

PERSONAL MISSION WORKSHOP

SESSION 1: THE MISSION OF GOD



“Understanding the mission of God and discovering how he has uniquely gifted me to love and serve His church and the places where I live, work, and play.”

Personal Mission

This Personal Mission Workshop is designed to help you identify your gifts and passions, and your areas of influence, and then equip you to confidently join God on his mission. Your personal mission “flows from and participates in the mission of God.”¹ But that begs the question: what is *the mission of God*?

You might hear that phrase often in the church, but have you ever stopped long enough to ponder it? The immediate response for many is to point to Jesus’ commissioning of his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20, but that passage deals with our participation in the mission of God. It presupposes there is a reason why God would command us to make disciples. So let’s back up for a second, and think together: what is the mission of God?

THE MISSION OF GOD.

The mission of God is to glorify himself by redeeming a people from sin and restoring creation to its intended purposes.

This mission is unfolded and revealed to us through God’s Word—the Bible. The Bible is one book made up of several smaller books that work together to tell one big story about God redeeming a people for himself. This big story is known as the *meta-narrative*. What I’d like us to do today is look at the Bible and get a clear grasp of the meta-narrative of Scripture so that we are able to understand God’s mission in order to discern how we may join him.

Summit’s Gospel Statement.

The one and only God, our Righteous King,² created us in His image and for His glory, to love, know, and represent Him.³ We made a choice, however, to violate God’s righteousness with our sin and thus we are unable to love, know, and represent Him on our own. Our sin and lack of righteousness deserves a punishment, the anger and judgment of God.⁴ But because we cannot bear this punishment on our own, and because of His great love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus, who was both fully human and fully God,⁵ to live a perfectly righteous life and to die on a cross that He might save us from the punishment that our sin deserves.⁶ After three days, Jesus was raised from the dead, showing that God the Father had accepted the sacrifice of the Son, Jesus, on behalf of His people.⁷ And now, God calls us to

¹ Wright, Christopher J. H., *The Mission of God* (InterVarsity Press; Downers Grove, IL, 2006), 23.

² Genesis 1:1; Exodus 24:1-8; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 111:7; Isaiah 6:1-3; 54:5; Revelation 4:8-11

³ Genesis 1:26-29; Deuteronomy 6:5; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 3:7-11

⁴ Genesis 3; Deuteronomy 24:16; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:9-23; Romans 5:12-14; Romans 6:23

⁵ Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; John 1:1-14; 3:16; 10:30; 18:33-37; Colossians 1:15-19; 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-3

⁶ Isaiah 53; Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 13:26-39; Romans 5:6-21; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2

⁷ John 2:19-22; John 20:21; Romans 5:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 12-23; 1 Peter 1:3; 20-21

trust in Jesus—to have faith in the sufficiency of His work on the cross and to repent, changing our minds about the sufficiency of our old way of living. In trusting Jesus to save us, we are reconciled to God. This means that we are forgiven of our sin, credited with Christ’s righteousness, adopted in as sons and daughters, and given new and eternal life.⁸ In being reconciled to God, we now have relationship with Him. This relationship means that we have received the presence of God’s Spirit in our lives, thus producing the fruit of the gospel and enabling us to live as kingdom citizens who love, know, and represent God as we were created to do.⁹

Q1: What book of the Bible are you reading right now? Consider God’s activity according to that book and jot down some ways his activity reveals his mission.

Q2: How can a right understanding of the mission of God strengthen your intimacy with him?

THE MISSION OF GOD’S PEOPLE.

“The mission of the church—as seen in the Great Commissions, the early church in Acts, and the life of the apostle Paul—is to win people to Christ and build them up in Christ. Making disciples—that’s our task.”¹⁰

¹⁸ *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:18-20)

Matthew 28 is known as the Great Commission, but the commissioning of God’s people began long before this.

²⁶ *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them...* (Genesis 1:26-28)

¹ *Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* (Genesis 12:1-3)

¹ *Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!* (Psalm 105:1)

⁶ *“I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”* (Isaiah 49:6)

⁸ Luke 13:1-5; 15:1-7; John 3:1-15; 3:16; 8:24; 10:10; Acts 2:38; 3:18-21; Romans 2:4; 3:21-26; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 5:21; 7:10; Galatians 4:1-7; Ephesians 2:4-8; Colossians 2:13-14

⁹ John 15:16; Romans 7:4; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:20; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 2:8-10

¹⁰ DeYoung, Kevin & Gilbert, Greg, *What is the Mission of the Church?* (Crossway; Wheaton, IL, 2011), 63.

³ *And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.* (Isaiah 60:3)

What was understood in the OT was also obeyed by Jesus' disciples and their disciples in the NT...

¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* ¹⁸ *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;* ¹⁹ *that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.* ²⁰ *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.* (2 Cor. 5:17-20)

⁹ *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* ¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Q1: Remember your salvation. Who shared the gospel with you? Who discipled you as a new believer?

Q2: What holds you back from participating in the mission of God?

YOUR PERSONAL MISSION.

¹² *I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,* ¹³ *though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,* ¹⁴ *and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁵ *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.* ¹⁶ *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.* ¹⁷ *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.* (1 Tim. 1:12-17)

One of the most amazing things about the Lord is that he sees individuals, loves individuals, gifts individuals, and invites individuals into his mission. Like a good father cares for the whole family by loving each individual member, God loves the whole church by caring for each individual member. And this personal love is revealed by the gift of personal mission.

The Bible is clear: the reason you have been saved is to spread the message of the God who saved you. Your mission is further God's mission. So how are we to do that? What does that look like for the average person? And how will this workshop help you step out in confidence?

Session 1: Understanding the Mission of God and the Mission of God's People

Session 2: Discovering Your Spiritual Giftedness

Session 3: Defining Your Circle(s) of Accountability (COA)

Session 4: Practicing Your Evangelism

TO-DO.

At the end of each session, I'll include some kind of hands-on project for you so you can continue to learn and be challenged between sessions. Additionally, I'll include some further resources on the topic that you might find helpful for future study.

Project: Please complete the *Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire* by C. Peter Wagner. Bring your results next week.

Further Resources for Session 1:

- *The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible* – Jared Kennedy
- *According to Plan* – Graeme Goldsworthy
- *What is the Mission of the Church?* – Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert
- *Let the Nations be Glad* – John Piper