

Community Leadership: Being a Gospel Missionary in Your Community

Week 8 - Men For Jesus Leadership Training

Memory verse—2 Corinthians 5:20

'We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.'

As a gospel missionary in your community when was the last time you...
...shared the gospel with someone?
...sought to bless someone for the sake of the gospel?
...prayed for an opportunity with a person?
...tried to create an opportunity to share the gospel?

These are the _____ of someone who *responding* to Jesus final words to his disciples to go make disciples in Matt. 28:19-20.

They are the _____ of those who are *participating* in the reality of what Jesus promised to his followers in Acts 1:8.

Your impact for Jesus in the **Community** is rooted in the impact of the **Gospel & Mission** of Jesus on you

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

GOSPEL

You need healthy motivation to tell the message

'For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all.' ~ 5:14

'who reconciled us to himself through Christ' ~ 5:18

The motivation for you to share the gospel is _____.

Grow in your awareness of what it has done

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Romans 1:16

*“Here is a trustworthy statement that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.”
1 Timothy 1:15*

Tim Keller says something similar...

‘I am more broken and sinful than I ever dared believe, and at the same time I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope, because of Jesus.’

Grow in your experience of what it is doing— Romans 6-8

You need to develop your ability to tell the message

‘He has committed to us the message of reconciliation’ ~ 5:19b

Understanding the Essentials of the Gospel: God, Man, Sin, Jesus, Response

Communicating the Gospel Storyline: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration

Learn how to help people see their story within His story



Identify where the gospel speaks most clearly to their experience of fallenness, need for redemption & restoration.

MISSION

You have a responsibility to tell the message

‘God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation’ ~ 5:18

‘We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.’ ~ 5:20

‘As God’s fellow workers ...’ ~ 6:1

To us, then **through us**.

A follower of Jesus who does not participate in the mission to make other disciples of Jesus is to fail in the same way the nation of Israel failed under the Old Covenant. 1 Cor. 10:6

What is the difference between you and an overseas missionary?

The _____ is the same, the _____ is different.

You are a _____ wherever you are.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

You need a **life strategy** for telling the message

Think like a missionary

About yourself...

'Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.' ~ Phil. 1:12

'If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God...' 2 Cor. 5:13

About others...

*'So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view...
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!'* ~ 5:16, 17

Observe, Study, Listen, Learn, Strategize, Contextualize

Act like a missionary

1 Cor. 9:22 – *'I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.'*

Do _____ to reach people with the gospel.

Pray like a missionary

'Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should.' ~ Eph. 6:19-20

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.' ~ Col. 4:3-6

You need to enter the mission field

*Think, act and pray like a missionary seeking to **bring gospel intention into everyday life**.*

The mission field is everyday people in everyday life

What does routine life look like for you—daily, weekly, monthly?

Practically the mission has to be in everyday life

Sustainability, effectiveness, authenticity

'So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God...For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.' ~ 1 Cor. 10:31-33

Theologically the mission should be in everyday life

'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.' John 1:14

Doing the mission in everyday life authenticates the message

'Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.'
~ 1 Peter 2:12

Group Discussion Questions

How is your love for the gospel in your own life?

Do you think of yourself as a missionary sent with the gospel to reach the people around you?

Who does God bring to mind when you think of people within your reach who do not know Jesus?

What type of missionary activity could you pursue in your everyday life to reach them? What are normal things you could do with gospel intention to put yourself in a better place to reach them?

How would this type of thinking also change the way you lead your family or participate in your life group?

There are more opportunities for you to bring people to Jesus than you dare count and God can do far more than you could possibly imagine.

*Think like a missionary. Act like a missionary. Pray like a missionary.
Strive to bring gospel intention into everyday life.*

Simple Ideas to help you turn
Ordinary Life into **Outreach Opportunities**:

Eating for Jesus...

- Try to have a meal a month with a neighbor
- Start a weekly or monthly Friday night BBQ during the summer
- Leave some extra space in your garden for your neighbors favorite vegetable & grow more of everything so you have some to share

Working for Jesus...

- Offer to let your neighbors use some of your most handy tools
- Observe when your neighbors are outside and try to be outside doing things when they are
- Organize a day in the spring and fall when your neighbors work together on house projects & maintenance

Playing for Jesus...

- Organize an Easter egg hunt for the people on your street
- Attend things your neighbors invite you to
- Host a weekly play date for other stay at home parents

Pursuing Relationships for Jesus...

- Incorporate your neighbors into your regular prayer life & offer to pray for them
- Create a neighborhood directory
- Take the initiative to talk to your nearest neighbors at least once a month

30 Ways To Bless Your Workplace

1. Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with other co-workers and learn their story.
2. Get to work early so you can spend some time praying for your co-workers and the day ahead.
3. Make it a daily priority to speak or write encouragement when someone does good work.
4. Bring extra snacks when you make your lunch to give to others.
5. Bring breakfast (donuts, burritos, cereal, etc.) once a month for everyone in your department.
6. Organize a running/walking group in the before or after work.
7. Have your missional community/small group bring lunch to your workplace once a month.
8. Create a regular time to invite coworkers over or out for drinks.
9. Make a list of your co-workers birthdays and find a way to bless everyone on their birthday.
10. Organize and throw office parties as appropriate to your job.
11. Make every effort to avoid gossip in the office. Be a voice of thanksgiving not complaining.
12. Find others that live near you and create a car pool.
13. Offer to throw a shower for a co-worker who is having a baby.
14. Offer to cover for a co-worker who needs off for something.
15. Start a regular lunch out with co-workers (don't be selective).
16. Organize a weekly/monthly potluck to make lunch a bit more exciting.
17. Ask someone who others typically ignore if you can grab them a soda/coffee while you're out.
18. Be the first person to greet and welcome new people.
19. Make every effort to know the names of co-workers and clients along with their families.
20. Visit coworkers when they are in the hospital.
21. Bring sodas or work appropriate drinks to keep in your break room for coworkers to enjoy. Know what your co-workers like.
22. Go out of your way to talk to your janitors and cleaning people who most people overlook.
23. Find out your co-workers favorite music and make a playlist that includes as much as you can (if suitable for work).
24. Invite your co-workers in to the service projects you are already involved in.
25. Start/join a city league team with your co-workers.
26. Organize a weekly co-working group for local entrepreneurs at a local coffee shop.
27. Start a small business that will bless your community and create space for mission.
28. Work hard to reconcile co-workers who are fighting.
29. Keep small candy, gum, or little snacks around to offer to others during a long day.
30. Lead the charge in organizing others to help co-workers in need.

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