

LIVING LIFE ON MISSION

Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection and gave them their mission... it's the same for us.

“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told them how they would carry out their mission... it's the same for us.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Missional living is not a specialized calling but a daily mandate for all believers.

“Christians are either missionaries or impostors.” Charles Spurgeon

“Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, ‘Look at us!’ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. But Peter said, ‘I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!’ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. ‘People of Israel,’ he said, ‘what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness?’” Acts 3:1-12 (NLT)

A. What made the early church different? They were concerned about the needs of people around them.

The Overall Progression:

We see the need of people around us.

We feel the need of people around us.

We touch the need of people around us.

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.” Acts 2:41 (NLT)

“But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000.” Acts 4:4 (NLT)

The Overall Truth: Those who are most effective in reaching the many are those who are most passionate about reaching the one.

B. What made the early church different? They were confident in the name of the one who saved them.

“Peter replied, ‘Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:38 (NLT)

“But Peter said, ‘I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!’” Acts 3:6 (NLT)

“Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.” Acts 3:16 (NLT)

“Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.” Acts 4:10 (NLT)

“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”
Acts 4:12 (NLT)

“So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.”
Acts 4:18 (NLT)

C. What made the early church different? They lived life on mission.

Life Application: We’ve got to recapture what it means to be the church and what it means to be concerned about the needs that are represented in this room as well as the needs that are represented outside of this room.

- **Aware** – Are you asking God to open your eyes to the needs around you?
“...But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.” John 4:35b (NLT)
- **Prayer** - Are you aligning your heart with God’s heart for those people?
“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.” Colossians 4:2 (NLT)
- **Care** - How are you earning the right to be heard by those people?
“...I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.” 1 Corinthians 9:19b (NLT)
- **Share** - Are you making the most of every opportunity to share Christ with those people?
“Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)

Important Reminder: We must measure success in obedience, not outcomes.

Important Promise: Your obedience will be someone’s miracle.

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Connect Group Questions:

1. How can you practically look for daily opportunities to be interrupted? What are some opportunities that you’re already aware of that our group can begin to pray for or help you with?
2. Do you have margin in your daily life for divine interruptions? If not, where can you re-prioritize to free up that room?
3. Regarding the Aware, Prayer, Care, Share tool for living life on mission, in which area do you struggle the most?
4. We’ve got to recapture what it means to be the church and what it means to be concerned about the needs that are represented in this room as well as the needs that are represented outside of this room. Spend some

time praying and strategizing on how you and your group will become more concerned/aware of the needs around you.

5. Discuss the following quotes with your group:

"The Gospel never called us to stay put and hope people come to find it." Unknown

"The true greatness of any church is not how many it seats, but how many it sends." Mike Stachura

"I'm not afraid of failure; I'm afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter." William Carey

"Missional living is not a specialized calling but a daily mandate for all believers." Unknown

"Christians are either missionaries or impostors." Charles Spurgeon

"We have strayed from being fishers of men to being keepers of the aquarium." Paul Harvey

"A life not lived for others is NOT a LIFE." Mother Teresa

"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become." Henry Martyn