

## STUDY GUIDE

### DUTCHTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

LIFE ON MISSION

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MATTHEW 28:19-20; ACTS 1:8; JOHN 20:21

01/01/2017

#### MAIN POINT

God has invited all of us to live life on mission for Him.

#### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**If people described you with a single word, phrase, or activity, what would it be? Why?**

**Do you think most people would be able to describe you by accurately identifying a characteristic or an activity that you value? What would be your characteristic?**

We are all different and God has given each of us unique interests and abilities. God created you to live on mission for Him. What would it look like if we used the person God made us to be and the influence He has given us to live all of life on mission for Him? Today we'll be looking at ways each of us can use our different interests, abilities, and areas of influence for a common purpose. God is inviting each of us to join His great redemptive work by living life on mission.

#### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**WATCH SESSION 1 OF LIFE ON MISSION.**

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**How often do you talk about your faith? How often do you share the gospel?**

**What prevents you from talking about God's design, our brokenness, and the gospel?**

Most Christians, if they were being honest, would admit that they share their faith much less than they would like. Whether it is fear, a perceived lack of knowledge, or any number of reasons, we stop short of sharing our faith with others. But when we don't share our faith, we stop short of living on mission for God. Throughout Life On Mission, we will take a closer look at the story of the gospel and what it means to engage on that mission and share the gospel with others.

**In this session Ronnie said, "In dealing with today's culture, be courageous, but wise." What are some examples of being courageous but unwise? How can you be both courageous and wise in interacting with people?**

**Before this session, what did you honestly think of when you heard the word "mission"? Has your mission**

**changed? If so, how?**

**How would you define “the mission of God”?**

Christ came to redeem the world because people are lost and in desperate need for Jesus Christ. Mission is more than something we do for a week at a time in an impoverished area of another country, it is the lifeblood of Christianity. All Christians are called to engage in the mission of God and to make disciples. God has given each of us passions and influence to contribute to His mission to the nations. There is no such thing as an “unsent Christian.”

**HAVE A FEW VOLUNTEERS READ MATTHEW 28:19-20; ACTS 1:8; JOHN 20:21.**

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**Which of Jesus’ words most convict, challenge, or encourage you to live life on mission? Why?**

**How can you use your influence in your community to be involved in God’s redemptive mission?**

**Whom did God use to share the gospel with you? Share a brief story of the way you came to faith in Christ.**

**When has God used you to share the gospel? Share a brief story.**

The mission of God is for every follower of Jesus Christ. The words from Jesus we just read are not a suggestion to some Christians who are called to evangelism and missions, but a command to all Christians to participate in the mission of God. Why has God placed you in the relationships you have, in the school you attend, in the place you go to work? To live life on mission for Him. In this mission we find the true purpose behind all of life.

## **APPLICATION**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What are a few easy ways you could be involved in your community for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ?**

**Think about all the areas God has given you influence—it could include your home, your work, a hobby or interest, or another place—how could you use your influence in these areas to live on mission for Jesus?**

**Ronnie told a story of a man at his church who used his influence as a CEO to make disciples of Jesus Christ. What stories do you know of people who have taken on the mission of God?**

## **PRAY**

Pray that you would see that life is bigger than you and that you were created for a great purpose. Ask God to help you see the world the way He sees it and people the way He sees them. Thank God for involving you in His mission to the world.

## **COMMENTARY**

**MATTHEW 28:19-20.**

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28:19 The command to extend their mission worldwide brings to a climax Matthew's repeated theme of Gentile participation in God's salvation. The inclusion of four Gentile women in Jesus' genealogy and the summons of the magi to worship the infant Christ foreshadowed the disciples' mission of making disciples of all nations. Baptism marked a person's entrance into the faith community. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is a reference to the Trinity. Matthew's language shows that a clear understanding of Jesus' nature and identity as God was required before baptism.

28:20 The Great Commission (vv. 19-20) is preceded by a reference to Jesus' authority and followed by the promise of Jesus' spiritual presence among us. Both are necessary if we are to fulfill our God-given mission.

### **ACTS 1:8**

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The major focus of the book of Acts is stated in this verse. Jesus said believers would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, empowering them to be His witnesses in Jerusalem first and then spreading to the ends of the earth. Note three things about how this unfolds. First, the empowering presence is to be the Holy Spirit, not Jesus Himself. Jesus prepared His disciples for the transition when the Holy Spirit would come to be a constant presence in His bodily absence. Second, the growth of the church would come about through the witness of the disciples. From the beginning, the church is depicted as a community that actively witnesses to their faith in Jesus Christ. Third, the result of this witness will be measurable, geographical growth. This growth will begin in Jerusalem and then spread through ever-widening concentric circles to other Jewish areas (e.g., Judea), to areas on the edges of Judaism (e.g., Samaria), and eventually to "the ends of the earth," which may refer to the known world of that time, likely coextensive with the reach of the Roman Empire. As new lands and peoples were discovered in coming centuries, the church understood that it must keep expanding its witness to reach the newfound "ends of the earth."

### **JOHN 20:21**

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This verse contains the Gospel of John's version of the Great Commission, which culminates in the presentation of Jesus as the One sent from the Father (see note at 3:16-18). Now the sent One (Jesus) had turned Sender, commissioning His followers to serve as His messengers and representatives (17:18). All three persons of the Godhead are involved in this commissioning. As Jesus was sent by God the Father, so He, the Son, was sending out His disciples (20:21), equipping them with the Holy Spirit (v. 22). John thus demonstrated that each member of the Godhead is involved in the redemption plan and the mission of spreading the gospel to the world. The Holy Spirit was given dramatically and permanently a short time later (Ac 2).