

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

Paul lived on mission. His life was wrapped up in the life of Jesus Christ. He lived every moment surrendered to the mission of God. Second Corinthians 5:14-15 says it well, ¹⁴ *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;* ¹⁵ *and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.* This wasn’t just a life for the apostle Paul or “super Christians” but Paul expected disciples of Jesus to *“be imitators of me, as I am of Christ”* (1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1).

Paul ended his 2nd Missionary Journey by leaving Corinth and making a stop in Ephesus and then moving on to Jerusalem and finally Antioch. While this transitional passage might often be overlooked, what we see is a picture of a life on mission. Paul lived on mission in the everyday stuff of life because the love of Christ compelled him to do so.

We must examine our own lives in light of Paul’s life on mission. We live in a culture that is consumed with the self. The 11th Edition of the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary lists 218 different combination words with the word “self”. In recent years, with the perfecting of the cameras on smart phones, a new trend has started by taking self-photographs called “selfies.” New products are even being sold to help us do so with devices called “selfie sticks” so we might boost our “self-esteem.” Churches have even become consumed with self. If we are not careful we can worry more about temporal treasures and appearances rather than the eternal.

The Christian life should not be focused on self but rather giving yourself away to Jesus in a life dedicated to the mission. This is what the apostle Paul did and it’s what is commanded of every follower of Jesus. But how do we live a life on mission for Jesus? While this message gives us principles of a life on mission we also will spend time in our Missional Communities discussing this issue as well as watch the next training video from Jeff Vanderstelt titled, “Gospel Identity.” As you prepare to meet with your group examine your life against these principles of a life on mission. Ask God to prepare your heart to meet with your group as you discuss these principles as well as the principles discussed in the video. Through it all your life can be transformed to live on mission!

Message Outline

A Life on Mission Involves...

1. Resting in God’s Grace (18a)
2. Rejoicing in God’s Presence (18b)
3. Reflecting God’s Heart (19)
4. Relying on God’s Will (20-21)
5. Refreshing God’s People (22-23)

“Life on Mission”

Group Discussion (video application)

Watch the video titled “Gospel Identity.” Use the Listening Guide below as you watch the video and then spend some time making application by answering the following questions as a group.

4 Key Questions:

Who God _____?

What God has _____?

Who we _____?

What we _____?

The idea of discipleship – leading people to increasingly _____ all of life to the _____, _____, and _____ of Jesus.

Matthew 28:16-20

1. Jesus started with a _____ about Himself.

2. Establish people in their new _____. (Baptism is a naming ceremony)

God says I’m going to do something _____ you so I can do something _____ you.

• _____ → _____ died → _____ of God → _____ others

• _____ (King) → _____ & _____ life → _____ → Serve _____ of these.

• _____ → Jesus _____ by Spirit → _____ → _____ Jesus.

3. Don’t start with what they got to _____...make it an _____ life.

Questions for reflection:

1. Of these 3 identities, which one comes most natural for you in terms of what you believe and which ones are hard for you to believe about who God is and what He’s made you to be now in Christ?
2. Ask yourselves as a MC, who is God sending us to, to love like family and how might we start to love them like family?
3. And, how could we begin to serve them tangibly and bring tangible expression to how Jesus has served us?
4. Take some time to begin to pray together that God would give you the opportunity for a gospel door to be opened for you to be able to proclaim Jesus and ask Him to fill you with His Spirit to enable you to speak the gospel boldly with His words and His power.

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**
Pray that God would give us new believers.
- **Local:**
Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities.
- **Global:**
Pray that God would give us hearts for the nations.