _____, and _____.

We loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:8-12

B. **The Genius of** _____ (carne = flesh)

“In the incarnation of Jesus, God revealed himself as the One who is with and for his creation....now, as the risen Lord sends his Spirit to empower the church, we are called to become God's people present in the world, with and for the world. We need to embed our lives and gospel into the local setting. It's not good enough to just be sent, we have to live our life there.”

Daniel Gruder

For Reflection and Discussion:

- If missional means “to go,” incarnational is about “how you go” and what people see as you go. It encompasses *your posture, your tone, your motives, and your heart.*
- In what goofy ways have you seen Christians approach others like they are projects instead of dearly beloved people?
- Is there a relationship between “loving neighbors” and the message of the gospel?



C. 3 P's To Start Neighboring

- ◆ _____ - We must take time to be with people and develop true friendships. You can't have a relationship from a distance or when you're always distracted. Have you truly "moved into the neighborhood?"
- ◆ _____ - If presence is where we go, posture is how we go. Do you love people to get them "saved" or because you have been saved? People aren't projects and will reject being treated like a project. What people really want are real relationships in which, they can give and receive love.
- ◆ _____ - "*Names are the sweetest and most important sound in any language.*" - Dale Carnegie. Knowing a person's name demonstrates value and is a doorway to deeper friendship.

For Reflection & Discussion:

- Relationships are often formed most naturally in neighborhoods or networks of relationships (ie. schools, sports, hobbies, etc.). Where has God naturally placed you or where might He be sending you to get more involved?
- Complete the **Block Map** on the next page. Who are the people where you live, work, or play, that God might want you to join Him in blessing? (bless = the tangible touch of God)

D. Rhythms & Routines To Keep "Loving Your Neighbors."

- ◆ _____ **routines** (ie. "Missional Moment")
"Because I am so loved by God, who do I get to love this week?"
- ◆ _____ **routines** - 21 meals a week — who will you share one with?
- ◆ _____ **routines**

"Resolutions without routines will take you nowhere!"

Unknown

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?



YOU ARE HERE





GOSPEL FLUENCY

“Speaking the truths of Jesus into the everyday stuff of life”

Jeff Vanderstelt

“Our conversations range from politics to the economy to parenting to marriage and careers and yet...we often end up shrinking the concept of the gospel down to a small set of beliefs or doctrines focused primarily on the ‘afterlife’ and they have no practical effect on our daily lives...imagine what could change if the Good News of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection was allowed to shape and inform all areas of our lives?”

Hugh Halter

The Bigger Gospel:

A. Gospel (euangelion) defined = _____

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Mark 2:17

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

1 Thessalonians 2:8-12

Bad Circumstances

- *Lost job*
- *Failed test*
- *Broken relationships*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Unbelief/Struggles

- *“I’m a terrible father”*
- *“Will we have enough?”*
- *Anxiety*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

For Reflection & Discussion:

- Consider the “everyday” conversations you’ve had over the past week. What common themes have you heard related to bad circumstances or struggles?
- What are some of the more difficult scenarios that people could use someone to proclaim some good news? Jot those in the empty spaces provided.



B. Four Questions To Guide Good News

- 1) Who is God?
- 2) What has God done? (which reveals who He is)
- 3) Who am I in light of God's work?
- 4) How do I get to live in light of who I am?

"Many don't know who God really is. They don't know what He is like or what He has done for us. A person can't believe in God if he or she is unaware of the truths about God."

Jeff Vanderstelt

C. Tips for Becoming Fluent in the Good News

- ◆ _____ (Scripture is primary)

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

Romans 10:17

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes"

Romans 1:16

- ◆ _____ in community.


Three people who need the truths of the good news!

- 1) _____ *"we are all unbelievers"*
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

- ◆ Text about it, talk about it, and _____!

For Reflection & Discussion:

- Identify 3 scenarios or areas of unbelief as you go through the week and walk through the chart (on the next page) identifying Scripture or truth that is good news for those scenarios. Be prepared to share in your next group!
- How do the promises that God makes to His children ultimately set up the message of salvation for a person who is not a believer or a recipient of God's covenant promises?

<p>Area of Unbelief or Struggle Write area here </p>	<p>Who is God? List as many things as you can about God's identity that specifically relate to this area of struggle/disbelief. (Ex. "God is love" or "just" or "our Father")</p>	<p>What has God done? How has God proven each answer to the previous question in his work in the world and especially through the person and work of Jesus?</p>	<p>Who am I in light of God's work? List as many true statements about who you are that you can think of.</p>	<p>How should I live in light of who I am? What beliefs are you experiencing in light of the first three questions? How do you see them changing you?</p>



Step #3

TEAMING TOGETHER

Finding Your "One Anothers"

"Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful. Christian community is the final apologetic."

Francis Schaeffer

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go."

Luke 10:1

The Power of They, Them, and Us

A. The Central Question = _____?

B. Creating "Pockets of Peace" — The Need For God's Kingdom In Your Home

"When the Holy Spirit transforms the life and practice of Christian communities, they demonstrate that God's promised future has been set in motion. The joy, freedom, and wholeness of life within the reign of God can already be tasted even if not yet fully consummated. While not perfection, life within the Christian community reflects, embodies, and witnesses to a "divine infection." Paul chose the "body of Christ" metaphor in his letters to the churches to emphasize the communal, flesh and blood reality that is the tangible presence of Jesus when the people of God join in covenantal relationship. This manifestation does not take place just because a group of Christians shows up for an hour or so in the same facility each week. No. It is the joined believers, not the gathered ones, who manifest the body of Christ:

We will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Eph 4:15-16)"

Brad Brisco

The Point: _____



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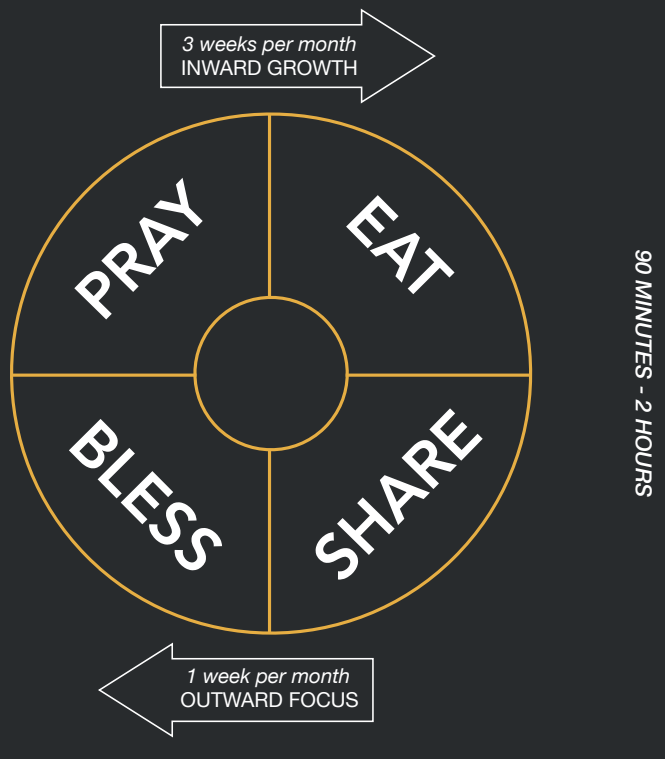
C. Rhythms And Routines For Your “One Others.”

- ◆ _____ together.
- ◆ _____ together.
- ◆ _____ together.
- ◆ _____ one-another.

For Reflection & Discussion:

- Do you currently have a tight-knit group of fellow believers that you would be excited to have dinner with while inviting a friend who is curious about faith and friendship with God?
- What other believers are present in your relational networks or neighborhood? Prayerfully consider who God has for you to team with.
- Consider the Neighbor Group model below. Are there any rhythms or routines that are missing in your Christian community currently? How might you include those going forward?

NEIGHBOR GROUP



EAT TOGETHER

Whether potluck, prepared by the host, or ordering in, eating together builds trust and community. The goal is an extended family environment.

SHARE STORIES

Discuss the message that was preached on Sunday or share personal faith stories. The goal is to encourage one another in spirit and truth.

BLESS OTHERS

Each week, ask who knows someone that needs the tangible touch of God in our church or your relational networks. Then make a plan and partner together.

PRAY FOR POWER

As you share about your lives and ponder who God is sending you to bless, ask God for His anointing, provision and power.



Step #4

IDENTIFYING PEOPLE OF PEACE

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

Luke 10:1-9

Learning to Identify People of Peace:

A. **The Goal** = To move from _____ everyone, to focusing on a few that you can realistically love and bless well.

B. Who are People of Peace?

◆ People whom God is already _____

“The mission is God’s. The marvel is that He invites us to join Him in it.”

◆ People who are _____ to your blessing

◆ People who are _____

◆ People who are _____ about your God or your life





Step #5

INVITING "PEOPLE OF PEACE" INTO COMMUNITY & DISCIPLESHIP

"Co-mission is a rule and rhythm that guides our energies, bodies and resources toward being missionally present with the message of Jesus...A gathered community on mission creates spaces where people interact with the supernatural quality of Jesus followers. Here others can see and experience the life of an extended spiritual family who loves one another— and loves them.

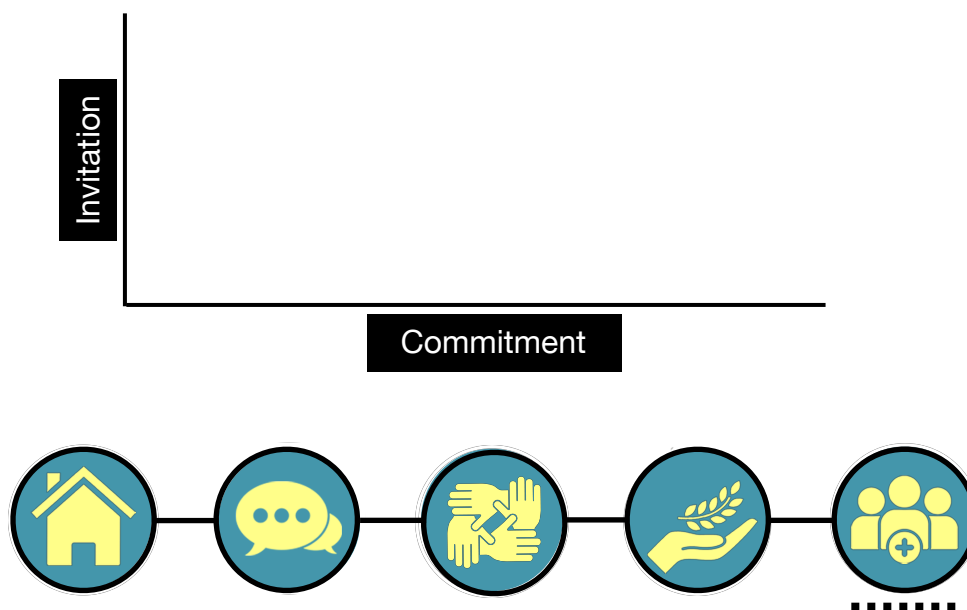
JR Woodward

A. Creating Opportunities for POP to Connect With Jesus' Body?

- ✓ Dinner Party Nights
- ✓ Monthly Brunch
- ✓ Play Dates
- ✓ Clothing Swap
- ✓ Serving Together
- ✓ Golf Outing
- ✓ _____

Note: We're not seeking to create "wow" experiences but "connecting" experiences.

B. Inviting POP To Take The Next Step (from Invitation to Commitment)



D.N.A. Groups

DNA groups are small discipleship groups, typically 3-6 people of the same gender with at least two mature believers. DNA groups focus on transformation at every level (head, heart, hands). Three questions guide the discipleship relationship.

1. **Discover:** In light of who God has brought together, what is He inviting us to discover together?
2. **Nurture:** What is currently happening in our lives that we can speak truth into and pray for?
3. **Act:** In light of everything discussed today, what is the Holy Spirit convicting you to act upon?

DNA Best Practices

Two Committed & Mature Leaders - Embrace the power of “they, them, us.”

A Regular & Realistic Routine - Find it. Without consistency, your group will die.

Don't Stop “Discovering” - Groups that focus solely on nurture fizzle out.

Start With “The Why” Before “The What” - Tell the “piano” story.

Text In Between Meetings - Meaningful relationships require regular interaction.

Fight The Good Fight - Disciplined communication and encouragement is hard work.

Shake Off Occasional Meetings That Feel Fruitless - They happen to all of us.

Gently Press “Reset.” - Ongoing fruitless meetings/groups should end.

Send Them - Jesus' discipleship ended and He sent His disciples to make other disciples. Lead groups with this in mind, and at the right time, branch them!

Other - _____.