**Learn in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**How do I fulfill God’s mission?**

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” ([Matthew 28:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.19))

*Christianity is so much more than only another religion. It’s not just another collection of rules and regulations. It’s a real relationship with Jesus Christ. When we give our heart to Jesus, He becomes our Savior and our Lord. Life is not only full of responsibilities, bills, and work, but it can also be full of eternal purpose.*

*As we grow closer to God, He begins to reveal His true purpose and plans for our life. We begin to discover the personal mission and assignment He has designed for each of us. While we may have different gifts, talents, and abilities, each of us is called to the same mission of helping to transform the world with God’s love and power. God calls us to personally share our faith, to help lead others toward a deeper walk with Christ, and to help others fulfill their individual mission. As we lean into God and allow Him to make a difference in our life, He will in turn use us to make a difference in the life of others.*

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| First time leading *Learn* for Adults? Check out the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**If you could visit any nation on earth, where would you go? What about that place interests you? |

With modern technology, we know so much more about other cultures than any previous generation in history. We can watch videos that highlight places all over the earth. Our communities have terrific ethnic food restaurants. We can buy a plane ticket to just about anywhere and get there by tomorrow. We can enjoy music and cultural influences from all parts of the world. Best of all, we know that God is the source of all good things.

As much as we can appreciate all the good parts of every culture, we can also plainly see the tremendous spiritual need of people everywhere. Sometimes, this great need can seem overwhelming. But as Christians, we know God has a plan of redemption for anyone who will come to Him. And He invites us to be a part of His great mission.

**Watch**

As we watch this video, think about your answer to this question: What has God called you to do?



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| **QUESTION**What has God called you to do? |

**Consider What the Bible Says**

In [Luke 15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk15), Jesus told a series of three parables. First, He talked about one sheep who wandered away from the other ninety-nine in the flock. Then He shared about a coin a woman lost in her home. Finally, He told about a son who had left home and wasted his inheritance. The most interesting thing about these stories is that Jesus emphasized the shepherd who lost the sheep, the woman who lost the coin, and the father who lost his son. God’s heart is for the lost one. He wants every person He lovingly created to come home to Him.

Imagine if your child or someone you love were separated from you. It would be hard to believe that anyone close to you would not help look for them. In the same way, it should be hard to imagine any Christian not wanting to participate in God’s mission to find His lost sons and daughters. We might not feel a lot of pity for some people in the world, but knowing that God loves them and wants them home should be enough. After all, God loved us so much that He came to rescue us. In turn, we should love Him so much that we make sure participating in His mission is an ongoing part of our life.

**Sending Others Fulfills God’s Mission**

Read [Acts 13:1–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac13.1-5).

God has a plan for saving the world. How comforting and exciting to know that God has done everything necessary to break the curse of sin and death for us! Jesus has done His great work on the Cross, so that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord can be saved ([Romans 10:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro10.13)). God gives us the privilege of participating in His mission to let people know this good news.

When we live in community with others who know and love God, we can expect the Holy Spirit to guide and direct each of us in our personal role in His mission. At times we’ll go and at other times we’ll send others, but all of us will be involved in some way. Just as the Early Church did, we can spend time together in fasting and prayer to seek what God would have us do. And when He speaks to us, we obey.

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| **QUESTION**How were Barnabas and Paul chosen for their special mission? |

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| **QUESTION**How can people know and hear the call of God today? |

**God Honors Those Who Send**

Read [Acts 13:6–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac13.6-12); [14:26–27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac14.26-27).

Just as Paul and Barnabas brought back news of God’s work to the church of Antioch, we can also rejoice in seeing hearts and lives changed through those we send. As we honor and obey the Great Commission—the command of Jesus to go out and make new followers of Him—God will work in us and through us. When we go to all the nations, we don’t go alone. The Holy Spirit fills us with power, inspires us, and leads us.

As we work together to see the good news preached, we get to see the miraculous things God does. He is faithful, and we all learn to love and trust Him more as we participate in the going and sending of others to fulfill His mission.

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| **QUESTION**What might the return of Barnabas and Paul have done for the church who sent them? |

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| **QUESTION**How does hearing stories about missionaries and their work impact you? |

**Sending Must Be Accompanied by Generosity**

Read [2 Corinthians 8:1–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co8.1-5).

Many things the Bible tells us about the early Christians reveal that God’s kingdom is not like any earthly kingdom. In God’s kingdom, the poor are actually rich in spirit. If we want to find our life, we have to lose it. It’s better to give than to take. Followers of Jesus Christ are called to be different to reflect Him and His kingdom to others. The generosity among believers is an opportunity to testify to the world about the generosity of our King. As we help other Christians in need, we demonstrate the difference that should exist between our community and the rest of the world.

Jesus humbled himself to come to earth to save us. Now it’s our honor to reflect Him to a watching world. We give generously because He gave generously. We go the extra mile because He did. We give of ourself because that’s what Jesus did. It’s not always easy to choose to be generous, but it will bring joy and glorify God. Helping send missionaries to give real hope to others is the best investment we can make with our money and time.

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| **QUESTION**In what ways has God been generous to you? |

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| **QUESTION**How does the generosity of the church in this passage challenge you? |

**Did You Know?**

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| *A proconsul in the Roman governmental system served as a high-ranking official. A proconsul answered to a consul—the highest elected official in the Empire (the consul was usually a former proconsul)—and was given authority to wield their power in the place of the consul if the consul could not be present. The conversion of the proconsul, translated as governor in* [*Acts 13*](https://biblia.com/bible/acts/13)*, tells us the Church had former pagans, now redeemed, who were incredibly influential in the Roman Empire.* |

**Reflect**

Jesus plainly said that He came to “seek and save those who are lost” ([Luke 19:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk19.10)). Because of Him, we can know what it means to be free from sin and to live an abundant life. All of us were lost in sin and selfishness. Now we understand what it means to be saved by God’s grace.

Yet billions of people across the globe have not yet heard the great news of Jesus. This can seem overwhelming, but together we can change that fact! Each of us can play an important part. We can freely share what we know by generously participating in God’s mission.

Culture tells us to keep all that we have for ourself. We’re encouraged to look out only for what is best for us. We’re openly discouraged from choosing to live for others. But the kingdom of God is different. As believers, we ought to reflect Jesus, who gave generously of himself so others could live. Jesus instructed us to go and make disciples of all nations. Some of us will be led by the Spirit to literally go to the ends of the earth. Most of us will serve right where we live. All of us can participate in generously sending others to spread the gospel. When we work together with God, we can see great things happen in the hearts and lives of people around the world.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **QUESTION**Other than financially, in what ways can you support those who go into missions work? |

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| **QUESTION**How have you been participating in the mission of God lately? |

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| **QUESTION**In what ways is God challenging you to be willing to go and give generously? |

**Activate**

Participating in the Great Commission is one of the greatest opportunities in life. Your church community can be an excellent place to find ways to be a part of God’s mission. If your church supports missionaries and global needs, ask your pastor how you can become involved in giving monthly toward one or more of these endeavors. Ask the Lord to lead you in making a faith promise for a generous monthly financial commitment for a year.

**Challenge**

If your church community does not yet participate in monthly pledges to support missionaries, check out [agwm.org](https://agwm.org/) and [usmissions.ag.org](https://usmissions.ag.org/). These are excellent places to find missionaries serving around the globe who you can support with your finances and prayer.

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week. |

Before next time, continue to learn with the personal devotions.

**Learn on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: I Will Help Send Others**

Read [Acts 13:1–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac13.1-12); [2 Corinthians 8:1–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co8.1-5).

Look back over Listen in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. Plan how to complete the Activate component if you haven’t already done so. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**What is God saying to you about how you can fulfill His mission? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: God Wants Us to Be Part of His Mission**

Read [Romans 10:9–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro10.9-15).

In this passage, Paul made a logical and reasonable case about why we must send missionaries around the world. The truth is that billions of people still have never heard about Jesus or what He has done for us. Worldwide, approximately seven thousand unreached people groups have no access to a Christian or a Bible ([agwm.org/prayer](https://agwm.org/prayer/)). Sadly, this is simply because no Christian has gone to these groups to share the love of Christ—yet!

But we know that the Church was birthed from a relatively small number of believers who were seriously committed to the resurrected Jesus. From that community of faithful people, almost two billion Christians are alive today. When we get serious about fulfilling God’s mission, God brings help and power.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think God wants each of us to take part in His mission? |

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| **QUESTION**In what ways is God challenging you to pray for those who are lost around the world? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: Each Person Has a Unique Part in the Mission**

Read [1 Corinthians 3:1–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Co3.1-10).

God’s mission has a place for every Christian. Of course, each of us was made by God with great care, and He gave each of us unique gifts and talents. So we shouldn’t be jealous of one another or try to outdo each another. When we realize that we’re all working toward the same goal, we can accomplish much good.

Some of us will be told by God to go and start new ministries. Some of us will keep those works moving forward. Still others will give generously to send people to reach others around the globe. Regardless of what gifts and abilities God has given us, each of us can use what we have to do our part. As we all generously share our talents and resources with others, many people will come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord all across the world.

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| **QUESTION**What gifts do you think God has given to you? |

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| **QUESTION**How can you use those gifts and abilities to be a part of God’s mission? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: We Must Work Together for the Mission**

Read [Acts 16:1–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac16.1-10).

So often in the Bible, missionaries traveled in groups. More than just sharing our gifts and abilities, we can work side by side in God’s mission. Whether we obey God to go to the ends of the earth or to talk to our neighbor across the street, how wonderful and healthy it is to partner with other Christians. God often calls us together and sends us together.

Working together paints a picture of the kingdom of God for unbelievers. We don’t just tell them about God’s love, joy, and peace. We can show it to them with our life through our interactions with other believers. Alone, we can do good things for Him, but when we work together, we are stronger and better ([Ecclesiastes 4:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ec4.12)).

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| **QUESTION**What are some other ways that working as a team can be better than working alone? |

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| **QUESTION**How can your church or small group impact your community by working together? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: The Mission Requires Our Best**

Read [Philippians 4:10–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Php4.10-19).

When we talk about obeying God to fulfill His mission, it’s easy to think in very generic terms. We can easily agree someone should go, and someone should make disciples. But sometimes it’s more difficult when we think about people close to us. What if your pastor is called by God to go to the missions field? Or your child or best friend? Or you?

In the same way, it’s easy to agree that someone should give generously. But it’s often harder to actually put your own money in the offering. As we begin to seek God’s direction for our part in His mission, we’ll hear Him calling some of us to go and all of us to give. Just as God showed us through His own sacrificial action of sending Jesus to save us, we must all be willing to send our best. As some obey God’s call to go, the rest of the community can joyously send and support them with the best that we have.

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| **QUESTION**How do the instructions for sending generously in this passage challenge you? |

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| **QUESTION**What might it look like for you to give your best for God’s mission? |