**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))

*As Christians, God wants to work in our life in special ways. He saves us, heals us, changes us, and helps us. But His work doesn’t stop there. God wants to work through us, too. He also equips us with exactly what we need to send us out and serve His kingdom here on earth. These sessions will look at how God wants to use us in His mission.*

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Computer or a smartphone set up for a video conference* *• Prerecorded video from a missionary or a scheduled video conference call with a missionary****Getting Ready*** *• Contact a missionary to share with the group about the process of getting to the missions field, what they do, and how they can support the work of missions. Do one of two options:* *• Play a prerecorded video from the missionary.* *• Schedule a video conference for your group meeting time.* *• If you do not know a missionary or have a missionary based in your church, ask your pastor or district Youth director to find out how to connect with a missionary.* *• First time leading* Learn *for Youth? Look here for 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**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create comfort levels that encourage student participation later.*

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| **QUESTION**If you could visit any country in the world, where would you go and why? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: For this session about missions, specifically ask that the Holy Spirit would speak to students today about what He’s calling them to do. Ask God to give them the strength to be obedient, no matter what He directs.*

**Introduction**

Some of you may have heard or met a missionary before. A missionary is someone who focuses on sharing the gospel with others. Some even live in another country to do so. Did you know that missionaries usually don’t go to other countries on their own? Behind every missionary is a support system of people and churches who send them. What does it look like for you and me to send others to share the gospel? That’s what we’re talking about today.

**Group Activity**

**Meet a Missionary**

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Today, I want you to meet a missionary! Let’s find out about what the missionary is called to do, the country they’re in, what life and ministry are like, and what it took for the missionary to get to their field of ministry.

• *If time allows, let students ask questions to the missionary.*

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| **QUESTION**What was the most interesting thing you learned from the missionary today? |

Missionaries typically focus on sharing the gospel and training others to do so. Usually, they live in or travel to foreign countries, but some missionaries live in our country too. Some of you may feel called to be a missionary one day, but probably most of us won’t live overseas. That doesn’t mean that we can’t play a part in God’s mission around the world, though! Even if we don’t go, we have a responsibility to send others. Let’s watch this video and then talk about this further.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever been on a missions trip? If so, what was that experience like for you? |

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| **QUESTION**If you’ve been on a missions trip, how did you raise the money you needed to go? |

God wants everyone on earth to be saved through Jesus ([1 Timothy 2:3–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Ti2.3-4)). While not everyone will accept His offer of salvation, it’s the Church’s mission to share God’s desire with everyone. To fulfill that mission, it takes all of us! Some go as missionaries, while others send and support them. God wants every believer to participate. Let’s consider what that looks like in Scripture and how we can apply it to our own life.

**Everyone Plays a Part in God’s Mission**

Read [Acts 13:1–3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac13.1-3).

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| **QUESTION**What were the men doing when they heard the Holy Spirit’s call? |

We should all want to hear God’s voice and follow His calling for our life. But do we put ourself in situations where we can hear Him when He speaks? The men heard the Holy Spirit because they were focused on God!

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| **QUESTION**What are some ways we can position ourself to hear the Holy Spirit’s voice more clearly and more frequently? |

God didn’t only speak to Barnabas and Saul about His plans for them. God spoke to others who were there, too. Though only these two men were chosen for this task, God involved other believers in the process of sending Saul and Barnabas as missionaries.

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| **QUESTION**When the men heard the Holy Spirit’s direction for Barnabas and Saul, what did they do? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think so many people were involved in Barnabas and Saul becoming missionaries? |

Not everyone in the group went on the missionary journey, but everyone played a vital role in it. Even if we aren’t going, we can be a part of sending the good news around the world. Let’s look at how we can do this in a few different ways.

**We Send Others with Spiritual Support**

Read [Acts 13:4–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac13.4-12); [14:26–27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac14.26-27).

When we support and send missionaries, we have a responsibility to support them spiritually with our prayers, too. In the first verses we read, we saw that the group who sent Saul and Barnabas spent time in prayer and fasting before sending them. In the verses we just read, we find out why that was so important. Missionaries face real spiritual battles, some like what Barnabas and Saul faced, and our prayers can help them overcome and be more effective!

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| **QUESTION**What spiritual battle did Barnabas and Saul face when they arrived in Paphos? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think missionaries face such opposition in sharing the gospel? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you think this story could have gone differently if the believers back home had not been praying for Barnabas and Saul? What might have happened? |

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| **QUESTION**Imagine being a missionary in a foreign country. In what specific ways would you want people to pray for you? |

When people become missionaries, we should offer our spiritual support, but it doesn’t stop there. Ministry often requires money, and missions is no different. We get to support the ministry of others through our giving!

**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, tells us the Church had former pagans, now redeemed, who were incredibly influential in the Roman Empire. |

**We Should Be Generous Supporters**

Before you read these verses from one of Paul’s letters, remember that Saul and Paul are the same person. It’s just two versions of the same name that he used at different times.

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

Because of his missionary travels, Paul was able to help in transferring the monetary gifts of this church to another charity work he was a part of. Still today, missionaries facilitate giving to specific needs much like this.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Paul bragged on the churches in Macedonia? |

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| **QUESTION**What does this passage say about their attitude in giving? |

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| **QUESTION**How can this church’s attitude inspire the way we give to the work of missionaries? |

Notice how people’s giving wasn’t based on their income. They didn’t give generously because they had a lot of excess money. They gave generously because the Lord had filled them with joy, and they wanted others to experience it!

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| **QUESTION**What are some reasons people may have for not giving generously to missions? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you think God cares more about our attitude when we give or the amount we give? What makes you say that? |

**Reflect**

**I Send Others**

A sports team needs every player to do their job in order to succeed. For a band to sound good, every instrument player needs to do their part. It’s similar in the kingdom of God. We each have a necessary part to play, and we’re at our best when everyone participates. For some of us, it may be a lifetime of being missionaries in another country. For others, we may play a part in sending missionaries, both with our spiritual and financial support. That may not mean just asking your parents for extra cash, though. You can earn the money yourself or use part of a gift to give to missions. No matter how little you may have, everyone can do something.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider what God might want to say to us about sending others. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

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| **QUESTION**What is one way you can start being more supportive of missionaries? |

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| **QUESTION**Is God speaking to you about being a part of a single missions trip in the future? |

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| **QUESTION**Is God speaking to you about being a missionary at some point in your life? |

**Activate**

We can talk about sending missionaries with our spiritual and financial support, but it’s another thing to actually do it! Listen for God’s direction. If you feel like He might be calling you to participate more in missions, talk about it with a leader, pastor, or your parents. But let’s not just be people who talk about it. Let’s actually go, give, and pray!

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| **QUESTION**What can you do to help send a missionary with the gospel? |

Maybe you can raise money to give by mowing yards, babysitting, doing extra household chores, or selling old clothes. Come up with a creative, doable idea. Then make it your aim to give to missions in some way in the days ahead. If you need help finding a missionary to support, talk to a youth or church leader.

**Conclusion**

Every Christian on earth is called to play a part in God’s mission around the world. Maybe God has called you to go, and maybe He is calling you to send others who will go. Either way, you have an important role! And that role can start today by sending spiritual and financial support to a missionary.

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*Partnering with God in His mission for the world starts with letting Him work in your own life. Before we’re called and ready to go and share the good news, we’re called to believe the good news for ourself. Jesus Christ came and lived a sinless life, died a sinner’s death, and rose from the grave three days later so that you and I could have a relationship with God. We can’t earn it on our own, and we don’t deserve it. We simply have to ask and trust Him!**Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?**Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help. |

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You that Your Word still speaks to us and challenges us today. We want our life to be used for Your glory around the world. If You’re calling anyone in the room to go, help them to listen and obey. For those who are called to send, help us to obey starting today. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

This week’s devotions on the Bible Engagement Project app will give you practical steps and ways to send others, both spiritually and financially. Make sure to check those out before we meet again next time!