

PERSONAL MISSION WORKSHOP

SESSION 3: DEFINING YOUR CIRCLES OF ACCOUNTABILITY



“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

The mission of God is to glorify himself by redeeming a people from sin and restoring creation to its intended purposes. As Christians, each of us has been invited (commanded) to participate in his mission and equipped with particular spiritual giftedness to do so with confidence.

So *where* is the mission? Today’s workshop is meant to help you answer that question by challenging you to begin considering how you might leverage your spiritual giftedness to reach the places where you live, work, and play.

WHERE DO YOU GO?

The word *go* ought to seem familiar to Christians. It’s such a simple word, yet its potent implications can strike fear in the hearts of believers. Christians have been invited to participate in the mission of God, a blessing that requires action—in fact, action is commanded.

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...” (Genesis 12:1-2)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “... 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)

The implications for both of these passages is the same: (1) for God’s people, God’s mission requires movement; and (2) for God’s people, God’s mission is the motivator of movement—not earthly comfort or prestige. This is why God’s command to *go* can induce a sense of fear in God’s people. Since we are motivated by his mission, not ours, he may send us to places and people we otherwise would not have chosen to go. And yet, we need not fear, for “it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you,” (Deut. 31:6).

So where do we go? Simply put, we *go* and make disciples wherever we *live*, *work*, and *play*. Jesus’ commissioning in Matthew 28 is to be read like this, “In your going, make disciples...” Participating in the mission of God is an active, ongoing life posture that views every domain of life as a mission field.

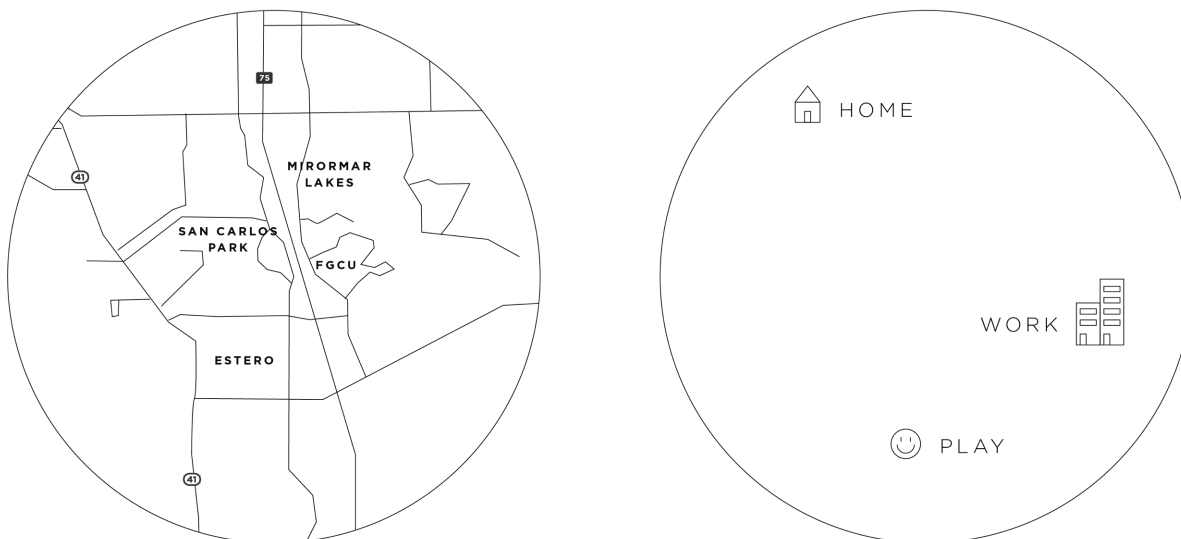
We could and define and summarize it like this: *go* and make disciples wherever you...

- *Live*: Your family and neighbors
- *Work*: Your co-workers and clients
- *Play*: Your friends and social circles

Activity: Take time during class to complete the *Spheres of Influence* activity from The MyCircle Training.

REACHING THE PLACES YOU LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY.

At Summit, we refer to the places you live, work, and play as your Circle of Accountability (COA). In other words, as a Christian, you have the opportunity to participate in the mission of God right where you are. God does lead some to leave their home and become a missionary in a new place. However, for the vast majority of believers, participating in the mission of God means leveraging your spiritual giftedness and resources to make disciples in the places you live, work, and play today.



Above, in the picture to the left, you'll see Summit Church's COA. Our aim is to saturate that geography with the gospel, and we attempt to do this by wisely stewarding the resources God has entrusted to us in order to make sure every man, woman, and child has repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to it.

In the picture to the right, you'll see a visual representation of your COA. As a member of Christ's church and a participant in his mission, your aim is to saturate your COA with the gospel, and you can do this by leveraging your spiritual giftedness and stewarding your resources to give the people where you live, work, and play repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the message of Jesus Christ.

Saturating Summit's COA with the Gospel:

- Caring for vulnerable people through ECI.
- Geographically-based Community Groups.
- School partnerships.
- Church partnerships.
- Partnering with local Recovery initiatives.
- FGCU Outreach.

Saturating Your COA with the Gospel:¹

- Pray *for* your family, friends, neighbors, etc.
- Be a tangible blessing (yard work, generosity, etc.)
- Be available (listen well)
- Spend time with them (meals, play dates, fun)
- Pray *with* your family, friends, neighbors, etc.

God has equipped each of his children with the necessary gifts and resources to participate on his mission. There is no such thing as an ill-equipped or useless disciple. Each Christian, with any gift, has role to play in the mission of God.

⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of

¹ Murphy, Jim., *The MyCircle Training: Session 2*, 10-11.

God in the face of Jesus Christ.⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (2 Corinthians 4:5-7)

Q1: Consider your grace story. What were some ways people in your life showed you the love of Jesus?

Q2: What is one way you are currently trying to saturate your COA with the gospel?

Q3: Consider your spiritual gift. How can you leverage your gift to saturate your COA with the gospel?

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: Do a prayer walk around your neighborhood this week. For help, see the *Before, During, and After your Prayer Walk* documents.

Further Resources for Session 3:

- *The MyCircle Training* – Jim Murphy
 - <http://www.mycircletraining.com>
- *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* – Rosaria Butterfield
- *God's Love Compels Us* – D. A. Carson, Kathleen Nielson, et al.

BEFORE YOUR PRAYER WALK

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,”

Psalm 24:1

Praise God for creating and sustaining all of the people and nature that will surround you.

Pray for open eyes and an open heart to view those around you with compassion.

Pray for divine appointments to talk with and encourage people (at a safe distance, of course).

DURING YOUR PRAYER WALK

“Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”

John 4:35b

Pray specifically for anyone you see or talk to and any needs you observe.

Pray for the many people that you don't see, sheltered in their homes, that they would believe in Jesus and be saved.

Pray for those who are fearful that they would seek refuge in the true and living God.

AFTER YOUR PRAYER WALK

“Therefore, we are
ambassadors for Christ,
God making his appeal through
us. We implore you on behalf of
Christ, be reconciled to God.”
2 Corinthians 5:20

Thank God for anyone you
encountered and pray for
them again.

Pray that you and other
Christians in your
neighborhood would be an
active part of whatever God
wants to do there.