ACKNOWLEDGMENT

200 The Missional Family Church

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This cell curriculum is developed by Pastor Alvin Lim as part of his studies and he would like to invite you to take part in an anonymous survey of 48 questions to determine the effectiveness of this equipping process of the curriculum. It will take about 3-4 minutes. Thank you. The link is: https://tinyurl.com/missionalsurvey
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Lesson 1A

Introduction to the Missional Family Church
Lesson objectives:

*Understand the origins and characteristics of the missional church and the necessity of returning to it as the answer to reach Singapore and beyond.*

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**Introduction**

Since 2012, Pastor Calvin Lee has cast the vision for Grace Assembly of God to be a missional family church (MFC). What is this MFC all about and how do we get that? In this cell curriculum, we will be embarking on a study to discover what is MFC, how do we get there as a cell group and individuals.

**Opening: What does the word ‘missional’ mean to you?**

1. **Origin of ‘Missional’**

   This is a relatively new word and became popularised in theological circles only from 1998 onwards. In order to understand this word, we need to go back to an important person who sparked this whole conversation about the missional church.

2. **Bishop Lesslie Newbigin**

   Bishop Lesslie Newbigin (8 December 1909 – 30 January 1998). He was born in England and studied at Cambridge. He went to India in 1936 to become a missionary for close to 30 years and became a bishop there. He came back to England, Europe in 1974. He was shocked at the dismal state of Christianity in his own nation as it had become a secular state with false gods and declining church attendance. He was a brilliant author who wrote many books and articles addressing this crisis that inspired the writing of the instrumental book "Missional Church" by Darrell Guder and team. He died in 1998, the year of the publishing of Missional Church.

3. **Missional Church by Darrell Guder in 1998**

   a) Important and instrumental book that started the whole missional conversation. The first book that made an explicit and expanded exposition that the core identity of the church is missional because it was birth by a missional God for the mission of God.

   b) By 2016 (18 years later), there were 1500 titles with the word "missional" on it. With so many books on this topic, it can be overwhelming to understand what it means and what the hype is about. Let’s summarise what the Missional Church book is about:
4. A Response to Western Society (North American Context)
   a) Christianity is no longer central or dominantly influential in the Western world. Europe and America were once comprised of Christian nations where Christianity was central to society and greatly influential but they are no longer so since the 1970s onwards.
   b) More secular – Separation of state and religion. Religious views are excluded from the public square and rejected by the mainstream of society. Decisions are increasingly made from humanistic values and human rights rather than what is morally or biblically right.
   c) More pluralistic – Society being increasingly accepting of all religious views as equally valid and true. This means that truth is seen as relative and many argue that there is no absolute truth. Any person or religion that speaks of exclusive truth will be seen as a bigot and rejected.
   d) More individualistic – People are more concerned about individual rights rather than communal rights. Focus is on independence and self-reliance. Importance of communal faith like going to church becomes irrelevant.
   e) More private – One should keep their faith private and not talk about it in public conversation or space as it is considered rude and insensitive.
   f) Biblical illiteracy – Most are illiterate about the Bible or are biased against it. Seen as a moral book with little relevance for the 21st century.

5. A Response to the State of Christianity in the West
   a) Dwindling Numbers – the magnificent churches of the West are dropping in attendance drastically
   b) Loss of youths – The young in the church are leaving and the church is often left with mainly old folks
   c) Clergy burnout and decline
   d) Primarily exist for the care of its members – Traditionally, clergy was employed to take care of the members based on the assumption that the majority of people were already Christians.

6. Who & What is the church?
   The missional church is not the latest church growth fad or strategy but a return to Scriptures about who and what the church is.

7. What is Missional?
   Missional is the adjective to describe God’s mission, initiated by God himself to restore and heal all creation. ~ Darrell Guder
   This means that it is more than just about saving of souls of men which is our primary mission but it also includes the holistic restoring of all creation back to a right relationship with God. The good news of the whole Bible is more than just people restored to a right spiritual relationship with God but it is about restoring the whole world, the new heaven and earth. We need to love
the whole person: body, soul and spirit. We need to love God’s world by being co-caretakers of the world with God through our work and daily lives.

8. How is the Missional Church relevant to us?

We are not a Western Christian nation, but we are influenced and affected by the Western church culture and globalisation. In Singapore, we also need to redeem our church culture to become the biblical missional church we are called to be.

a) Youth in Singapore Shunning Religion (ST – 21 Mar 2016)


**From 2010 to 2015**

- Rate of growth of Christianity – 0.27%
- Rate of growth of Irreligious – 8.8%
- 45.4% of Irreligious between 15-34 yrs old
The growth of Christianity has slowed down in Singapore in recent years.

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>26.70%</td>
<td>31.10%</td>
<td>42.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
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<td>12.50%</td>
<td>14.60%</td>
<td>18.30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholicism</td>
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<td>4.80%</td>
<td>7.10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protestantism</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>9.80%</td>
<td>11.30%</td>
<td>12.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not religious</td>
<td>13.10%</td>
<td>14.30%</td>
<td>14.80%</td>
<td>17.00%</td>
<td>18.30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
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<td>15.40%</td>
<td>14.90%</td>
<td>14.70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taoism and folk religion</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
<td>22.40%</td>
<td>8.50%</td>
<td>10.90%</td>
<td>11.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
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<td>3.70%</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other religions</td>
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<td>0.60%</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
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</tbody>
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b) Christianity in the Singapore context
   i) Rise of Megachurches
   ii) Consumerism – we are fast to move to a church that is able to provide better religious goods and services.
   iii) Prosperity Gospel
   iv) Liberal Values
       1) LGBT
       2) Rise of divorce
   v) Materialism

vi) Rat Race and Paper Chase

**DISCUSSION**

(1) What do you think about the state of Christianity in Singapore today?

(a) From Acts 2:42-47, what are the characteristics of the New Testament church?

(b) How is our church or the churches in Singapore different from the first-century church?

(c) What do you think accounts for the difference?

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42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.  

Acts 2:42-47

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Video: Overview—Six Theological Distinctiveness of a Missional Church

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYfPwDht3pl

a) Trinitarian Missiology

The Persons in the Trinity lead in the mission, playing their roles from the beginning to the end of time.

b) Missio Dei (Latin) - Mission of God

The mission of God reveals God working His redemptive purposes everywhere and all the time through the church and in the world.

c) The Reign (Kingdom) of God

God is not just interested in saving you but establishing His kingdom on earth through you.

d) Missionary Nature of the Church

The mission is the church’s identity and purpose. The church exists for the sake of the world and not for herself.

e) Incarnational Lifestyle

Jesus Christ demonstrated how He crossed cultures to come from heaven to earth, into our context to relate and reach us. In turn, we are to emulate Him and do the same for the lost as a lifestyle.

f) Contrast Community

The world needs to witness the loving community of believers with godly values to draw them to God.
(2) Which one of the six theological distinctiveness strikes you? Why?

(3) How is the concept of the missional church relevant for us in Singapore?
Lesson 1B

The Trinity on Mission
Lesson objectives:
Understand and appreciate the different roles the Trinity play in the mission of God and how the church is invited to participate in this mission.

Survey:
Please do the anonymous missional survey if you have yet to do it.
https://tinyurl.com/missionalsurvey

Opening: What is the biblical church? How do we live out its potential?

We want to dispel traditional understanding of church and mission that may not be biblical or helpful:

Traditional Understanding of Church and Mission

a) It is the Church who leads in mission

b) The Church is solely responsible for the mission of God

“Salvation of the world depends on the church”

c) Obedience to the Great Commission alone is enough

“Just obey the great commission because it is the last words of Jesus”

d) Dependent on ourselves to complete the mission

“Work while it is still day because when night comes, no man can work”

e) Must be driven to do God’s mission

“You need to save the world or else it will spend eternity in hell”

Definition

Let’s take a look at the sequence of the mission of God in the bible.

Trinitarian Missiology: The Trinity leads in Mission playing their roles from the beginning to the end.

1. God the Father, the _______ Person of the Trinity _________ and _________ in Mission

   a) In Genesis, we see God created the world beautifully

   b) God created humans (God’s image bearers) to have a relationship with

   c) Humans fell into sin under the deception of Satan

   d) The world and humans will experience death (physical & spiritual death)

   e) _________ of God’s redemption plan
i) True in the physical but also in the _________

- Physical: Snakes bite the heels of men and men kill snakes on their heads
- Spiritual: Clue to God's redemption plan where Satan will pierce the feet of Jesus at the crucifixion and Jesus will deal a fatal blow to Satan through his death on the cross.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 3:15

ii) God as the initiator and _________ of redemption mission

God made the first blood sacrifice and made skin covering for Adam and Eve. This gives a clue to the necessity of a blood sacrifice to atone for our sins in the future.

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:21-24

2. Israel as an ______________ of God’s Mission but they failed

a) ________ to fulfil God’s Mission

1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

Genesis 12:1-4

Abram was chosen to be the father of Israel as he stepped out by faith. God wanted Abram’s descendants to be a blessing to nations.

b) Israel, as God’s _________

5 See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. 6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” 7 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? 8 And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

Deuteronomy 4:5-8

Israel is supposed to be God’s witness among the neighbouring pagan nations of God’s power and goodness by observing God’s righteous decrees.
c) But Israel _________

Israel perpetually failed in her missional assignment and the moral standards of God in the entire Old Testament.

22 “Yet you have not called on me, Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for me, Israel.
23 You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings, nor honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with grain offerings nor wearied you with demands for incense.
24 You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me, or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses.

Isaiah 43:22-24

3. Jesus, the __________ Person of the Trinity Sent on Mission
a) Jesus, the _________ of God

Jesus, God’s servant will restore Jacob and Israel to God. His ministry will also extend to the Gentiles to the ends of the earth.

5 And now the Lord says—from whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:26

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 5 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:5-8

b) Jesus, sent as our __________ and __________

Jesus came to earth as our servant model and sacrifice for our sins. He lived the life that we should have lived and died the death that we should have died.

4. The Holy Spirit, the __________ Person of the Trinity Sent on Mission
a) Spirit sent as our __________

The Spirit of God points to Jesus and all He has said and done. The Spirit equips and teaches us how to live as believers.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:26
b) **Spirit sent as our ____________**

Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the outpouring of the Spirit before beginning their ministry. The Holy Spirit would give them power for the mission to be God’s witnesses.

**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 1:8

5. **The ____________ Heart of God**

The missional church is founded on the missional God with His missionary heart to redeem and restore all creation back to a right relationship and order. God has done all that is in His power to rescue mankind and now invites the church to join Him in this mission.

**The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.** 2 Peter 3:9

6. **The God who sends the ____________**

**Who is being sent in this passage?**

19 That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. 20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! 21 Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” 22 Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” John 20:19-23

**DISCUSSION**

(1) **How does knowing the following about God change the way you live out God’s mission in your life?**

» God, the Father as Initiator and Leader of mission

» God, the Son Jesus as Model for living and Sacrifice for our sins

» God, the Spirit as our Teacher of truth and Empowerer for witness

(2) **What is one thing you can do differently this week as you contemplate on today’s topic?**
Lesson 2

Missio Dei
Opening: What is the first thing you think about when you wake up and the last thing you think about before you sleep?

Introduction
We have talked about Trinitarian Missiology focusing on who God is. Now we want to explore what God does and the extent of God’s work. Missio Dei is the Latin theological term that can be translated as “Mission of God”. It refers to God’s redemptive mission everywhere and all the time through the church and in the world. This work is greater than what the church does and God invites the church to join Him in this greater work. Even though the church is the primary agent for God’s mission, it is not the only agent. God is working in the world and Christians need to recognise and join Him. Let’s explore further.

Traditional views in the Church and the mission of God
1. “The Church has a mission.”
   The mission is smaller or equivalent to the Church in size.

2. “The Church is the sole agent for mission.”
   » Resulting in a superior or Messianic complex.
   » Viewing the world as a missionary target devoid of God’s presence and activity
   » Failing to recognise God at work outside the Church

3. The mission of God is reduced to just spiritual redemption.

A Two-Chapter Gospel—the Fall and the Redemption.

The Four-Chapter Gospel—We have reduced the Good News to just the biblical events of the Fall and Redemption. The grand story of the Bible begins with Creation, then the Fall, Redemption and ends with Restoration.

Lesson objectives:
Understand the fullness of God’s redemptive mission everywhere and all the time through the church and in the world

Survey:
Please do the anonymous missional survey if you have yet to do it. https://tinyurl.com/missionalsurvey
Definition

Missio Dei: The mission initiated by God to restore and heal all creation.

The mission of God here refers to THE mission initiated by God to restore and heal all creation. It refers to the redemptive work of God worldwide and does not segregate between local and overseas missionary work.

The Latin theological term for this Mission of God is ____________. Missio means __________ and Dei means _____. Today we want to look at the breadth and the extent of the mission of God

1. **The mission of God is the __________ redemption of the ________ of men.**

   This is the ultimate goal of the mission of God.

   - What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? *Matthew 16:26*
   
   - Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” *Luke 19:10*

   The Church is the primary agent of God in fulfilling the mission of God. The church is birthed for such a purpose.

   - “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.” *Matthew 28:18-20*

2. **The mission of God is accomplished __________ just spiritual activities.**

   - And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. *Colossians 3:17*
   
   - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. *Colossians 3:23-24*

   To fulfil God’s mission, it is not just doing the spiritual activities well but living our whole lives for God. What we do and how we do it can be an act of worship to God.
The gospel is both in words and deeds. They go hand in hand and cannot be separated.

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25:37-40

God identifies with the marginalised and is called the Father of widows, defender of the widows and friend of the foreigner.

God defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. Deuteronomy 10:18

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:16

We the justified do works of justice in order that more will justified.

3. The mission of God includes the redemption of our _______ world.

The Two-Chapter Gospel: The Fall and the Redemption

God loves us, we have sinned and deserve eternal punishment, Christ came to pay for our sins on the cross, receive Christ as lord and saviour and you will be saved.

The Four-Chapter Gospel: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration

The sequence of the grand narrative: God created the world, humans fell into sin, Christ came to redeem us and will be coming again to restore a new heaven and earth.

28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” 29 Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. 30 And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened. Genesis 1:28-30, NLT
a) We are given the mandate to govern and reign over all creation.

\[17^\text{See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind...}
21^\text{They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.}
22^\text{No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.}
\]

\textit{Isaiah 65:17}

b) We will have new imperishable bodies (1Co. 15:42).

\[
\text{So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.}
\]

\textit{1 Corinthians 15:42}

“It is not just a wonderful plan for ‘my life’ but a wonderful plan for the world; it is about the coming of God’s kingdom to renew all things.” ~ Timothy Keller

4. God sends His people into every ___________________________ to fulfil the mission of God

a) Joseph, sold into slavery became the Prime Minister of Egypt to save the land from famine
b) Esther, a Jew became the Queen of the Persian Empire, saves the Jewish race from extinction
c) Daniel, Exile in Babylon becomes the Governor of Babylon and impacted the whole kingdom after the King is impressed with the God of Daniel
d) Nehemiah, Cup Bearer of the King of the Persian Empire gains favour to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls.
e) Jael, a housewife is used by God to kill Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army.
f) Jonah, a Prophet was sent by God to Nineveh to preach to the Assyria
g) Paul, a persecutor of the church was converted and became a missionary to Asia Minor and Europe

\textit{It is not the church that has a mission but it is the mission that has a church.}
5. God is at work through ____________

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

God uses the creative marvels of creation to point man back to an intelligent creator.

Dr. Francis Collins, the ex-director of the Human Genome project became a Christian after realising that science cannot answer the questions of the meaning of life. He also sees that Christianity and science is not incompatible, such that 40% of scientists are believers. As he mapped out the 3.1 billion letters of the human genome, he sees it as the language of God and is amazed. http://edition.cnn.com/2007/US/04/03/collins.commentary/index.html

6. God is at work through history, politics and ____________.

During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.
He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.
He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

Daniel 2:19-21

God is working beyond the church to change kings, nations and world events for his purpose.

God allows even evil kings and empires to exist like the Canaanites and Babylonians and can even use it to advance the mission of God. For example,

Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, “Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations (Canaanites) Joshua left when he died. I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their ancestors did.”

Judges 2:20-22

7. God works through ________________

In summary, the church is the primary agent for the fulfilment of the mission of God to bring spiritual redemption of man. To fulfil the mission of God, we need to live a life of worship beyond doing spiritual activities. We reach out to call for others holistically, spiritually and physically. God is also bringing about physical restoration of the world. We are empowered by God to be stewards of our physical body and this physical world as His image bearers. When we do that, we glorify God and point others to the creator God. We see that the God is personally involved in fulfilling the mission of God and the mission of God is bigger than the church. The church does not have a mission but the mission has a church.
### Summary Chart

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<th>Two-Chapter Gospel</th>
<th>Four-Chapter Gospel</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Fall, Redemption)</td>
<td>(Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do we come from</td>
<td>Unsure or created to fail</td>
<td>Created to have fellowship with God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why are we here</td>
<td>Get a ticket to heaven</td>
<td>Partner with God to return the world and its people to paradise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are we going</td>
<td>Spiritual heaven</td>
<td>Physical New earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good News</td>
<td>I am saved</td>
<td>All creation is saved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attitude towards creation</td>
<td>Not important as it will perish</td>
<td>Steward the earth well as God’s image bearers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attitude towards humans</td>
<td>Win their souls</td>
<td>Care for their whole being: Body, soul and spirit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attitude towards the poor</td>
<td>Preach to them to be saved</td>
<td>Preaching and mercy ministries go hand-in-hand</td>
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<td>Attitude towards work</td>
<td>A necessary evil. Only spiritual work like prayer, bible study and ministry is important. Secular work is secondary.</td>
<td>Providing for the needs of the world as God’s image bearers. Preparing to rule and work in the New Earth. No dichotomy between spiritual or secular work. All work should be an act of worship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude towards physical &amp; spiritual</td>
<td>Spirit good. Physical/flesh bad.</td>
<td>No dichotomy between flesh and spirit, physical and spiritual. What we do in the physical affects the spiritual and vice versa. Holistic approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude towards redemption</td>
<td>Spiritual redemption of souls is most important.</td>
<td>Spiritual redemption of souls is most important but also part of the complete restoration of creation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DISCUSSION

1. **What is something new that you learn about the mission of God?**

2. **How would a four chapter gospel change the way you live or do ministry?**

3. **What is one thing that you would start doing differently in the light of understanding the mission of God?**
**ADDITIONAL READING**

- https://tifwe.org/the-four-chapter-gospel-a-story-of-significance/
- http://www.wycliffe.net/missiology?id=3960
- https://tifwe.org/common-grace-how-believers-and-non-believers-canAdvance-gods-purposes-together/

**PRACTICUM**

**Prayer**
- https://www.charismanews.com/opinion/55646-invading-the-7-mountains-with-intercession
- Pray for the Mercy Ministries of the church

**Action**
- Take time to appreciate God’s creation
- Think of some practical things to do for those in need
- To a non-Christian: I can see God working through you
Lesson 3

Reign of God – Kingdom of God
Opening: What would an ideal government look like to you?

Introduction

We have talked about Trinitarian Missiology focusing on who God is. Now we want to explore what God does and the extent of God’s work. Missio Dei is the Latin theological term that can be translated as "Mission of God". It refers to God’s redemptive mission everywhere and all the time through the church and in the world. This work is greater than what the church does and God invites the church to join him in this greater work. Even though the church is the primary agent for God’s mission, it is not the only agent. God is working in the world and Christians need to recognise and join Him. Let’s explore further.

Traditionally, Christianity is seen as

a) Escape from Hell (Past) & Passport to Heaven (Future) by saying the sinner’s prayer.

b) Blessing for life like health & prosperity (Present) and with little to do with following Christ and becoming more like Him.

Definition

Reign of God: God is not just interested in saving you but establishing His kingdom on earth through you.

The Gospel is not just that you have been saved from your sins but there is a new _______ in charge.

1. Central Message of the Bible: Kingdom of God

   a) God is the King of the _________ in the Old Testament

   6 But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. 7 And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. 1 Samuel 8:6-7
b) Davidic Covenant: A King from David’s line will establish an _________ kingdom

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever. 2 Samuel 7:16

b)

23

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever. 2 Samuel 7:16

b)

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. Isaiah 53:10

23

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. Isaiah 53:10

23

a) John the Baptist _________ the way for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Matthew 3:1-2

The term “the kingdom of heaven” was used in the book of Matthew because it was written to the Jews and the Jews would avoid using the sacred name of God in referring to the kingdom of God. They mean the same thing.

b) Jesus _________ the Kingdom of God.

“The time has come,” Jesus said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1:15

b)

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” 4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor... Matthew 11:2-5

c) Jesus as the _________ Saviour King (Messiah)

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” 4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor... Matthew 11:2-5

c)

d) The _________ of the Kingdom contradict the _________ of the world.

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. John 3:5

d)
e) The _________________ of entering the Kingdom

3. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Matthew 5:3-11

i) Born of water signifies water baptism: An act of our faith and obedience.

ii) Born of Spirit: An act of God to come and dwell within us. This is the result of our partnership with God.

i) The natural response to the Kingdom: _________________

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. 45Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:44-46

j) The evidence of the Kingdom: __________

21. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23. Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ Matthew 7:21-23

k) The Kingdom should come first and take priority over _______ areas of life.

32. For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:32-34
1) The Kingdom of God is a message authenticated by ________________

{\footnotesize
When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, \textsuperscript{2} and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. \textit{Luke 9:1-2}}

m) The Kingdom of God is in our ____________.

{\footnotesize
For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit \textit{Romans 14:17}}

n) Jesus: The ultimate __________ of the reign of God

{"text": "‘Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.’ \textit{Luke 22:42}"
}

o) The Kingdom of God is __________ here in our midst.

{\footnotesize
Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, ‘The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, \textsuperscript{21} or will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.’ \textit{Luke 17:20-21}}

p) Yet it is also a __________ Kingdom

{\footnotesize
There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. \textsuperscript{28} People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. \textsuperscript{29} Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.’ \textit{Luke 13:28-30}}

q) __________ for the coming Kingdom

Matthew 25, ‘At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like...
- The Ten Virgins – Be ready
- Bags of Gold – Use your talents for God
- Sheep and Goat – Serve the needy

25
r) Jesus is the _________ King.

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.  

Revelation 19:11-16

s) The Kingdom of the world will then become the _________ Kingdom of God.

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”  

Revelation 11:15

DISCUSSION

(1) What is new or striking to you regarding God’s Kingdom?

(2) How real is the Kingdom of God to you?

(3) Which area of your life now is the Lord prompting you to submit to God’s reign?
Lesson 4

Incarnational Ministry
Opening: Can you imagine a world without salt? What are the qualities of salt that make salt essential for life?

Introduction

Incarnation is the doctrine that the second person of the Trinity assumed human form in the person of Jesus Christ and that He is both fully God and fully man. It means the Word of God becomes flesh and dwells among us.

Eugene Peterson describes the incarnation of Jesus Christ in John 1:14 as: "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood."

When we talk about incarnational ministry, we are not talking about us being divine like Jesus and taking on human form. Instead, we are emphasizing how Christ crossed cultures to come from heaven to earth, into our context to reach and relate to us. In turn, we are to emulate Him and do the same as a lifestyle. The Church is called to be the body of Christ (1Co 12:27) where each person plays a unique and important role for ministry inside and outside the Church, to be the embodiment of the gospel as individuals as well as the corporate body of Christ sent into the world to be His hands, feet and voice. We are to be the incarnation (embodiment) of the gospel in our context in word, deed and lifestyle.

Traditionally, reaching out to non-Christians means inviting them to Church to

- an evangelistic musical or performance,
- hear a "professional" pastor preach, or
- fit into our Christian sub-culture. We expect them to believe, and then behave in order to belong.

All these are good but they are insufficient.

Most Christians do not intentionally go into a foreign context to reach the lost and do not know how to share the gospel. They also do not see themselves as missionaries.

Definition

Incarnational Ministry means that Jesus Christ demonstrated how He crossed cultures to come from heaven to earth, into our context to reach and relate to us. In turn, we are to emulate Him and do the same for the lost as a lifestyle.
1. You are the Salt of the earth: _____________ Ministry

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:13-16

The first analogy that Jesus used to describe believers is that we are salt of the earth (Mat. 5:13). This is related to the incarnational ministry as we will see later in this study. Salt is absolutely important in our lives. Jesus warns His disciples that if they are salt and yet are not salty, they will be useless and be thrown out to be trampled underfoot. Therefore it is imperative for us to live out who we are as Christians.

“You are” used here.

a) It is ________________.

“You are” here is plural in Greek not singular. Meaning it is not referring to just individuals but the people of God, the Church.

b) It is ________________.

In Greek, "You are" here is emphatic meaning that it is used for emphasis and a call to attention. Jesus wanted the disciples to take note of who they are. Because if they miss it, they would be like disciples who have lost their purpose and identity resulting in them being useless. Like salt being not salty (possible when salt has other impurities) and light hidden under a earthen bowl.

c) It is a statement of ________________.

"You are" is a statement of identity. This means that Jesus is saying who they are because they are believers. Jesus is not asking them to be more salty or shine brighter in order to become disciples, but live out who they already are as disciples. The ability to shine and be salty is already in them. It is not an earned identity but a grace identity. For example: ‘If you are the son of the king, live like a prince, not a beggar or orphan.” A changed life naturally influences others.

2. Qualities of Salt

a) First quality of salt needs to be ______________ and be ___________ to the food.

First, there is no point for the salt to remain in the salt shaker. It needs to come out of the bottle to be useful.

Second, it needs to be scattered and be in close contact with the meat or food. Nobody leaves one lump of salt on their food. They sprinkle it. They also rubbed it onto the food so that it is in close contact with the food.

i) Jesus was incarnational.

   How was Jesus intentional about going into the context of unbelievers in order to reach them (Mat. 9:9-13)?
Why did he do that?

ii) The early church was incarnational.

How was the early church incarnational (Acts 11:19-21)?

b) Second quality of salt: Give ____________.

To give flavour means to bring life and develop the potential of the people we are meeting

How did Jesus speak life and bring out the potential of the people he meets (Luke 19:1-9)?

c) Third quality of salt: ____________ of food (i.e. ____________ moral decay).

How did Jesus confront hypocrisy and moral decay of the heart (Matt. 5:21-32)?

How do we speak up as Christians against things that happen around us that go against the Word of God?

**DISCUSSION**

(1) What does it mean to you to have the identity of being the salt of the earth?

(2) In what non-Christian context is the Lord asking you or your cell to be intentionally involved in?
(3) Which aspect of being the salt of the earth is the Lord challenging you to obey and live out?

**PRACTICUM**

- Change regular cell meetings to once a month and take the whole cell out to minister to the marginalised OR
- Have different ones join a non-church interest group (via social media).
Lesson 5

Missionary

Nature of the Church
Opening: Imagine a world without light. What are the qualities of light that make it essential for life?

Definition

The church’s identity and purpose is Mission because it is birthed by a Missionary God for His mission. The church exists for mission to the world and not for itself.

Traditionally,

a) The Church is often seen as a place where religious goods and services are offered by professional clergy to meet the needs of members rather than a body of believers sent on a mission.

b) There is greater emphasis on what the Church does (its purpose) without first clarifying what the Church is (its identity).

c) The church has 5 purposes (worship, discipleship, evangelism, service, fellowship) that are designed to grow a healthy Church (Church growth formula).

d) Missions is a department: one of the compartmentalised pillars, one of the programs, one of the giving areas of the Church to be fulfilled by some members or some missionaries/clergy for some time, rather than the entire goal of the Church, to be participated by the entire body of Christ.

e) There is a Benefits-Mission dichotomy – where mission is optional after one receives salvation benefits.

Qualities of Light

1. First quality of light: Shines the way in darkness

a) Jesus is the Ultimate Light of the World: He leads the lost out of darkness.

Read John 8:12 & John 3:19.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”  

John 8:12

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.  

John 3:19

Lesson objectives:

Understand why the church’s identity and purpose on earth is Mission because it is birthed by a missionary God for His mission. The church exists for mission to the world and not for itself.

Fun fact

Residents living in Barrow, the northernmost town in Alaska, USA do not see the sun for 67 days come winter. However, they enjoy the midnight sun all summer with over 80 days of uninterrupted daylight.
What does Jesus mean when He says that He is the Light of the World?

How have you experience that Jesus as the Light in your life?

b) We are the light of the world: We are the reflection of Christ to lead the lost out of darkness.

(i) Read Mat. 5:14-15. How does Jesus as the Light of the World relate to the Church as being the light of the world?

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:14-15

“This is a portrait of discipleship. Jesus, who is the light of the world, re-creates us into the light of the world. We are light, not because of anything in ourselves, but because we are in a supernatural union with the light of the world. Our focus must always be on the light, humbly trusting Jesus to reveal the light through us.” ~ Rick Warren

(ii) Read Mat. 4:19. How is discipleship related to evangelism according to the verse?

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” Matthew 4:19

(iii) Read Mat. 28:18-20. How does Jesus’ last words define the Church’s purpose and identity?

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

(iv) What is your response to the following quotes?

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t.” ~ John Piper
2. The second quality of light: Light helps me to see everything else. We show a better way.

Read John 3:19-21. What happens when we walk according to the light?

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. John 3:19-21

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else. ~ C. S. Lewis

The gospel helps us to live our lives differently so that we are more than Sunday Christians.

**DISCUSSION**

(1) What does it mean to you that the church has the identity of being the light of the world?

(2) What challenges do you face being the light of the world?

(3) Share a success story of being the light of the world?

**PRACTICUM**

- Pray for the salvation of three pre-believers.
- Street Evangelism
Lesson 6

Contrast

Community
Opening: Have you heard the following statements? What do you think about the following statements? How would you respond?

a) “I believe in Jesus Christ but I don’t believe in organised religion or institution like the Church.”
b) “I don’t go to a local church but I belong to the universal church.”
c) “Going to service is optional as I can listen to sermon podcast or worship online.”
d) “We are the Church out there reaching the lost, gathering at Church is not so critical.”
e) “As long as I believe in Jesus in my heart, it is not so important whether I belong to a community of believers.”
f) “I only follow Jesus but not religious leaders.”

(1) From Mat. 5:13-16, how is the analogy of City on the Hill different from the analogy of Salt of the Earth & Light of the World?

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.
15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.
16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

(2) Read John 13:34-35. Why is the command new? What is the purpose and natural outcome of loving one another?

34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

Lesson objectives:
Understand that the world needs to witness the loving community of believers with godly values to draw them to God.
“The local church is the hope of the world.” ~ Bill Hybels

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(3) Do you agree with the above statement?


(4) Hermeneutic means biblical interpretation – it means how do people know if the gospel is true and powerful?

(5) There are at least 56 “one another” and “each other” in the New Testament that is commanded of Christians to exercise in Christian community. Below are some to list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark 9:50</td>
<td>Be at peace with one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John 13:34-35</td>
<td>Love one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 12:10</td>
<td>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 12:10</td>
<td>Honour one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 12:16</td>
<td>Living harmoniously with one another</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romans 14:13</td>
<td>Stop passing judgement on one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 15:7</td>
<td>Accept one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 15:14</td>
<td>Instruct one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 16:16</td>
<td>Greet one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 11:33</td>
<td>Wait for each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 12:25</td>
<td>Demonstrating equal care for one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galatians 5:13</td>
<td>Serving one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galatians 6:2</td>
<td>Carry each other’s burden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 4:2</td>
<td>Lovingly bearing with each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 4:32</td>
<td>Be kind and compassionate to one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 4:32</td>
<td>Forgive each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 5:19</td>
<td>Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 5:21</td>
<td>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippians 2:3</td>
<td>In humility consider others better than yourself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colossians 3:16</td>
<td>Teach one another</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.  

Matthew 5:16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Command</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colossians 3:16</td>
<td>Admonish one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thessalonians 5:11</td>
<td>Build each other up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thessalonians 5:13</td>
<td>Maintaining peace with each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thessalonians 5:15</td>
<td>Doing good to one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews 10:24</td>
<td>Spur one another towards love and good deeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James 4:11</td>
<td>Do not slander one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James 5:9</td>
<td>Don’t grumble against each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James 5:16</td>
<td>Confess your sins to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James 5:16</td>
<td>Pray for one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Peter 4:9</td>
<td>Exhibiting hospitality to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Peter 5:5</td>
<td>Clothe yourself with humility towards one another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews 3:13</td>
<td>Encourage one another daily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Is it possible to live out these commands as a lone Christian?

(b) Why do you think these commands are given to the faith community?

(c) What is the strongest trait in your faith community?

(d) What is the weakest trait in your faith community?

(6) According to Mat. 5:16, what is the end result of being the Church that we ought to be, as salt, light and city?
(7) Lesslie Newbigin summarises it nicely:

“If the gospel is to challenge the public life of our society... that will only happen as and when local congregations renounce an introverted concern for their own life, and recognize that they exist for the sake of those who are not members, as sign, instrument, and foretaste of God’s redeeming grace for the whole life of society.” ~ Lesslie Newbigin

What does it mean?

i) ___________ as ___________ Ministry (Salt)
   We are an instrument when we scatter to be his body of Christ (salt) wherever we are.

ii) __________ as ___________ Church (Light)
   We are a sign when we shine for Jesus as the way

iii) ___________ as ___________ Community (City)
   We are a foretaste of heavenly community when people witness a loving, holy and powerful community.

**DISCUSSION**

(1) What is the potential you see for a faith community to be that City on a Hill?

(2) What suggestions do you have to strengthen your faith community?

(3) What does it take for the group to move beyond caring for its members?

**PRACTICUM**

What are some suggestions to strengthen the “one another” in your faith community?
Lesson 7

Intergenerational Ministry
Opening: How has someone from a different generation (with at least 10 years age difference and other than your parents) impacted your faith? Describe the experience and impact.

Can you name some intergenerational partnership you see in the Bible and what is the impact?

What is Intergenerational Ministry?

______________________ with biological families and different generations in the church is vital for _______________ faith formation.

Introduction

Research captured in book "Sticky Faith" in 2011 shows that intergenerational connection whether from family or church are critical for reinforcing intergenerational religious momentum.

Traditionally

Age-Specific congregations are created for more effective engagement and outreach but with the following side effects or existing problems

a) _______________ and _______________

b) _______________ Mind-set

c) _______________ Issues:

d) Lack of _______________ Faith Formation

(1) Read Deu. 31:9-13 & Jos. 8:34-35.
(a) Who were gathered together in the reading of God’s Word?

(b) Why do you think they did that?

(2) Read Exodus 12:24-28.

(24) Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ 27 then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

Exodus 12:24-28

(a) What ceremony were the Israelites supposed to observe?

(b) Why did they need to observe this ceremony?

(c) What ceremonies do we observe? What is the significance?

(3) Read Psa. 78:1-7.

1 My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. 3 We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Psalm 78:1-7
(a) What are we told to do here?

(b) Why do we do that?

(4) Read Deu. 6:4-9.

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.  

(a) How are we to impart the love of God to the next generation?

(b) How is that possible?

(5) Read Tit. 2:1-8.

1 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. 2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. 3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. 6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.  

(a) Who are the groups of people mentioned here?

(b) How are each group supposed to relate to and edify one another?
(6) Read Mrk. 10:13-16.

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

(a) What should be our response towards children?

(b) What can we learn from children about the Kingdom of God?

APPLICATION

(1) Do you believe that intergenerational ministries are important? What are some concerns or challenges about intergenerational ministries?

(2) Currently, how are you impacting another generation or being impacted by another generation in your faith formation?

(3) What are some practical ways you can increase intergenerational discipleship and interactions?

Some Suggestions:

» Family Devotion - We have to equip and partner with parents/family on how to do discipleship at home

» Strategic Mentoring – The mutual benefits of linking and mentoring with significant others of a different generation in the church besides your family

» Blended Platforms – Craft worship, sermons, workshops to engage all generations in a meaningful way

» Faith Building Stories – Create multiple platforms where faith stories of different generations can be shared

» Serving Opportunities – Provide opportunities across generations to serve together in community engagement, mission trips, etc.

PRACTICUM:

Go and partner with a group from a different generation to plan an activity together.
Lesson 8

The Gospel Transforms Our Past, Present and Future
The Gospel Transforms Our Past, Present and Future

Opening: Do you agree with this popular saying, “Preach the gospel; use words if necessary”? How does the gospel transform how we live our present daily lives in every aspect?

Introduction
As Christians, we are familiar with how the gospel saves us from the penalty of sins committed in the past and that God forgives us. We are also familiar with the fact that one day when we die, we will have a place in heaven where we will be saved from the penalty of sin. However, we are less familiar with how the gospel affects how we live our present daily lives in every aspect.

1. Definition of the ‘Gospel’

   The word gospel literally means “good news” and occurs 23 times in the Old Testament and at least 113 times in the New Testament.

   In Greek, it is the word euaggelion, from which we get our English words evangelise, evangelist, evangel, and evangelical.

   The gospel is a message about how we have been rescued from peril, a news report of some life altering event that has already happened.

Origin

   A messenger soldier comes from the battle lines to the town shouting, Euaggelion! Euaggelion! The enemy is defeated. Our King is undefeated.

Biblically

   The gospel is, broadly speaking, the whole of Scripture;
   » Creation
   » Fall
   » Redemption
   » Restoration

   More narrowly, the gospel is the good news concerning Christ and the way of salvation.

Lesson objectives:

   Understand how the gospel has saved and will save them from their past, future and present sin, and transforms their entire lives.

Recap:

   We have completed the 7 distinctiveness (pillars) of a Missional Family Church. In order for us to fulfil that vision, we need to be clear about our message to the world (today’s lesson). For subsequent lessons, we also look at having a new biblical identity as an individual and a new way of being a Christian community (cell group). Leadership within the cell group also needs a revamp.
The gospel is good news announcing we have been rescued or saved from God’s wrath by what Jesus Christ has done on the cross to put right our relationship with God. ~ Timothy Keller

a) The gospel is good news not good advice.
   It is a message of what has been done, not just a way of life or something we do.
   i) It is meant to be publicly announced.
   ii) It is meant to be verbally announced through words.
      Imagine watching the evening news on mute. How much can you understand?

b) We are rescued from God’s wrath (Salvation).
   i) We are created to have a relationship with God (Rom. 1:7).
      We are all loved and called to be his holy people (not just the people in Rome).
   ii) We all fell into sin and are sinners because we fall short of the glory of God (holiness of God). We have missed the mark or the high standard of God’s holiness (Rom. 3:23).
      • Sin of commission (Ten Commandments)
      • Sin of omission (Jas. 4:17)
   iii) The wages of sin is death -- physical, spiritual & eternal (Rom. 6:23).
   iv) Jesus was sent by God to save us from the wrath of God and restore our relationship with God through his death on the cross (Rom. 5:8-11).
   v) We need to confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that Jesus was raised from the dead to be saved (Rom. 10:9-10).
   vi) God give us righteousness through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:17).
   vii) We look forward to having new bodies in the new heaven and earth (Rom. 8:23)

2. Three Aspects of Salvation

   a) Past: We have been saved from the penalty of sin

   4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. *Ephesians 2:4-5*

   How should knowing that our sins are forgiven and we are saved from eternal condemnation affect how we live today?

   b) Future: We will be Saved from the Presence of Sin

   1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. *Mark 13:13*
After reading Rev. 21:1-4, how does the future hope affect the way we live today?

c) Present: We are Being Saved from the Power of Sin

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...

1 Corinthians 1:18

“The gospel is not just the ABCs but the A to Z of the Christian life.”

Timothy Keller

The Gospel does not just save us from past sins and secure our future but the gospel transforms our everyday life.

11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. 14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? 15 “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. 16 But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! 17 “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 18 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 19 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Galatians 2:11-21

(1) What is the message of the gospel (vv. 16-21)?

a) 2 Enemies of the Gospel

- Moralism: I obey therefore I am accepted
If you gain righteousness by obeying the law, Christ died for nothing (v. 21).

- Hypergrace: I am accepted therefore there is no need to obey (v. 17).

b) Gospel: I am accepted (justified by grace) therefore I obey (the law) (vv. 19-20).

“The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.” ~ Timothy Keller

This means that I cannot feel superior to others because I am an utter sinner yet I cannot feel inferior because Christ paid a huge price to die for me.

(2) How was Peter not living according to the gospel (v. 14)?

a) He ate with Gentiles at first but when Jewish Christians came, he did not want to eat with them anymore. He judges the outward behaviour of the Gentiles and felt superior to them which was contrary to the gospel of grace that he received.

b) He made the Gentiles follow Jewish traditions like Jewish food laws and circumcision. He added the Law to the requirements of salvation which is contrary to the gospel.

c) The fellowship of believers is a fellowship of the grace of the gospel. It is an inclusive fellowship. He made the requirement of adhering to the Jewish laws like dietary laws and circumcision as necessary for fellowship which is contrary to the gospel. He made the gospel exclusive instead of inclusive.

d) His example as an apostle of the gospel influenced others including Barnabas to deviate from the inclusive message of the gospel and divided the church. As a leader, this was more serious as he was setting a bad example and influence.

e) They became hypocrites because they preached the inclusive gospel of grace yet acted in self-righteousness and condemnation of others.

**Guidelines:**

More handles based on Gal. 2:20-21

- Be aware of our motivations. What is the drive of our lives?
- How you view others. Superior or inferior to you?
- How are you earning your salvation? Who is your saviour?
- Whose are you? Who are you?

**DISCUSSION**

What are some ways that we act contrary to the gospel, according to your observation and discernment?
Lesson 9

The Identity of a Missional Disciple
Lesson objectives:
Understand that their core identity is that of a child of God the Father and how they can be secure in His love to be God’s servant like Jesus and be God’s missionary, empowered by the Spirit.

Opening: What is your first instinctive response to this question: Who am I?

Introduction
Before we rush off to do more to reach the lost to becoming the missional church, we as individuals need to be grounded in our identity so that we can serve out of who we are in Christ rather than doing to earn our salvation and worth. We need to know that we are first and foremost a child of our heavenly Father, loved and accepted unconditionally not based upon merit or performance but by His grace. At the same time, we are also called to be a servant like Jesus to serve others that they might know God. We are empowered by the Spirit to do this work of preaching the gospel and ministry.

1. We are Family of God the Father.
   (1) Jesus’ Identity (Mat. 3:16-17)
   
   As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

   Matthew 3:16-17

   (a) What is the significance of this baptism incident before Jesus began his ministry?

   (b) What did God the Father declared about Jesus?

   (c) Why do you think God, the Father declared these things about Jesus?
(d) How are we addressed in these passages (Jhn. 1:12; 1Jo. 3:1)?

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

(e) How do we receive this identity?

(f) How do you feel being given this precious gift of being a child of the God of the universe by His grace?

(g) If Christians are all called children of God, what does that make us? (Eph.2:19)

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household...

(2) Three Challenges to Jesus’ identity (Mat.4:1-11)

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.
(a) The Challenge of Provision (vv. 1-4)

(b) The Challenge of Protection (vv. 5-7)

(c) The Challenge of Power (v. 8-10)

(3) Why was it necessary for Jesus to overcome these challenges to His identity as the Son of God before He began His public ministry?

(4) What is your own experience of these 3 challenges to your identity of being a child of God?

(5) How secure (on a scale of 1-10) is your identity now as a child of God secure in God’s love and approval regardless of performance or merit? What are some doubts or challenges you face?

2. We are His servants like Jesus, the Servant of God.

(1) What is the role of Jesus? (Mat. 20:28)

   ... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”  

   Matthew 20:28

(2) How are we to emulate the example of Jesus as servant? Read Mat. 20:25-27

25 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave...  

Matthew 20: 25-27
(3) How does seeing yourself as a servant of God change the way you live your life?

(4) Who do we serve?

3. We are His Missionaries by the power of the Spirit.

Matthew 4:18-25

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

(1) What was Jesus’ call to the group of fishermen?

(2) What kind of ministry did Jesus do together with the disciples?

(3) How are we to exercise this kind of ministry? Read Act. 1:8

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 1:8

(4) In what ways have you experienced the empowerment of the Holy Spirit as His missionary?
CONCLUSION

1. Definition of a Missional Disciple

The Missional Disciple is one who increasingly submits all of one’s life to God's reign and actively influences others to do the same.

2. Three-legged stool

3. Dangers of being one-legged

In what ways would having these three identities change the way you live your daily life?
Lesson 10

Life-On-Life

Missional

Communities
Lesson objectives:
Understand that Jesus’ strategy to reach the world is through building a community of disciples who will know Him and learn from Him in their daily life together.

Opening: If you have a product that you want to sell worldwide in the shortest amount of time, what strategy would you employ?

Introduction
In contemporary discipleship practice, we often put Christians through academic classes or weekly bible study believing that it is enough to transform them to become disciples of Jesus Christ. We often produce believers who may know a lot cognitively but that does not translate to life transformation and ministry effectiveness. Jesus’ discipleship and ministry model was to pour his life into twelve disciples to form a life-on-life missional community over a period of three years, which in turn evangelised the entire world today. Let’s look at what this discipleship model looks like:

1. Life-On-Life Discipleship Model

13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.
14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

Mark 3:13-15

(1) What did Jesus want the disciples to do before sending them out for ministry?

(2) How is this different from the discipleship process that you have experienced or that is common?

- __________
- __________
- __________

(3) What are the pros & cons of Jesus’ model of discipleship?

Pros

Cons
Example of Paul

Paul, the apostle had a life-on-life model of discipleship as well. Paul himself always had companions as he went on his missionary journeys like

a) ____________ (Act. 11:25-26)
b) ____________ (Act. 12:25)
c) ____________ (Gal. 2:1)
d) ____________ (Col. 4:9)
e) ____________ (Act. 18:5)
f) ____________ (1Ti. 1:2; Tit. 1:4)

(4) How can we move closer to Jesus’ model of discipleship in our context?

There are three aspects of a life-on-life missional community that when lived out as a group becomes a powerful witness and vehicle to become a missional family church to win the world for Christ.

2. Life with God (Upward)

(1) Why do you think Jesus, when addressing and teaching them to pray, used the plural rather than singular pronoun in Luk. 11:1-4?

(2) Read James 5:13-16, what are the strengths of praying together corporately?

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1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

2 He said to them, “When you pray, say:
   “‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.
3 Give us each day our daily bread.
4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
   And lead us not into temptation.”

   Luke 11:1-4

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

   James 5:13-16
(3) Does the gathering of your cell reflect the power of communal life with God?

John 17:20-23

“... My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

3. Life in Community (Inward)

(1) What is the power of a united community of faith?

(2) Why is that so? (See Jhn. 17:26)

(3) What are the various circles of discipleship community that we see in the life of Jesus?

- Crowd
- 72 Disciples
- 12 Apostles
- Peter, James, John
- John
  - John 13:23; 19:26
  - Mark 5:37; 9:2; 14:33
  - Mark 6:34; Mat. 9:36; 14:14
a) Beloved Disciple: ______ (Jhn. 13:23-25)  
b) Inner Circle of Three: ______, ______ and ______  
   • The transfiguration (Mat. 17:1)  
   • Healing of Jairus’ daughter (Mrk. 5:37)  
   • Garden of Gethsemane (Mrk. 14:33)  
c) ______ disciples were called apostles (Mrk. 6:30)  
d) Outer Circle: Seventy or seventy-two disciples (Luk. 10:1)  

(4) **What do you think is the purpose of these different circles of disciples?**

(5) **What other benefits are there to discipleship in a small group?**  
   - We learn from one another what is ______ (Mat. 16:13-17).  
   - We learn from one another what is ______ (Mrk. 10:41).  
   - We ______ one another in need (Act. 11:29-30).  

4. **Life on Mission (Outward)**

   6 Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.  
   7 Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.  
   8 These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts.  
   9 Wear sandals but not an extra shirt.  
   10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.  
   11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”  
   12 They went out and preached that people should repent.  
   13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.  

(1) **What did Jesus send the disciples to do?**

(2) **How did they do it?**

(3) **Why do you think going on mission and ministry as a pair/group is important for faith formation?**
(4) In what ways can your cell group be intentional in going out two-by-two or in your group for outreach?

**DISCUSSION**

(1) Which of the three characteristics (life with God, life in community and life on mission) of a life-on-life missional community is the weakest in your cell group?

(2) What are some concrete plans to strengthen this area?
Lesson 11

Five-Fold Missional Gifting
Lesson objectives:
Understand the five-fold ministry gifting model and discover their role to play in the missional community.

Opening: What is a leader? Who qualifies to be a leader? Are leaders made or born?

Introduction
The leadership/influence of the missional community should not just rest on the shoulders of one leader because the burden will be heavy and there is a lack of ownership in the other members. Spiritual leadership according to the Bible is a team ministry consisting of people with the five-fold ministry gifts. Traditionally, these people are thought to be full-time ministers of the church but this is not so. Every believer operates with some level of the five-fold ministry gifts and ought to contribute to the missional community in their own strengths, so that it becomes a mature group who love God, love one another and also love those who do not know God.

Online Survey
Do this online survey before the start of this lesson - http://www.fivefoldsurvey.com/

Tabulate your score below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apostle (A)</th>
<th>Prophet (B)</th>
<th>Evangelist (C)</th>
<th>Pastor (D)</th>
<th>Teacher (E)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

What do you think about your Base gifting?

You have been created to do something that comes quite naturally to you and where you find the most life. One way to discover your base gifting is to think about each of the 5-Fold gifts (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher) and ask yourself, “What are the things I can’t help but keep doing?” For instance, if you’re someone who is constantly starting new things and never really having to think about it, you just keep doing it, chances are you’re an Apostle. If you’re someone who, upon finding something captivating and exciting to you, shares that with everyone they know, chances are you’re an Evangelist (does everyone you know own that one CD you fell in love with?). You get the picture. Of these 5-fold gifts, which one comes most naturally and gives you the most life?
The Five-Fold Spiritual Gifting according to Breen & Cockram

1. Apostles

From the Greek *apostolos* meaning “one who is sent out.” Apostles are visionary and pioneering, always pushing into new territory. They like to establish new churches or ministries. They come up with new, innovative means to do kingdom work.

- Biblical examples—the Twelve, Paul, Priscilla, and Aquilla.
- Jesus’ example—Jesus was the one sent by God (John 3:16).
- Secular examples—entrepreneurs, explorers.
- Core question Apostles ask: Are we leading the people of God to their destiny?
- Mature Apostles enjoy dreaming, doing new and challenging tasks, change.

- Characteristics of Immature Apostles: They are unable to distinguish between the constant flood of good and innovative ideas they have and the God-ideas that are being given to them. It's about an inability to discern. They try out something new every week and never really develop any of their ideas and jump from thing to thing to thing. After a while, people stop following them because they have a hard time staying focused on the task at hand and people refuse to give their time and energy to something when they know could change with any whim of an idea coming from the immature apostle.

2. Prophets

One who hears and listens to God ("prophetes"); the prophet foretells and tells forth revelation from God. Often they are able to stand back from circumstances to get a clear picture of what is happening and therefore see creative solutions and develop a vision for situations others don’t see. They understand the times and what people should do.

- Biblical examples—Anna and Simeon in Luke 2 as they prophesied over the infant Jesus. Agabus in Acts 11:28 and 21:10 when he predicted a famine and prophesied about Paul. Philip's daughters in Acts 21:9 were all known as prophetesses.
- Jesus’ example—Every word spoken from the mouth of Jesus was revelation from God. He often foretold events such as Peter’s denial and the details of his own death. He, himself, is the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah such as found in Isaiah 53.
- Secular examples—people who speak out their perceptions. They’re often creative types, musicians, and artists.
- Core question Prophets ask: Are the people of God hearing His voice and responding appropriately?
- Mature Prophets enjoy being alone with God, waiting, listening.

- Characteristics of Immature Prophets: While they have a natural gift to "see beyond" what most people can see, immature prophets make two fundamental errors. First, if they sense God is saying something, they provide the interpretation themselves and don’t release it to a community of people outside of them. Just as Paul said, the prophet will give their sense, but it’s up to the community to weigh and give an interpretation. Their job is to share, release what

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1 Copyrighted content and excerpted from “Building a Discipling Culture”
they've received, back away and then see what other people make of it. The proper path goes like this: Revelation to Interpretation to Application. An immature prophet, having received some sort of revelation, wants to go straight to Application. This is incredibly harmful and not the pattern that scripture gives us. Second, they assume they are always right. The problem is that often times they are right and this builds a false sense of confidence that they get it 100% of the time. Because of this, they can become arrogant, haughty and difficult to deal with. In contrast, mature prophets are actually quite humble because they know that any revelation they receive isn’t their own and they entrust it to the community.

3. Pastors

One who shepherds God’s people (“poimen”), who cares for others with a tender heart. One who sees needs, provides comfort, and encourages others. Pastors spend most of their time with other Christians. They can easily empathize with others and exhibit lots of patience with those in need.

- Jesus’ example—In John 10, Jesus refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd who has come to lead his people.
- Secular examples—counsellors, social workers, nurses, and anyone in the care-giving professions.
- Core question Pastors ask: Are the people of God caring for and showing compassion for people?
- Mature Pastors enjoy one-on-one chats and showing hospitality. They get burdened by others’ problems and have a knack for speaking the truth in love. They are good listeners and are easy to talk to and share inner feelings with.
- Characteristics of an Immature Pastor: Pastors love nothing more than being with people in the midst of their brokenness, pain and suffering. However, they can have a really difficult time in moving people from that stage to one where they are seeking healing, transformation and redemption. Immature pastors sometimes don’t have the confidence to push or challenge people to move forward, to take a step forward into the Kingdom, for fear that the person will be angry with them. The mature pastor can live in this tension while the immature counterpart stays a mile away from it and will let people sit in their brokenness far longer than should happen.

4. Evangelists

One who brings good news and shares the message readily (“euangelistes”). Evangelists love spending time with non-Christians and often remind other Christians that there are non-Christians still out there in the world. They are not necessarily all like Billy Graham; they may be “people gatherers.” Evangelists know the Word and can make it relevant to non-Christians.

- Biblical examples—Philip in Acts 8:12. The people believed Philip when he preached.
- Jesus’ example—Jesus embodied the Good News. He was the Good News. We can see Jesus as evangelist in John 3 with the Samaritan woman at the well.
- Secular examples—salesmen, politicians, public relations representatives.
- Core question Evangelists ask: Are new people entering into the Kingdom of God?
• Mature Evangelists enjoy discussion and sharing their point of view. Wherever they go, they seem to draw others into discussion about Jesus. They are passionate about sharing the Gospel. They are not timid about their faith and seem to easily share with others regularly.

• Characteristics of immature Evangelists: Like immature prophets, there are two things they typically do that can be truly harmful. First, they present a reductionist Gospel that’s all about getting people out of hell, that while important, doesn’t always include Jesus’ invitation to discipleship and the availability of the Kingdom that Jesus’ central message was about. When they do this, they make faith and Christianity all about when they die and nothing to do with what happens here on earth. This is terribly destructive. Second, many immature evangelists can have sort of a "love you and leave you" strategy. It’s like once you’ve "crossed the line" into becoming a Christian, they make the world’s fastest baton pass-off to the local church or a small group and are never heard from again. They move on to the next person. Now this isn’t to say that evangelists need to be there forever, but that it shouldn’t be a jarring experience for someone who is just entering a discipling relationship! Being a disciple is about relationships and immature evangelists can make a bad first impression when it comes to Christians and relationships.

5. Teachers

One who holds forth the truth and is excited by it (didaskalos). The teacher looks for ways to explain, enlighten, and apply truth.

• Biblical example—Apollos in Acts 18.

• Jesus’ example—He was often referred to as Teacher or Rabbi. His “students” often remarked that his teaching was different because he taught with authority.

• Secular examples—lecturers, trainers, school teachers.

• Core question Teachers ask: Are the people of God immersing themselves in Scripture and incarnating it?

• Mature Teachers enjoy reading and studying the Bible and helping others to understand it.

• Characteristics of an Immature Teacher: The good thing about Teachers is their profound love of Scripture. The bad news is that Scripture can be the end rather than God. Immature teachers tend to forget that Scripture is a thing that brings us to God. Scripture isn't the point. God is the point. They can suffer from Bibliolatry where they idolize Scripture and put it over their relationship with the living and breathing God that we come to know by means of reading and incarnating Scripture. There are few things more beautiful than watching a Teacher learn from a Prophet because their ability to teach goes to a new level as all of their teachings drive people to the arms of the Father. Also, immature teachers can rely on their own intellect to "wow" people rather than the authority that is given from Scripture and from the Holy Spirit. People's comments about Jesus were that his teaching possessed an authority that they didn't see in the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees. Likewise, the writer of Hebrews says, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." A teacher's authority doesn't come from how smart they are but from the Word of God and the power of a transformed life. An immature teacher will often forget this.
What did Jesus give to each person according to his grace (v.7)?

As Jesus ascended and won victory over the power of darkness in hell, he gave people with spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ (vv. 8-11; cf. Psa. 68:18).

There is an order and sequence of spiritual leadership gifts as one builds upon the previous.

1. **Apostles** (1Co. 12:28; Eph. 2:20)
   - The first and foundational gift of the church. Without the apostle, the rest cannot start their ministry.
   - “One who is sent out” or “Dream Awakeners”
   - Plants the church and pioneers new ministries
   - Biblical examples —
   - Core question Apostles ask: “Are we leading the people of God to their destiny?”

2. **Prophets** (1Co. 14:24-25)
   - “Heart Revealers”
   - Concern about holiness – our righteous relationship with God
   - Concern about social justice – our righteous relationship with others especially the marginalised
   - Speaks forth God's word in season to challenge God’s people
   - Biblical examples —

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**Five-Fold Spiritual Gifting Model**

7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.
8 That is why the Scriptures say,
   “When he ascended to the heights,
   he led a crowd of captives
   and gave gifts to his people.”
9 Notice that it says “he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. 10 And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.
11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. *Ephesians 4:7-13, NLT*
Core question Prophets ask: “Are the people of God hearing His voice and responding appropriately?”

3. **Evangelists** (2Ti. 4:5; Act. 21:8) – Preaching (*kerygma*)
   - “Story Tellers”
   - Is infectious in making new friends and telling them about Christ
   - Biblical examples—
   - Core question Evangelists ask: “Are new people entering into the Kingdom of God?”

4. **Pastors** (Act. 20:28; 1Pe. 5:2; Jhn. 21:15-17)
   - “Soul Healers”
   - Create loving, nurturing and healing culture and community
   - Biblical examples—
   - Core question Pastors ask: “Are the people of God caring for and showing compassion for people?”

5. **Teachers** (Mat. 28:19-20; 1Ti. 3:2; 4:13; 2Ti. 2:2) – Teaching (*didache*)
   - “Light Givers”
   - Bring understanding & application from the Word of God
   - Biblical examples—
   - Core question Teachers ask: “Are the people of God immersing themselves in Scripture and incarnating it?”

**DISCUSSION**

1. What is your primary and secondary ministry gifting?
   - Primary: 
   - Secondary: 

2. How can you contribute to the spiritual influence or leadership in your ministry or cell group in light of this discovery?