

*Discovering
My Life
Mission*

CLASS 401

Open Bible Baptist Church

WELCOME TO DISCOVERING MY LIFE MISSION

This class is the fourth of our basic discipleship classes.
Congratulations on making it all around the bases!

In CLASS 101 - You committed to being a **Member** of God's family.
In CLASS 201 - You committed to the habits for Spiritual **Maturity**.
In CLASS 301 - You committed to having a **Ministry** in our church.
In CLASS 401 - You will begin to discover your **Mission** in the world.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

- **I WAS CREATED TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE.**

"The Lord has made everything for His own purpose..." Pr. 16:4 (LB)

- **GOD PLANNED MY LIFE MISSION BEFORE I WAS BORN.**

"God is our Maker, and in our union with Christ, he has created us for a life of good works, which he has already prepared for us to do." Eph. 2:10 (GN)

My Life Mission has both **universal elements** (what God calls every Christian to do) and **unique elements** (what God *custom-designed* me to do).

In CLASS 401, we'll focus on the *universal* part of your Life Mission.

- **FULFILLING MY MISSION BRINGS GLORY TO GOD.**

JESUS: "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."
John 17:4 (NIV)

- **MY PRIMARY TASK IN LIFE IS TO FULFILL MY MISSION.**

"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me--to tell people the Good News about God's grace."
Acts 20:24 (NCV)

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

That I commit the rest of my life to being a messenger of God's Good News to other people, and using my time, talents, and treasure for his Kingdom, regardless of where it leads or what it costs .

*"We make it our goal to please him..." 2 Cor. 5:9 (NIV)
"...our goal is to measure up to God's plan for us..." 2 Cor. 10:13 (LB)*

THE CLASS OUTLINE

SESSION ONE: DISCOVERING MY MISSION

- God's Purpose in Creating Us
- Jesus' Mission on Earth
- Why Jesus' Mission Must Matter To Me

SESSION TWO: SHARING THE MESSAGE

- Part 1: My Testimony – The Story of How I Began a Relationship with Jesus
- Part 2: The Good News – Explaining How to Accept Christ
- Communication Tips: How To Share Christ More Effectively

SESSION THREE: FISHING IN MY MISSION POND

- 5 Keys to Spiritual Fishing
- How People Come to Christ
- How to Build A Bridge of Friendship

SESSION FOUR: BECOMING A WORLD-CLASS CHRISTIAN

- What On Earth Is God Doing?
- Open Bible's Global Vision and Your Passport To The World
- How to Get In On What God Is Doing: Acts 1:8 Opportunities
- What it Takes to Be On-Mission for God

SESSION 1

Discovering My Life Mission

To discover your mission in this world, you must first understand:

- God's overall purpose in creating human beings.
- Jesus' mission in coming to earth.

I. GOD'S PURPOSE IN CREATING US

1. We were made to have a _____
"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..."
Gen. 1:26 (NIV)

"Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us... His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us."
Eph. 1:4-5 (LB)

2. We were made to _____
"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Rom. 8:29 (NIV)

"God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of His Son... We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him."
Rom. 8:29 (Mes)

"Just as we are now like Adam, the man of the earth, so we will someday be like Christ..."
1 Cor. 15:49 (NLT)

"We know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is."
1 John 3:2b (NCV)

3. We were made to _____
"God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which He planned in advance for us to live our lives doing." Eph. 2:10 (NCV)

4. We were made to _____
"He has planted eternity in the human heart." Eccl. 3:11 (NIV)

"This is his purpose: that when the time is ripe he will gather us all together... to be with him in Christ forever." Eph. 1:10 (LB)

THIS LIFE IS _____ FOR LIFE IN ETERNITY!

II. JESUS' MISSION ON EARTH

The Problem: Our sin has broken our relationship with God.

"Your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have hidden his face from you." Isa. 59:2 (NIV)

God's Solution: He took the initiative to bring us back to Himself.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (LB)

"God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself..." 2 Cor. 5:19a (LB)

WHAT WAS JESUS' LIFE MISSION?

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:10 (NIV)

"This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth."
John 18:37b (NCV)

"I came to give life--life in all its fullness..." John 10:10 (NCV)

"I have come as a Light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in the darkness." John 12:46 (LB)

"I must tell the Good News about God's kingdom... This is what I was sent to do." Luke 4:43 (ICB)

III. WHY JESUS' MISSION MUST MATTER TO ME

TEN FACTS THAT MOTIVATE ME

1. IF I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS, _____ LIFE MISSION MUST INCLUDE _____ LIFE MISSION.

Jesus prayed to the Father: *"In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world."* John 17:18 (Mes)

2. JESUS _____ ME TO CONTINUE HIS MISSION.
The 5 Great Commissions of Jesus

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt. 28:19-20 (NIV)

"You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere." Mark 16:15 (LB)

*"With my authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me."
Luke 24:47 (NLT)*

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21 (NIV)

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

3. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IS MY _____.

*"... you must warn them so they may live. If you don't speak out to warn the wicked to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death."
Ezekiel 3:18 (NCV)*

*"Telling the Good News is my duty - something I must do. And how terrible it will be for me if I do not tell the Good News."
1 Cor. 9:16 (NCV)*

If I'm a Christian, my mission is not _____!

4. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IS A _____.

*"And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him... This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors."
2 Cor. 5:18b (LB)*

*"I am proud of the Good News, because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes..."
Rom. 1:16 (NCV)*

5. I'M _____ FOR WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

*"Remember that in the past you were without Christ... You had no hope, and you did not know God."
Eph. 2:12 (NCV)*

*"For I have a great sense of obligation to people in our culture and to people in other cultures..."
Rom. 1:14 (NLT)*

*"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all..."
2 Cor. 5:14 (NIV)*

6. BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE _____ WITHOUT CHRIST.

*"Jesus is the only one who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save people. We must be saved through him."
Acts 4:12 (NCV)*

"Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. But before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him; and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them."
Rom. 10:13-14 (NCV)

7. **BECAUSE GOD WANTS _____ SAVED!** (Luke 15)
"God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."
1 Tim. 2:4 (NIV)

"God does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives."
2 Peter 2:9 (NCV)

8. **I WILL BE _____ FOR ETERNITY.**
"Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people."
Col. 3:24 (ICB)

9. **GOD'S _____ FOR HISTORY HINGES AROUND US
COMPLETING OUR MISSION!**
"The Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come."
Matt. 24:14 (NCV)

"They asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' Jesus replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. BUT you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 1:6-8 (NIV)

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them and said 'Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'" Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)

10. **I WILL _____ WHEN I SEE PEOPLE IN HEAVEN.**
"I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart."
Luke 15:7a (ICB)

Knowing this, what should be my response?

"I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus - the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness." Acts 20:24 (NCV)

SESSION 2

Sharing The Message

"You are the ones chosen by God... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you."

1 Peter 2:9 (Mes)

"...He has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. Therefore, we are Christ's representatives." 2 Cor. 5:19b-20 (GWT)

FOUR PARTS OF YOUR LIFE MESSAGE

3 Unique Parts

- Part 1: **My Testimony** – My story of how I began a relationship with Jesus.
- Part 2: **My Life Lessons**
- Part 3: **My Life Passions**

The Universal Part

- Part 4: **The Good News** – Explaining how to accept Christ.

I. SHARING MY TESTIMONY: The Story of How I Began a Relationship with Jesus

A personal testimony is the most persuasive form of communication.

The Bible is full of testimonies:

DAVID

"Come and listen, and I will tell you what God has done for me." Ps. 66:16 (NCV)

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony." John 4:39 (NIV)

THE MAN BORN BLIND

"I don't know whether he is good or bad, but I know this: I was blind, and now I see!" John 9:25 (LB)

PETER AND JOHN

"We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20 (NLT)

PAUL

On six different occasions (Acts 22-26) Paul used his personal testimony to share the Good News with unbelievers.

JESUS

“Listen carefully. I’m speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay.” John 3:11 (Mes)

We are commanded to share our testimonies

“Let the whole world know what he has done for you.” Ps. 105:1b (LB)

“Every day tell how he saves us. Tell the nations of his glory; tell all peoples the miracles he does.” Ps. 96:2-3 (NCV)

THE VALUE OF YOUR TESTIMONY

1. It is unique! There are no others just like it.
2. It is personal and easy to understand.
3. You are the authority on it. It’s difficult to argue with.
4. People love to hear personal stories and they remember them.
5. People can relate to it. It builds a relational bridge.
6. In our postmodern world, it may be your most effective witness.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

A. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS AN ADULT

THE FOUR PARTS OF YOUR TESTIMONY

1. WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE I MET CHRIST.

*What common circumstances would an unbeliever identify with?
What were your attitudes that an unbeliever would identify with?
What was most important to you?*

*What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life?
(sports/fitness, success at work, marriage, sex, making money,
drugs/alcohol, having fun, entertainment, popularity, hobbies)*

2. HOW I REALIZED I NEEDED CHRIST.

*What significant steps led up to your conversion?
What needs, hurts, or problems made you dissatisfied
with the way you were living without God?
How did God get your attention? What motivated you?*

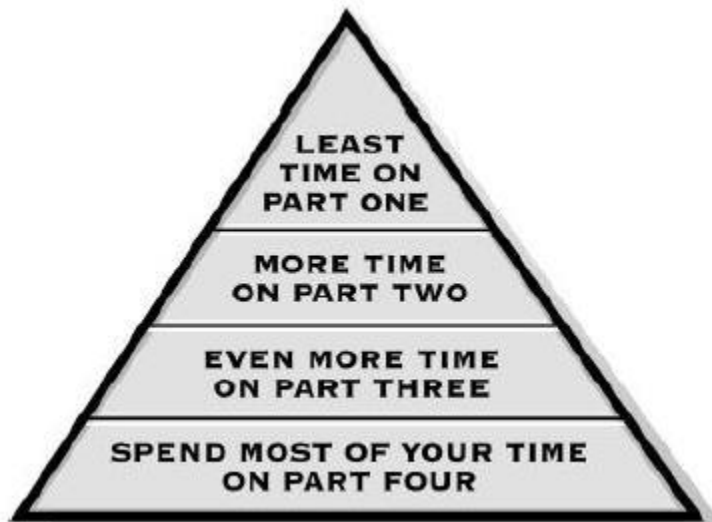
3. HOW I COMMITTED MY LIFE TO CHRIST.

*What specifically did you do? Where did it happen?
What did you say in your prayer? Be specific.*

4. THE DIFFERENCE IT HAS MADE IN MY LIFE.

*What benefits have you experienced or felt?
What problems have been resolved?
How has Jesus helped you change for the better?
How has it helped your relationships?
Give a current example.*

The Testimony Pyramid



B. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS A CHILD BUT WALKED AWAY OR NEVER GREW UNTIL A DEEPER RECOMMITMENT AS AN ADULT.

Use the same four steps but start with the time just prior to your *recommitment*. Give some examples of how you were trying to meet your own needs without Christ but it wasn't working. Describe what caused you to realize you needed Christ directing your life and how you made a full commitment to him. Then explain how Jesus is currently meeting the deepest needs in your life.

C. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AT AN EARLY AGE AND NEVER STRAYED.

Use the same four steps with this modification: Point out some deep need or common problem that you see *other people* trying to resolve. Point out how unsuccessful their attempts are to meet their own need. Then explain why you never experienced that problem by trusting Christ early in life. Don't say the exact age. Continue with steps 3 and 4.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY

- Pray and ask God to give you the right words.
- Write it out on paper. God honors preparation.

- Keep it short and to the point. Don't lose site of your goal.
- Be succinct. Avoid excessive, unnecessary details.
- Try to keep your testimony below 3 minutes.

- Refer to experiences most people have in common.
- Share a slice of your life (a story) that they will identify with.

- Be honest about your continuing struggles. Your life is not perfect.
- Don't imply that all of your problems ended at conversion.

- Spend the most time on part 4: the difference Christ has made.
- Emphasize WHY you received Christ (the benefits of doing it).
- Mention the benefit of being certain of your destiny when you die.

- Don't exaggerate or brag about pre-conversion sins.
- Don't make negative remarks about other religions or people.
- Don't mention any denomination.

- Don't quote a lot of Scripture. (A maximum of one verse)
- Don't answer questions they haven't asked.

- Give concrete examples of the changes in your life.
- The more specific you are, the more dynamic it will be.
- Avoid using dates, names, and ages. It doesn't matter to them.

- Be prepared. Practice it until it feels and sounds natural.
- Read it aloud and edit it to make it conversational.
- Let a friend read it and make suggestions.

- Speak casually and informally, in a matter-of-fact tone.
- Don't dramatize or embellish your story.
- Don't share mystical experiences. Share on *their* level, not *yours*.

- Don't talk down to people. Don't sound "preachy."
- Use "*I, me, and my*" not "*You*". It's about you – not them.
- Use humor - it reduces tension and relaxes people. Smile!

- Choose a central theme. (See list)

POSSIBLE TESTIMONY THEMES

How Trusting Jesus has helped me deal with my...

Worries / Anxiety
Guilt/Shame
Anger / Temper
Emptiness/Lack of Purpose
Grief
Stress / Burnout
Low self-esteem
Poor health
Disappointment
Insecurity
Regrets
Discontent / frantic activity
Fears
Loneliness
Lack of emotional support
Addictions / Habits
Self-centeredness
Despair / Depression
Cheap thrills
Boredom with my life
Fear of Death
"Something was missing"
Bitterness & resentment
Pain of rejection
Marriage Problems
Financial Problems
Business Problems

How Trusting Jesus has given me

Inner Peace
Forgiveness and a fresh start
Patience and love
Purpose in life and meaning
Comfort and Joy
New energy and power for living
Significance. I am valuable to God
Strength to go on
Trust in his good plans
Confidence and sense of security
A second chance at life
Contentment and peace
Faith to face my fears
Assurance He's always with me.
A church family that supports me.
Power to change. Freedom
Love for other people
Hope
Real, lasting happiness
Adventure with God
Assurance of heaven
A sense of fulfillment
The ability to be free from my past
God's unconditional love
Positive changes in my marriage
Positive changes in my finances
Positive changes in my business

God allows experiences in my life so I can relate to others who need Christ!

COMMON GROUND CIRCUMSTANCES

Could you give a testimony about how Jesus helped you with any of the following experiences?

POSITIVE:

Adoption, breaking a bad habit, financial gain, raising kids, marriage strengthened or restored, new baby, new business, new friends, new home, new marriage, new job, success, renewed love, restored relationships

MAJOR CRISES

Abuse, accident, addiction, abortion, bankruptcy, broken dream, eating disorder, death, depression, disease, discrimination, divorce, empty nest, financial problems, infertility, incest, jail, rape, surgery

- **Realize you have more than one testimony!**
- Different situations will require different testimonies!
- Choose the testimony that best matches your listener.
- Realize you can tell about how others' lives have been changed too. Your small group can share your stories with each other.
- Don't use religious terms or clichés or broad generalities.
- Ask: "If I were an unbeliever, would this make sense to me?"

TRANSLATING CHRISTIAN WORDS

A cliché lexicon

CHRISTIAN TERM	WHEN TALKING WITH SEEKERS
"Blessed"	"Happy"
"I was Born Again"	"I was given a fresh, new start"
"I was Saved"	"My life changed at that moment"
"Jesus is my Lord"	"He's the Manager/CEO/Boss of my Life"
	"I put Jesus in the driver's seat."
"I repented"	"I changed my mind" (a mental U-turn)
"I had sinned"	"I knew I'd blown it"
"All are sinners"	"Nobody's perfect. No one bats 1000"
"I felt convicted"	"I realized that..."
"The Holy Ghost"	"God's Spirit"

PHRASES TO AVOID IN A TESTIMONY TO UNBELIEVER

"I just Praise the Lord for..." "Now I am so blessed" "Hallelujah!"
 "Amen" "It was glorious" "I was convicted" "The Lord laid on my heart"

HOW TO LEAD INTO YOUR TESTIMONY

1. Listen for problems or needs that Jesus has helped you with.

"You know, that used to be a big issue in my life too (or my marriage, etc). In fact, I felt pretty (hopeless, frustrated, etc.) But then I discovered something that made a major difference in my life."

2. Refer to something in the news or on TV that deals with a common need or problem.

"Did you read about... I can sure identify with how those people feel. It wasn't that long ago that I struggled with that too. But then something happened that changed everything for me..."

Start with a statement they'd agree with or situation they relate to.

"It seems like life is getting faster and faster."

"Sometimes life just gets so complicated."

"Life doesn't always turn out the way you planned it."

3. **Apologize to people you've known a long time but haven't witnessed to.**
"Bill, I need to apologize to you. We've known each other a long time, and I consider you to be a good friend. But friends don't keep secrets – and I've never told you about the best thing that ever happened to me. I guess I was afraid you'd think I was some kind of nut. Anyway... (begin your story)."

"Each day tell someone that he saves." Psalm 96:2b (LB)

II. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS- Explaining How to Accept Christ

The universal part of your Life Message is the Gospel, the *Good News* of how we can be saved, forgiven, and begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The moment you trust in Christ, you are called and commissioned to be a messenger of the Good News to people who haven't heard or responded to it.

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

1. GOD BECAME A MAN - SO _____

*"It is the **Good News** about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line; and by being raised from the dead he proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself."*

Rom. 1:3-4 (LB)

2. JESUS DIED FOR MY SINS - SO _____

*"It is this **Good News** that saves you if you firmly believe it... that Christ died for our sins. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said."*

1 Cor. 15: 2-4 (NLT)

"For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others."

2 Cor. 5:19 (LB)

3. JESUS DESTROYED DEATH - SO _____

*"Jesus destroyed death, and through the **Good News** he showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed."*

2 Tim. 1:10 (NCV)

4. SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT - SO _____

"People are made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus as a way to forgive sin through faith."

Rom. 3:24-25 (ICB)

5. IT IS BASED ON FAITH - SO _____

Jesus said, "Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15 (NIV)

"The **Good News** shows how God makes people right with himself - that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, 'Those who are right with God will live by trusting in him.'" Rom. 1:17 (NCV)

Memorize these 5 basic truths!

3 SIMPLE TOOLS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD (tract)

THE BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION

"God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together." 1 Tim. 2:4 (LB)

"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 (NLT)

HOW TO ESTABLISH A SPIRITUAL BASE (card)

(How to lead a person in a commitment to Christ)

III. COMMUNICATION TIPS: HOW TO SHARE CHRIST MORE EFFECTIVELY

1. RECOGNIZE YOUR PERSONAL STYLE OF WITNESSING

Your “*SHAPE*” not only determines your *ministry in the church* it influences *the style of your mission in the world!*

S piritual gifts	(1 Cor. 12, Rom. 8, Eph. 4)
H earth	(Matt. 12:34, Pr. 4:23, Ps. 37:4)
A bilities	(Ex. 31:3, 1 Cor. 12:5)
P ersonality	(1 Cor. 2:11 LB)
E xperiences	(2 Cor. 1:4, Rom. 8:28)

Right brain witness (*emphasizes personal experience*) “*all your heart*”

Left brain witness (*emphasizes facts and scripture*) “*all your mind*” *Need both!*

SOME COMMON STYLES:

The Serving Style
The Intellectual Style
The Bringing Style
The Testimonial Style
The Literature Style
The Confrontational Style

Don't feel guilty about styles you don't naturally use.
Don't judge others who don't use your style!
Realize that Jesus never used the same approach twice!

2. THINK THROUGH WHAT YOU MIGHT SAY

“*Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone.*” Col. 4:6 (GWT)

“*Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive.*” Pr. 16:23 (GN)

3. ASK GOD FOR HELP IN CHOOSING THE RIGHT WORD

“*Pray for me that when I speak, God will give me words so that I can tell the secret of the Good News without fear.” Eph. 6:19 (NCV)*

4. SHOW LOVE

“*If I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or clanging bell.*” 1 Cor. 13:1 (GN)

People don't care how much we know, until they know how much we care!

5. BE POSITIVE AND PLEASANT

"A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is." Pr. 16:21 (GN)

"Be tactful with those who are not Christians..." Col. 4:5 (JB)

"A word of encouragement does wonders!" Pr. 12:25 (LB)

6. NEVER USE ANY PUT-DOWNS

"Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out." Col. 4:6 (Mes)

Don't expect unbelievers to act like believers _____

7. TELL STORIES - GIVE EXAMPLES - People always relate to a story better.

"Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables."

Matt. 13:34 (NLT)

8. LIGHTEN UP! *"The Son of man came enjoying life..." Luke 7:34 (Ph)*

9. BE YOURSELF. BE NATURAL. DON'T TRY TO SOUND "SPIRITUAL"

"When I came to you, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy but simply to tell you what God has guaranteed." 1 Cor. 2:1 (JB)

"Your speech should be unaffected and logical so that your opponents may feel ashamed at finding nothing in which to pick holes." Titus 2:8 (Ph)

10. BE VULNERABLE AND AUTHENTIC

"Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives." 1 Thess. 2:8 (NCV)

"We've spoken frankly to you, we've opened our hearts wide." 2 Cor. 6:11 (GN)

*"Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ."
Phil. 1:27a (NCV)*

11. MEMORIZE A FEW KEY VERSES

"Concentrate... on being a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, and who knows how to use the Word of truth to the best advantage." 2 Tim. 2:15 (Ph)

12. KEEP IT SIMPLE

*"I fear... (Satan) will corrupt you from the simplicity that is in Christ."
2 Cor. 11:3 (KJV)*

13. REMEMBER, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS USING YOUR WORDS

You are not trying to convince anyone on your own.

“For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.”
1 Thess. 1:5a (NLT)

NEXT STEPS FOR SHARING YOUR LIFE MESSAGE

- Finish writing out your Testimony that you began in this session.
- Turn in the Testimony Survey to let us know what testimonies you could give.
- Begin praying for God to bring people into your life that you could share the Good News with in a natural, casual way.

SESSION 3

Fishing In My Mission Pond

“Jesus called out, ‘Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men.’” Matt. 4:19 (LB)

_____ and _____ go together!
Introducing people to Christ is like fishing, not hunting!

HUNTING

Aggressive
Based on confrontation

“Go out there & shoot them”
Uses “1 size fits all” bullet

Take your best shot & it’s over
Scares off the animal if you miss

The animal has no choice
Must be a skilled shot

VS

FISHING

More gentle
Based on attraction

“Get them to nibble on your bait”
Allows you to try all kinds of lures

Reeling in a fish requires *give & take*
You get more than one chance

The fish gets a choice!
Anyone can put bait into the water!

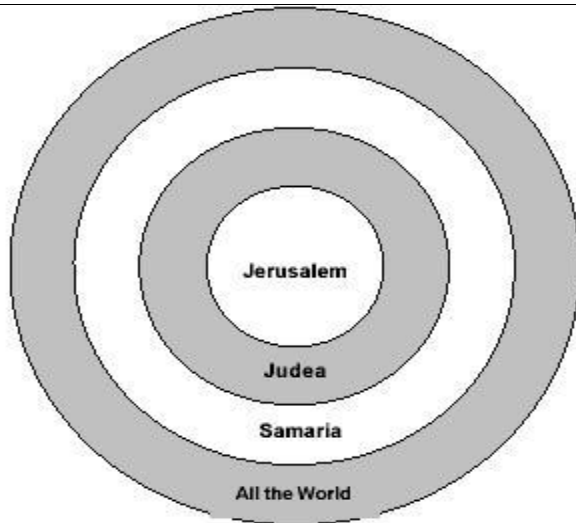
In Jesus’ day, they only used nets for fishing. Today, we have many kinds of methods for fishing, even bass boats with built-in sonar equipment!

5 KEYS TO SPIRITUAL FISHING

1. IDENTIFY YOUR _____

“You will be my witnesses - in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.” Acts 1:8b (NIV)

The New Testament Pattern



Our Church’s Pattern

“JERUSALEM” = COLORADO SPRINGS

“JUDEA” = AMERICA

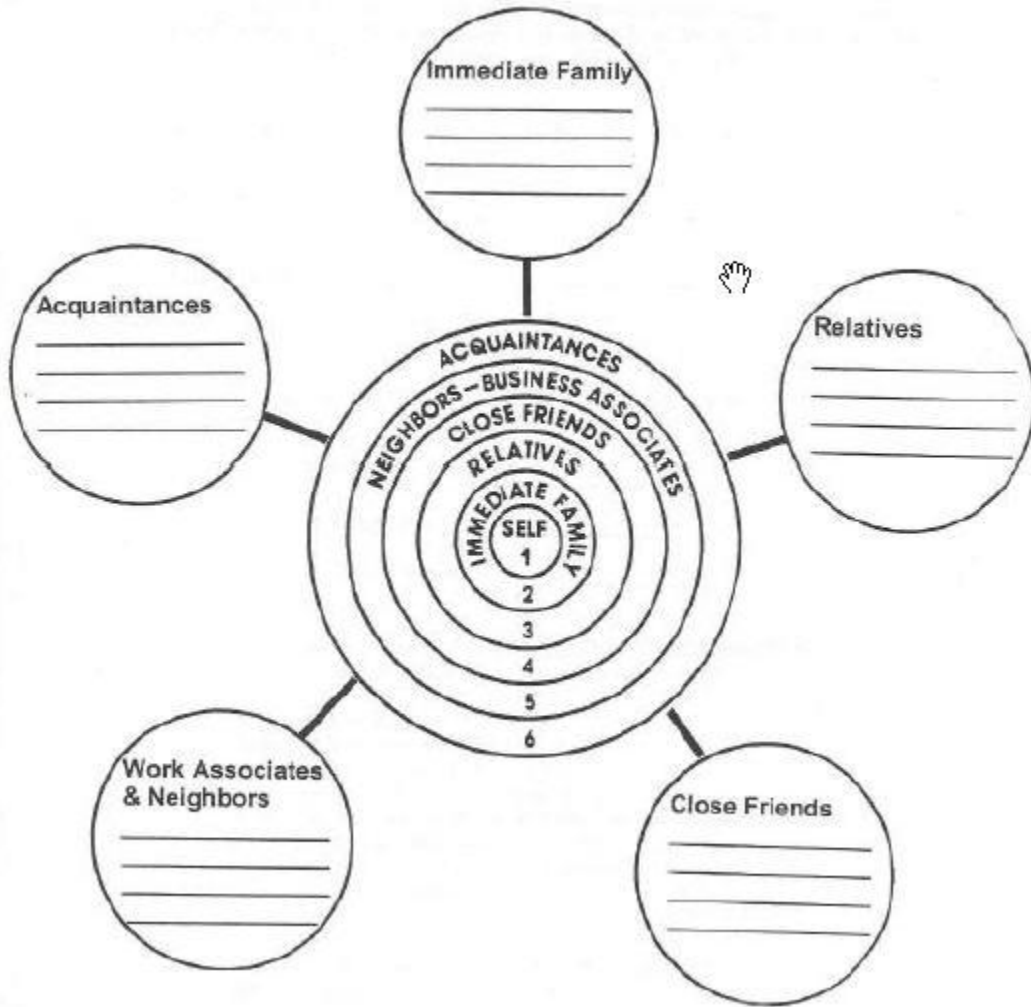
“SAMARIA” = LANGUAGE/ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMERICA

“WORLD” = EVERY COUNTRY

MY CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

(My Fishing Pond)

God holds me most responsible for people I already have relationships with.



Where do I start first? Those closest to me!

"Go home to your family and friends. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you." Mark 5:19 (NCV)

Family (John 1:40-46), Coworkers (Acts 18:1-4), Friends (John 4:39-42)
 People who cross our paths (John 4:4-30)

2. LEARN ABOUT _____ IN YOUR POND.

“To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews...to those who are without the law I became like a person who is without the law... to those who are weak I became weak so I could win the weak. I have become all things to all people so I could save some of them in any way possible. I do all this because of the Good News and so I can share in its blessings.” 1 Cor. 9:20-23 (NCV)

“Every prudent man acts out of knowledge.” Pr. 13:16 (NIV)

The more you know about a person, _____

A. WHAT ARE THEIR _____

“Jesus knew what they were thinking...”

Matt. 9:4, 12:25; Mark 2:8; Luke 5:22, 9:47, 11:17

A powerful filter: *Your Reticular Activating System*

What gets our attention:

1. Things we _____

2. Things that _____

3. Things that are _____

OUR CHURCH’S TARGET: All types of culture, ethnicities, races and color’s that don’t have a relationship with Christ.

They may or may not be well educated.

They may or may not be employed. Probably like their jobs & where they live.

Health and fitness are high priorities.

They are skeptical of "organized" religion.

They think they are enjoying life more now than ever.

They are self-satisfied, even a little smug, about their success.

They prefer the casual and informal over the formal.

They are over-extended in both time and money.

Discuss: What else are unbelievers in our area like today?

-
-
-
-

B. WHAT DO I _____ WITH THEM?

“...Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ.”
1 Cor. 9:22b-23 (LB)

This is the fundamental secret of telling others about Christ.

“With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity.” Mark 4:33 (Mes)

- Before you can share the Good News, you must first find _____.
- Before you can *reach* them, you must be able to _____ to them.

Make a list of areas where you have common ground with the unbelievers in your life.

- Common Experiences
- Common Interests
- Common Needs
- Common Hurts

3. REMEMBER THAT FISH GET _____

“Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers...”
Col. 4:5 (GN)

This is called “*Receptivity.*” How _____ are they to the Good News?

It is important to realize that people go through a process in coming to faith in Christ and they must be approached differently depending on where they are.

Examples of levels of spiritual receptivity

“Listen to me, you stubborn-hearted, you who are far from righteousness.”
Isa. 46:12 (NIV)

(Jesus with an unbeliever) *“Realizing this man’s understanding, Jesus said to him, ‘You are not far from the Kingdom of God.’”* Mark 12:34(LB)

“He has brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were very far away from him, and to us Jews who were near.” Eph. 2:17 (LB)

*“Now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ.”
Eph. 2:13 (NLT)*

The Parable of Soils (Matt. 13); Four kinds of receptivity
Hard soil = The defensive heart
Shallow soil = The impulsive heart
Soil with weeds = The distracted heart
Good Soil = The receptive heart

- Facts:
- Some people are *close* to making a commitment to Christ, while others have a *long way* to go!
 - Effective evangelism relies on assessing how receptive a person is and then helping them take the next step.

HOW PEOPLE COME TO CHRIST AND THEN GROW

(Revised Engels with Purpose-Driven Process by Rick Warren)

- 6 Self-satisfied, skeptical, resistant, or spiritually apathetic. (*Resistant stage*)
- 5 Becomes aware of an unmet need or spiritual void in life. (*Receptive stage*)
- 4 Begins looking for answers to questions or solutions to problems. (*Seeker stage*)
- 3 Considers the differences between themselves and believers. (*Consideration stage*)
- 2 Inquire about why and how to become a Christian. (*Understanding stage*)
- 1 Ready to believe and receive Christ. (*Ready stage*) The fruit is ripe!

Ground Zero: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST!

- +1 Baptized and connected to a church family. (*Membership - CLASS 101*)
- +2 Practicing the habits necessary for spiritual growth. (*Maturity – CLASS 201*)
- +3 Using God-given talents (“*SHAPE*”) to serve others. (*Ministry – CLASS 301*)
- +4 Sharing the Good News with non-believers. (*Mission – CLASS 401*)
- +5 Living out one’s Life Purpose to the glory of God. (*Magnification – CLASS 501*)

At what stage would a person say...

“I think religion is a crutch for weak people.” _____

“Please show me how I can become a Christian.” _____

“I’m really fed up with the stress I’m under.” _____

“I think everyone will go to heaven.” _____

“I’ve been reading a New Age book on spirituality.” _____

“Why do Christians seem so happy?” _____

INSIGHTS

- Evangelism is a _____ of moving people through the stages!
- People move through these stages *at different speeds*.
- People often require *multiple exposures* at each stage before moving on.
- A person can *get stuck* at any stage. The #1 reason is _____
- Every stage requires a _____ by me!

“My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos' work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts.”

1 Cor. 3:6 (LB)

WHAT TO DO WITH PEOPLE AT EACH STAGE

What do you do when someone is at the **RESISTANT** stage?

They are skeptical, self-satisfied, resistant, or spiritually apathetic. (-6)

1. _____ to become receptive.
2. _____ through love and service.
3. Invite them to a fun _____ (like *Summer's End*).
4. What NOT to do with resistant people: DON'T _____

“Don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.”

2 Tim. 2:23-26 (NLT)

Note: Some people we might think are “resistant” are actually just *unaware* of the gospel or they've never heard it in terms they can understand!

What do you do when someone is at the RECEPTIVE stage?

They are aware of an unmet need or spiritual void in their life. (-5)

1. _____ in a practical way.
2. Share _____ about the same need.
3. Tell them that you are _____ for them.
4. Ask open-ended questions. *“Tell me about the spiritual side of your life.”*
5. Assess if they are ready to skip to stage –2 or –1

“Evangelism is helping people discover how God is already at work in their lives.” - Sam Williams

What makes people receptive? _____
(either positive or negative)

HOLMES STRESS SCALE

LIFE EVENT	STRESS LEVEL
Death of a spouse	100 points
Divorce	73
Marriage/Separation	65
Jail term	63
Death of a close family member	63
Personal injury or major illness	53
Getting married	50
Fired from work	47
Marriage reconciliation	45
Retirement	45
Major change in health of family member	44
Pregnancy	40
Sex difficulties	39
Gaining a new family member	39
Major change at work	39
Major change in financial status	38
Death of a close friend	37
Son or daughter leaving home	29
Trouble with in-laws	29
Wife begins or stops work	26
Trouble with boss	23
Change in residence	20

- What do you do when someone is at the SEEKER stage?**
They are looking for answers to questions or solutions to problems. (-4)

1. Invite them to our weekly _____.
2. Invite them to an _____.
3. Give them reading materials.
4. Open a dialog on spiritual issues with questions like:
 “Have you ever considered what Jesus said?”
 “What do you need to know to take the next step?”
 “How can I help you?”

- What do you do when someone is at the CONSIDERATION stage?**
They begin to notice the real differences between themselves and believers. (-3)

1. Introduce them to _____.
2. Invite them to a small group.
3. Discuss the different ways believers respond to life.

- What do you do when someone is at the UNDERSTANDING stage?**
They need to understand why and how to become a Christian. (-2)

1. Explain God's plan of salvation!
2. Explain how you made your decision for Christ.
3. Help them see the _____.

- What do you do when someone is READY to receive Christ? (-1)**

Offer to lead them in a prayer of commitment!


- What do you do after they have RECEIVED CHRIST?**

1. Take them to Class 101!
2. Encourage and _____ their baptism!
3. Get them into a new believer's small group!

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM PLANNING CARD

A Tool For Cultivating Eternal Friendships

"Work at bringing others to Christ." 2 Tim. 2:4c (NLT)

 FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM How to Cultivate an Eternal Relationship																
Name of Friend	Possible Activity	Pray for them regularly	Build a relational bridge	Do something fun together	Do a favor for them	Share my testimony	Invite them to my home	Invite them to church	Bring them to church	Hear another's testimony	Give an evangelistic booklet	Present the gospel (The Bridge)	Get them involved in an evangelistic Bible Study	Take them to an evangelistic meeting or crusade**	They pray to receive Christ **	Start followup
		-6	-5	-4		-3	-2	-1	0	+1						

HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP

A plan for sharing your faith

Good friendships are usually intentional, rather than accidental. Developing friendships with unbelievers often requires going the second mile, taking some risks, and moving outside your own comfort zone. And with our busy lifestyles, it takes *planning*. If you don't plan to cultivate friendships with unbelievers, you'll find that you never have the time to do so.

"We should make our plans - counting on God to direct us." Pr. 16:9

STEP #1 : BECOME AWARE - of the unbelievers God has placed in your life.

- ✓ Make a list of them by name.
- ✓ Realize that they are your responsibility.
- ✓ Assess each person's level of spiritual receptivity.
- ✓ Discover and write down what their interests and needs are.
- ✓ Look for areas of common ground that you can build on.
- ✓ Figure out what kind of testimony each would respond to.

STEP #2: COMMIT TO PRAYER

- ✓ Use your list to pray daily for your unsaved friends.
- ✓ Pray that God will draw them to himself. John 6:44
- ✓ Pray that God will remove their spiritual blindness. 2 Cor. 4:3-4
- ✓ Pray that the Holy Spirit will make their heart receptive. Jn.16:8-13
- ✓ Pray you'll get the opportunity to share a clear witness. Col.4 3-5
- ✓ Pray that God will give you wisdom in what to say. James 1:5
- ✓ Pray the Holy Spirit will use the words you say. 1 Thess. 1:5

STEP #3: SHOW YOU CARE

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect as people, not as "prospects".
- ✓ Be a genuine friend. Help them in practical ways.
- ✓ Be a good listener. It is a great way to show love.
- ✓ Make service your aim, not recruitment.
- ✓ Invite them into your home.
- ✓ Consciously focus your concern on meeting their needs.
- ✓ Go out of your way to love them until they ask you why.
- ✓ Accept people as they are without being judgmental.

STEP #4: BE READY TO SHARE

- ✓ Identify yourself as a positive, joyful follower of Christ.
- ✓ Share a testimony when the occasion naturally arises. (It will)
- ✓ Never force the Good News. Be patient. God is working!
- ✓ Use crisis situations to show why we all need God.
- ✓ Ask questions that lead to spiritual discussions.
- ✓ Give them appropriate message tapes or books to read.
- ✓ Concentrate on the essential. Don't get sidetracked by hang-ups.
- ✓ Invite them to a seeker service at church.
- ✓ Offer to lead in a prayer to commit after sharing the Good News.

NEXT STEPS FOR FISHING IN MY MISSION POND

- Prepare a Friendship Evangelism Planning Card for reaching your unsaved friends.
- Read *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry & Mary*, Lee Strobel, (Zondervan)

Internet Links: Communication skills for evangelism:

<http://www.gospelcom.net/iv/students/library/commskills.html>

Using the Internet for evangelism:

<http://www.webauthors.org/guide/web-evangelism.html#content1>

THE POTENTIAL OF RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

SESSION 4

Becoming A World-Class Christian

GOD'S GLOBAL PLAN

God has always been interested in the *entire* world.

*“Jesus said, ‘Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.’”
Mark 16:15 (NCV)*

*“And the Good News must first be made known in every nation before the end-time finally comes.”
Mark 10:13 (LB)*

Many Christians mistakenly assume that the responsibility for taking the Good News to all parts of the world belongs only to missionaries and pastors. But the Bible clearly points out that it is every believer's responsibility to be a *world-class* Christian. Every member is a messenger!

We are all called to be _____

Now, with the Internet, digital communication technologies, and air transportation available to practically every corner of the planet, our responsibility has increased - but *the task has also gotten much easier!* Our world is shrinking. When you can fly across the ocean in less time than it takes to drive to California, the opportunity to be a part of God's Global Mission around the world is now available to all of us!

DEFINITIONS:

MISSION: *The overall task of the church to fulfill its 5 purposes as given in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission – worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry.*

EVANGELISM: *Introducing people to Jesus Christ. Sharing the Good News.*

MISSIONS: *Fulfilling the 5 purposes of the church in a different culture than your own.*

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOD DOING?

The Status of Christianity in the World (updated July 2013)

“Look at the nations and be amazed! Watch and be astounded at what I will do! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.” Hab. 1:5 (NLT)

THE GOOD NEWS
THE CHURCH IS FAR BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

- There are over 2,000,000,000 Christians in the world, according to David Barrett, the leading researcher on the church around the world.
- The Church is growing explosively *outside* of Western countries.
 - In 1900 – 81% of believers were Caucasian.
 - In 1981 – 51% of believers were Caucasian.
 - In 2000 – 40% of believers are Caucasian.

Examples: in 2000...

In Brazil - the church is growing 17-20,000 new believers *a week!*

In China – the church is growing 20-30,000 new believers *a day!*

- The availability of the Bible in other language has increased dramatically.
 - **1800** – 66 languages with some portion of Scripture, 40 with the whole Bible
 - **1900** – 537 languages
 - **2013** – 2800 languages. Of these, 518 have a complete Bible, another 1,275 have the New Testament. 1,005 have at least one book of the Bible. (<http://wycliffe.org.uk/wycliffe/about/vision-whatwedo.html#>)
- The Jesus Film has been seen by over 2 billion people and over 100 million have prayed to receive Christ!
- The number of mission agencies is increasing
 - In 1900 – 600 mission agencies
 - In 1998 – 4,650
 - In 2025 – 8,500 estimatedIn 2002, the majority of missionaries were from developing nations!
- The Church is cooperating in world mission partnerships as never before.

Church Planting Indicators

Sowing

- How many people heard a **gospel witness**? 1,430,627
- How many people had an **opportunity to respond** to Christ? 882,242
- How many who received a gospel witness do you believe are **seekers**? 226,564

Reaping

- How many who heard a gospel witness became **new believers**? 337,385
- How many believers were **baptized**? 266,451

Gathering

- How many **groups** intended to become churches are meeting now? 10,312
- How many **new groups** intending to become churches are meeting now? 5,204
- How many **new churches** were formed? 24,073
- How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** are meeting now? 199,162
- How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** have **ceased to meet**? 3,231
- How many **baptized believers met** in groups or churches? 2,578,919

Discipling

- How many people met in on-going **Bible studies**? 355,532
- How many people are being personally **mentored**? 26,358

Training

- How many men have received **practical pastoral training**? 21,797
- How many people received **training to start new churches**? 51,547
- How many individuals received **advanced theological education**? 4,311
- How many believers were trained in **other training** opportunities? 106,429

Beyond This People

- How many people groups are **engaging their own people** inside the country? 141
- How many people groups where **church planting can be sustained** without any outside assistance? 23
- How many people groups are **engaging other** people groups or urban segments **inside the country**? 153
- How many people groups are **engaging other** people groups or urban segments **outside the country**? 41

***2012 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT, A summary of Southern Baptist work overseas in 2011**

<http://public.imb.org/globalresearch/Pages/ResearchDataAnnual.aspx>

THE WORLD SITUATION TODAY

- With 6.9 billion people in the world, over 4 billion people are lost without Christ!
- There are still over 6,917 **unreached people groups** in the world. (peoplegroups.org). 1.7 billion people have *no known visible witness* for Christ! They are never going to hear about Christ unless someone goes to their culture to tell them.

The four words that best describe the unreached people in our world are:

- Urbanization will increase dramatically during the next two decades (<http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch6en/conc6en/15largestcities.html>)
 - For the first time in history, more people live in cities than rural.
 - In 2010, a high proportion of the world's population lives in large urban agglomerations. By 2010 there were 21 cities over 10 million in size (the largest being Tokyo, having 36.6 million inhabitants.)
 - In the span of half a century, several cities have more than tripled their population, underlining that urbanization has been the world's leading socioeconomic change for at least half a century.
 - By 2025, over 25% of the world's population will live in squatter settlements connected to these huge cities.
 - Currently there are more than 100 million street children in mega-cities; they live and sleep on the street.
- Youth under 20 continue to increase
 - 2000 – 2.383 billion under 20
 - 2005 – 2.404 billion, an increase of 21 million in 5 years
 - 2010 – 2.436 billion, an increase of 32 million in 5 years
- Los Angeles is the most ethnically diverse city in the world with over 176 languages spoken.

The problem is not the harvest. It's the lack of _____

"Jesus said to his followers, 'There are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them.'" Matt. 9:37 (NCV)

"Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. But before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him; and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them; and before someone can go and tell them, that person must be sent."
Rom. 10:13-15 (NCV)

OPEN BIBLE'S GLOBAL VISION

It has been our goal to send people out!

THE OPEN BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH VISION

From The Pastors

"It is the dream to create a place where the hurting, the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused of all different cultures, generations, and economic strata's can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement.

It is the dream of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the hundreds of thousands of residents in El Paso County.

It is the dream of welcoming and maintaining 450 committed members into the fellowship of our church family - loving, learning, laughing, and living in harmony together. Then taking 50 of those members identifying, equipping, resourcing, and sending them to begin new works. Constantly reproducing this model eventually birthing at least one new church a year.

It is the dream of developing people to spiritual maturity through Bible studies, small groups, seminars, retreats, and a Bible school for our members.

It is the dream of equipping every believer for a significant ministry by helping them discover the gifts and talents God gave them.

It is the dream of sending out hundreds of career missionaries and church workers all around the world and empowering every member for a personal life mission in the world. It is the dream of sending our members by the thousands on short-term mission projects to every continent.

I stand before you today and state in confident assurance that these dreams will become reality. Why? Because they are inspired by God!

Open Bible's Theme for the 21st Century:

"Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind." Psalm 67:2 (LB)

Our Goals:

1. To have every 401 graduates go on **at least one** "on-mission" experience in each of the four areas of our Acts 1:8:
 - *In our own community*
 - *In our county*
 - *A cross-cultural experience within the U.S.*
 - *A project in another country*
2. To have 25% of our members involved in some type of volunteer *on-mission* experience every year.
3. To see 100 full-time career ministers called by God out of Open Bible Baptist Church. *(For many, this will be a new career in the second half of life.)*

HOW TO GET IN ON WHAT GOD IS DOING

“Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

John 13:17 (NIV)

Quick Start to Missions Opportunities

	Activity	Next Step
Local <i>(Jerusalem)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bring a friend to Church <input type="checkbox"/> Be a part of a visitation/ follow-up Call Team <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a Evangelism conference <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Prayer Walk <input type="checkbox"/> Become a small group Mission Champion <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer with the Hospital/shut-in Visitation ministry 	
North America <i>(Judea)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> House a visiting pastor or missionary <input type="checkbox"/> Go on short term mission <input type="checkbox"/> Help with our new church plants in El Paso County <input type="checkbox"/> Be a tour guide for visiting international pastors 	
Cross Cultural <i>(Samaria)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer in a prison ministries <input type="checkbox"/> Help families in crisis <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor at-risk youth <input type="checkbox"/> Donate shoes, jackets and blankets for homeless <input type="checkbox"/> Tutor under-privileged kids in the area 	
International <i>(the World)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fill a shoe-box for Operation Christmas Child <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor an orphan <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle cans to purchase Bibles for Zimbabwe <input type="checkbox"/> Internet Prayer Ministry for regions of the world <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a child in a developing country <input type="checkbox"/> Reach out to the poorest of the poor in Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> Start an email pen-pal connection to a long term missionary <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a short-term international mission trip 	

EVERYDAY MISSIONS

20 IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING A MISSION HEART

1. Create a plan for inviting your neighbors to bridge events at the church (Christmas & Easter services, Summer church, Youth and Children's events, Journey Groups).
2. Host an "Open House" to get to know your neighbors. (Hand deliver the invitations so that you make face-to-face contact).
3. See the schools as a mission field. Volunteer as a chaperone for field trips, dances, grad night or PTA.
4. Establish a guestroom in your house to house missionaries & pastors.
5. Invite a friend to go to a movie with you, and then, over coffee, utilize the movie to discuss their outlook on life.
6. Leave a piece of evangelistic literature for a waiter or waitress along with a generous tip!
7. Memorize Luke 19:10 and create a list of the potential "lost" people you'd like to reach in your area.
8. Invite some people from other cultures into a discussion on the question, "What do you think a Christian is?"
9. Make a list of various ethnic and cultural groups you come across in El Paso County.
10. Memorize I John 3:16-18.
11. Attend a local cultural or ethnically distinctive event in an effort to understand the cultures around your area.
12. Read Matthew 25 and try to identify one project per month that you can do for the types of people Jesus lists.
13. Read [Six Dangerous Questions](#) by Paul Borthwick.
14. Pray for the country on the label of your clothes.
15. Get an up-to-date map of the world and prominently post it to provoke prayer.
16. Pray for a week for the Muslim countries in North Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and Indonesia.
17. Pray for your children to be open to wherever God might call them in service around the world.
18. Start an email or pen pal connection to any of our long-term international missionaries sent from IMB or NAMB.
19. Pick up a copy of "On-Mission" or "Commission" magazine to continue your mission education.
20. Listen to the world news report and pray through the countries mentioned.

OPEN BIBLE'S PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

1. Consider which of the 14 Regions of the world you'd like to learn about, pray for, study, and eventually serve through an *on-mission* trip or by being a stateside team partner for an unreached people group.

These 14 Regional Leaders oversee nearly 5,000 missionaries who work with national Christian leaders and Unreached People Groups.

**East Asia
Central and Southern Asia
Southeast Asia & Oceania
Western Pacific**

**Western South America
Eastern South America
Middle (Central) America
The Caribbean Basin**

**Northern Africa & Middle East
West Africa
Eastern Africa
Southern Africa**

**Western Europe
Central and Eastern Europe**

For more information on our missionaries: <http://www.imb.org/home.htm>

GOD IS DOING AMAZING THINGS AROUND THE WORLD

"This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours that very first day you heard and understood the truth about God's great kindness to sinners." Col. 1:6 (NLT)

Saturation Evangelism: Using every available means, at every available time, to reach every available person!

"I become all things to all men so that I may save some of them by all means possible." 1 Cor. 9:22 (GN)

GOD'S CHALLENGE TO US

*"Look at the nations and watch - and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."
Hab. 1:5 (NIV)*

"Your faith in God has become known throughout the world." 1 Thess. 1:8 (NIV)

"... God determined the times set for everyone and the exact places where they should live..." Acts 17:26 (NIV)

THE BIG QUESTION: AM I WILLING TO BE USED BY GOD?

*"For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."
2 Chron. 16:9 (NIV)*

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE ON - MISSION FOR GOD

We must make 5 major shifts in our thinking.

1. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM _____ TO _____.

"When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

"For the Holy Spirit, God's gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them. If you will stir up this inner power, you will never be afraid to tell others about our Lord..."
2 Tim. 1:7-8 (LB)

2. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM _____ TO _____.

*"If you ask me, I will give you the nations; all the people on earth will be yours."
Ps. 2:8 (NCV)*

Watch the world news with "missionary eyes" then pray!

*"From one man God created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose in all of this was that the nations should seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him--though he is not far from any one of us."
Acts 17:26-27 (NLT)*

3. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM _____ TO _____.

*"Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God."
Luke 9:62 (LB)*

"No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier." 2 Tim. 2:4 (NASB)

"The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you." Matt. 6:33 (NCV)

"Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met."
Matt. 6:33 (Mes)

4. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM _____ TO _____.

“Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live!” Mark 8:35 (LB)

“Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back... and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.” Heb. 12:1 (LB)

5. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM _____ TO _____.

“Since God has shown us great mercy... offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him...” Rom. 12:1 (NCV)

“...Give yourselves completely to God – every part of you... you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes.” Rom. 6:13 (LB)

Jesus replied, “Let me assure you that no one has ever given up anything... for love of me and to tell others the Good News, who won't be given back, a hundred times over... All these will be his here on earth, and in the world to come he shall have eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30 (LB)

MY LIFE INVESTMENT GUIDE

What percentage is used for God's Kingdom?

C=my current status X=beginning today

**|-----| MY TIME
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100**

**|-----| MY TALENT
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100**

**|-----| MY TREASURE
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100**

“Store your treasures in heaven where they cannot be destroyed by moths or rust and where thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your treasure is.” Matt. 6:20-21 (NCV)

The Best Investment: Getting people Into Heaven!

“I tell you, use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven.” Luke 16:9 (NLT)

**WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?
THE CHOICE IS YOURS**

"David served God's purpose in his own generation...." Acts 13:36a (NIV)

*"If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work."
2 Tim. 2:21 (NLT)*

*"I want to finish the race I'm running. I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus-- the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness."
Acts 20:24 (GWT)*

*"For what is it we live for, that gives us hope and joy and is our proud reward and crown? It is you! Yes, you will bring us much joy as we stand together before our Lord Jesus Christ when he comes back again. For you are our trophy and joy."
1 Thess. 2:19-29 (LB)*

Will anyone be in heaven because of you?

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