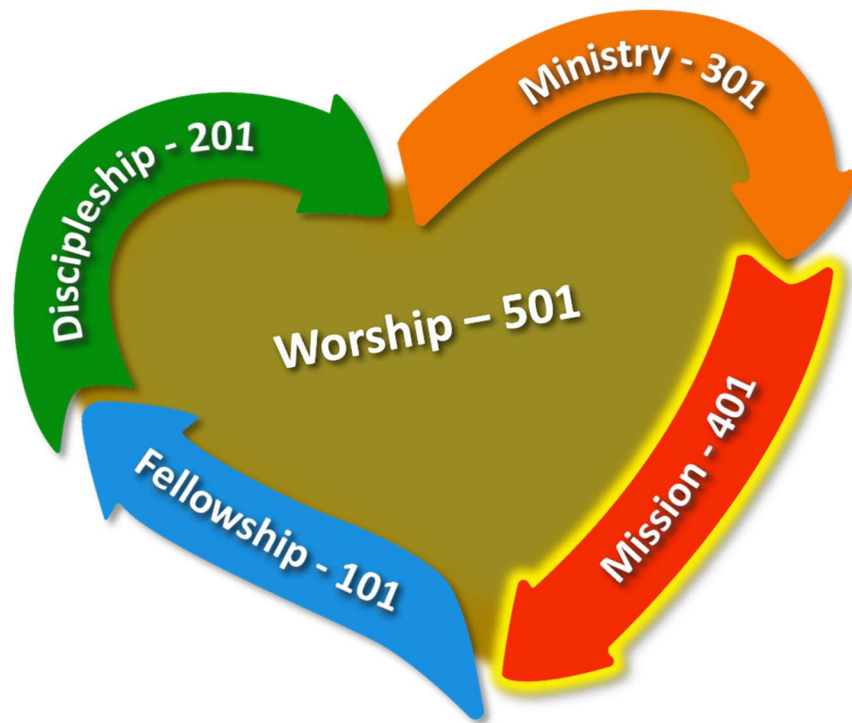


# Discovering My Life Mission

## *Class 401*



**LTC'S DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS**

*STUDENT'S GUIDE*



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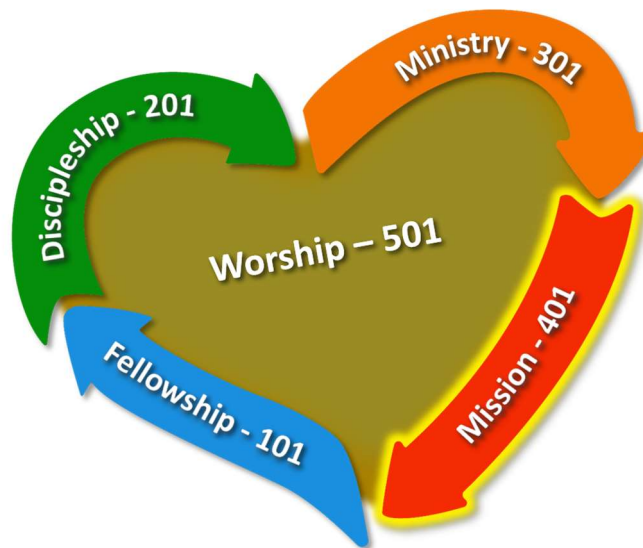
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# Welcome

*Class 401: Discovering My Life Mission* is the fourth of Saddleback's foundational classes. Congratulations on making it around all the bases!

- In Class 101, you committed to being a **Member** of God's family.
- In Class 201, you committed to the habits for spiritual **Maturity**.
- In Class 301, you committed to having a **Ministry** in our church.
- In Class 401, you will begin to discover your **Mission** in the world.



**YOU ARE HERE**

# INTRODUCTION

## *The Basis for Class 401*

I was created to \_\_\_\_\_ God's purpose.

*"The Lord has made everything for his own purposes." PROVERBS 16:4 (TLB)*

God \_\_\_\_\_ His mission in my life before I was born.

*"God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do." EPHESIANS 2:10 (GNT)*

My life mission has both:

- Universal elements (what God calls every Christian to do)
- Unique elements (what God custom-designed me to do)

My \_\_\_\_\_ in life is to fulfill the mission God has for me.

*"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God's grace." ACTS 20:24 (NCV)*

Fulfilling God's mission in my life brings \_\_\_\_\_.

*"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."  
JOHN 17:4 (NIV)*

### THE THREE GOALS OF THIS CLASS:

God's desire is that I commit the rest of my life to being a messenger of God's Good News to other people—using my time, talents, and treasures for his kingdom—regardless of where it leads or what it costs.

*"We make it our goal to please him." 2 CORINTHIANS 5:9 (NIV)*

*"Our goal is to measure up to God's plan for us." 2 CORINTHIANS 10:13 (TLB)*

1. Understand God's \_\_\_\_\_ for my life.
2. Communicate God's \_\_\_\_\_ from my life experience.
3. To live God's \_\_\_\_\_ through The PEACE Plan.

## SESSION ONE

# Understanding God's Mission

To discover God's mission in the world, you must first understand:

1. God's overall purpose in creating human beings.
2. Jesus' mission in coming to earth.

# WHY GOD CREATED US

1. We were made to have a \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.’” GENESIS 1:26 (NIV)*

*“Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us . . . His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us.” EPHESIANS 1:4–5 (TLB)*

2. We were made to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” ROMANS 8:29 (NIV)*

*“God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.” ROMANS 8:29 (THE MESSAGE)*

3. We were made to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.” EPHESIANS 2:10 (NCV)*

4. We were made to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“He has planted eternity in the human heart.” ECCLESIASTES 3:11 (NLT)*

*“This was his purpose: that when the time is ripe he will gather us all together.”  
EPHESIANS 1:10 (TLB)*

**“THIS LIFE IS PREPARATION  
FOR LIFE IN ETERNITY”**



# THE MISSION OF JESUS

1. **The Problem:** Our sin has \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

*“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear . . .” ISAIAH 59:2 (NIV)*

2. **God’s Solution:** He took the initiative to \_\_\_\_\_ to himself.

*“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” JOHN 3:16 (TLB)*

*“God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself.” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19 (TLB)*

## What Was Jesus’ Life Mission?

3. **Jesus’ Mission:** To \_\_\_\_\_ with God by

- \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ those who are in bondage.

*“I must tell the Good News about God’s kingdom. . . This is why I was sent.” LUKE 4:43 (ICB)*

*“This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth.” JOHN 18:37 (NCV)*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free . . .” LUKE 4:18-19 (NLT)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ in our place to save us from our sins.

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” LUKE 19:10 (NIV)*

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” ROMANS 5:8 (NIV)*

- Being \_\_\_\_\_ to give those who believe new life and eternal life.

*“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” JOHN 3:16 (TLB)*

*“I came to give life—life in all its fullness.” JOHN 10:10 (NCV)*

*“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” ROMANS 6:4 (NIV)*

# WHY JESUS' MISSION MUST MATTER TO ME

## *Ten Facts That Motivate Me*

1. If I want to be like Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ must determine

\_\_\_\_\_.

*"[Jesus prayed to the Father] In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world." JOHN 17:18 (THE MESSAGE)*

God is the mission giver; we don't make it up or dream it up. It is there for us to detect and discover as we seek God in prayer. Each of us has a unique SHAPE that gives us clues into how God has prepared us to join his historic global mission.

2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to continue his mission.

The mission that Jesus has given to me is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

## THE COMMISSION OF JESUS

Jesus gave us his commission five different times.

### **First:**

*"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 28:19–20 (NIV)

### **Second:**

*"You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere."*

MARK 16:15 (TLB)

### **Third:**

*"This message of salvation should be taken from Jerusalem to all the nations: There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me."* LUKE 24:47 (TLB)

### **Fourth:**

*"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."* JOHN 20:21 (NIV)

### **Fifth:**

*"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 (NIV)

3. Sharing the Good News is my \_\_\_\_\_.

*"You must warn them so they may live. If you don't speak out to warn the wicked to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death."*

EZEKIEL 3:18 (NCV)

**"IF I'M A CHRISTIAN, JESUS'  
MISSION IS NOT OPTIONAL!"**

4. Sharing the Good News is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*"And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him . . . This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors." 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18–20 (TLB)*

*"I am not ashamed of the Good News, because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes." ROMANS 1:16 (NCV)*

5. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ for what Jesus has done for me.

*"Remember that in the past you were without Christ . . . You had no hope, and you did not know God." EPHESIANS 2:12 (NCV)*

*"For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world." ROMANS 1:14 (NLT)*

*"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all."*  
2 CORINTHIANS 5:14 (NIV)

6. People are \_\_\_\_\_ without Christ.

*"Jesus is the only One who can save people. No one else in the world is able to save us."*  
ACTS 4:12 (NCV)

*"Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. But before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him; and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them."*

ROMANS 10:13–14 (NCV)

*"Telling the Good News is my duty—something I must do. And how terrible it will be for me if I do not tell the Good News." 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16 (NCV)*

7. God wants \_\_\_\_\_ saved!

*"[God] wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."*  
1 TIMOTHY 2:4 (NIV)

*"[God] does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives." 2 PETER 3:9 (NCV)*

8. I will be \_\_\_\_\_ for eternity.

*“Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people.” COLOSSIANS 3:24 (ICB)*

9. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for history hinges around us completing Jesus’ mission!

*“The Good News about God’s kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come.” MATTHEW 24:14 (NCV)*

*“Then they gathered around him and asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them: ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 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 1:6–8 (NIV)*

10. I will \_\_\_\_\_ when I see people in heaven.

*“I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart.”  
LUKE 15:7 (ICB)*

**“KNOWING ALL THIS, WHAT SHOULD BE MY RESPONSE?”**

*“I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus—the mission of testifying to the Good News of God’s kindness.” ACTS 20:24 (GW)*

**PUT INTO PRACTICE**

Review Session One again. In your own words, write out what you see as God’s mission in the world. Refer to what you discovered from the Scriptures and the notes, as well as your own paraphrases of key Scriptures. And use one or two verses you’d like to commit to memory.

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## SESSION TWO

# Communicating God's Story

To share what God has done in your life with other people, it helps to:

1. Know the Good News.
2. Write your story in four parts.
3. Learn how to fish for people.
4. Build a bridge of friendship.

## The Message of the Good News

If someone asked you to explain the Good News of Jesus, would you be able to confidently respond? Rate yourself: How confident are you in communicating the Good News to someone who asks about it?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Very nervous Adequate Confident

## What Is the Good News?

1. God became a man so \_\_\_\_\_.

*"It is the Good News about [God's] Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line; and by being raised from the dead he proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself."*

ROMANS 1:3–4 (TLB)

2. Jesus died for my sins so \_\_\_\_\_.

*"It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you . . . Christ died for our sins . . . He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said."* 1 CORINTHIANS 15:2–4 (NLT)

*"For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others."* 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19 (TLB)

3. Jesus destroyed death so \_\_\_\_\_.

*"[Jesus] destroyed death, and through the Good News he showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed."* 2 TIMOTHY 1:10 (NCV)

4. Salvation is a free gift so \_\_\_\_\_.

*"People are made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God sent him to die in our place to take away our sins. We receive forgiveness through faith."*

ROMANS 3:24–25 (ICB)

5. It is based on faith so \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Repent and believe the good news!"* MARK 1:15 (NIV)

*"The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself—that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, 'But those who are right with God will live by faith.'"* ROMANS 1:17 (NCV)

**"MEMORIZE THESE FIVE BASIC TRUTHS!"**

# SHARING MY STORY

*“But you are the ones chosen by God . . . God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you.”*

*1 PETER 2:9 (THE MESSAGE)*

*“He has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. Therefore, we are Christ’s representatives.” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19–20 (GW)*

**“A PERSONAL STORY IS ONE OF THE MOST  
PERSUASIVE FORMS OF COMMUNICATION.”**

## *The Bible Is Full of Testimonies*

### **David**

*“Come and listen, and I will tell you what he has done for me.” PSALM 66:16 (NCV)*

### **The Woman at the Well**

*“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony.” JOHN 4:39 (NIV)*

### **The Man Born Blind**

*“I don’t know whether he is good or bad . . . but I know this: I was blind, and now I see!” JOHN 9:25 (TLB)*

### **Peter and John**

*“We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.” ACTS 4:20 (NLT)*

### **Paul**

On six different occasions (Acts 22–26) Paul used his personal testimony to share the Good News with unbelievers.

### **Jesus**

*“Listen carefully. I’m speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay.” JOHN 3:10–11 (THE MESSAGE)*

## **We Are Commanded to Share Our Testimonies**

*“Let the whole world know what he has done.” PSALM 105:1 (NLT)*

*“Every day tell how he saves us. Tell the nations of his glory; tell all peoples the miracles he does.” PSALM 96:2-3 (NCV)*

### **The Value of Your Personal Testimony**

1. \_\_\_\_\_: **There’s no other in the world just like it.**
2. \_\_\_\_\_: **You can share from your heart.**
3. \_\_\_\_\_: **You are the greatest authority on it!**
4. \_\_\_\_\_: **People love to hear personal stories and they remember them.**
5. \_\_\_\_\_: **People connect with experiences.**
6. \_\_\_\_\_: **In our postmodern world, it may be your most effective witness.**

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 PETER 3:15 (NIV)*



# THE FOUR PARTS OF MY STORY

## IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS AN ADULT:

### 1. What my life was like \_\_\_\_\_ I met Christ.

- What were some common circumstances an unbeliever would identify with?
- What was your attitude that an unbeliever would identify with?
- What was most important to you?
- What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life (sports/fitness, success at work, marriage, sex, making money, drugs/ alcohol, having fun, entertainment, popularity, hobbies, etc.)?

### 2. How I \_\_\_\_\_ I needed Christ.

- What significant steps led up to your conversion?
- What needs, hurts, or problems made you dissatisfied with the way you were living without God?
- How did God get your attention? What motivated you?

### 3. How I \_\_\_\_\_ my life to Christ.

- What specifically did you do?
- Where did it happen?
- What did you say in your prayer? Be specific.

### 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ it has made in my life.

- What benefits have you experienced or felt?
- What problems have been resolved?
- How has Jesus helped you change for the better?
- How has it helped your relationships?

## IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS A CHILD BUT WALKED AWAY OR NEVER GREW UNTIL A DEEPER COMMITMENT AS AN ADULT . . .

Use the same four steps with this modification:

- Use the time just prior to your recommitment.
- Give some examples of how you were trying to meet your own needs without Christ but it wasn't working.
- Describe what caused you to realize you needed Christ directing your life and how you made a full commitment to him.
- Explain how Jesus is currently meeting the deepest needs in your life.

**IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS A CHILD AND NEVER STRAYED . . .**

Use the same four steps with this modification:

- Point out some deep need or common problem that you see other people trying to resolve.
- Point out how unsuccessful their attempts are to meet their own need.
- Explain why you never experienced that problem by trusting Christ early in life. Don't say the exact age. Continue with steps 3 and 4.

**AMOUNT OF TIME**

<p><b>LEAST TIME:</b> Before I met Christ</p>			
	<p><b>MORE TIME:</b> How I Realized My Need For Christ</p>		
		<p><b>EVEN MORE TIME:</b> How I Trusted Christ</p>	
			<p><b>MOST TIME:</b> The Changes Christ Has Made in My Life</p>

## *Guidelines for Story Preparation*

### TRANSLATING CHRISTIAN WORDS A CLICHÉ LEXICON

CHRISTIAN TERM	WHEN TALKING WITH UNBELIEVERS
"Blessed"	"Happy"
"I was Born Again"	"I was given a fresh, new start"
"I was Saved"	"My life changed at that moment"
"Jesus is my Lord"	"He's the Manager/CEO of my Life" "I put Jesus in the driver's seat."
"I repented"	"I changed my mind" (a mental U-turn)
"I had sinned"	"I knew I'd blown it"
"All are sinners"	"Nobody's perfect. No one bats 1000."
"I felt convicted"	"I realized that . . ."
"The Holy Ghost"	"God's Spirit"

### PHRASES TO AVOID IN A TESTIMONY TO UNBELIEVERS

"I just praise the Lord for . . ."  
"Now I am so blessed."  
"Hallelujah!"  
"Amen!"  
"It was glorious."  
"I was convicted."  
"The Lord laid on my heart."  
"I was called."

Never criticize another church or denomination.

See **Appendix A** for *"Twelve Tips to Effectively Share Your Testimony."*

**LISTENING FOR LEARNINGS**

As the teacher shares his/her story of God’s plan for their life, reflect on the following questions:

- What did I like about this person’s approach to sharing God’s story in their life?
- What words or phrases grabbed my attention?
- What was the overall theme I heard come through?
- What can I learn from this person that could help me be more effective in sharing God’s story in my own life with others?

Write down what stands out or helps you with ideas for sharing your own story with others.

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## Part A: Identifying the Testimony Theme(s) of My Life

### DEVELOPING MY STORY

Use the following form as a guide to write your story. Check the following themes that are dominant in your life.

#### MY LIFE BEFORE CHRIST

Worries/Anxiety  
Guilt/Shame  
Anger/Temper  
Emptiness/Lack of purpose  
Grief  
Stress/Burnout  
Low self-esteem  
Poor health  
Disappointment  
Insecurity  
Regrets  
Discontent/Always busy  
Fears  
Loneliness  
Addictions/Habits  
Self-centeredness  
Despair/Depression  
Cheap thrills  
Boredom/Unmotivated  
Fear of death  
“Something was missing”  
Bitterness and resentment  
Pain of rejection  
Marriage problems  
Financial problems  
Business problems

#### MY LIFE WITH CHRIST

Inner peace  
Forgiveness  
Self-control, patience, and love  
Purpose in life  
Comfort and joy  
Power for living  
Significance to God  
Strength to rise above  
Trust in God’s good plans  
Confidence and security  
A second chance at life  
Contentment and peace  
Faith to face my fears  
God’s always with me  
Power to change  
Love for others  
Hope for living  
Real and lasting joy  
Adventure with God  
Assurance of Heaven  
Sense of completion  
Freedom from my past  
God’s unconditional love  
Changes in my marriage  
Changes in my finances  
Business solutions

See **Appendix B** for helpful ways to lead your testimony into a conversation.

See **Appendix C** for additional suggestions on preparing your testimony.

## Part B: Writing My Story

### **WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE I MET JESUS**

What were some common circumstances an unbeliever would identify with? What was your attitude that an unbeliever would identify with? What was most important to you? What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life (sports/fitness, success at work, marriage, sex, making money, drugs/alcohol, thrill seeking, pleasure, entertainment, popularity, hobbies, etc.)?

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**HOW I COMMITTED MY LIFE TO JESUS**

What specifically did you do to entrust your life to Jesus? Where did it happen? What did you say to God? What do you remember the most? Be specific.

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# FISHING IN MY POND

*“Jesus called out to them, ‘Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!’” Matthew 4:19 (NLT)*

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## HUNTING

Aggressive  
Based on confrontation  
“Go out there and shoot them”  
Uses “one size fits all” bullet  
Take your best shot and it’s over  
Scares off the animal if you miss  
The animal has no choice  
Must be a skilled shot

VS.

## FISHING

More gentle  
Based on attraction  
“Get them to nibble on your bait”  
Allows you to try all kinds of lures  
Reeling in a fish requires give and take  
You get more than one chance  
The fish gets a choice  
Anyone can put bait into the water

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In Jesus’ day, they only used nets for fishing. Today, we have many methods for fishing, including bass boats with built-in sonar equipment!

## Three Keys to Spiritual Fishing

### 1. Identify my \_\_\_\_\_.

*“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.” ACTS 1:8 (NCV)*

**My circle of influence is “my fishing pond.”** God holds me most responsible for the people I already have relationships with. Where do I start? **Those closest to me!**

*“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” MARK 5:19 (NCV)*

“The person most on my heart today is  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

List the names of people in your sphere of influence and how you associate with them (such as immediate family, relatives, close friends, work associates, neighbors, and so on).

**NAME**

**RELATIONSHIP**

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ like the fish in my pond.

*"To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews. . . To those who are without the law I became like a person who is without the law . . . To those who are weak, I became weak so I could win the weak. I have become all things to all people so I could save some of them in any way possible. I do all this because of the Good News and so I can share in its blessings." 1 CORINTHIANS 9:20-23 (NCV)*

**MAKE A LIST OF COMMON-GROUND AREAS YOU HAVE WITH THE PERSON MOST ON YOUR HEART TODAY.**

• Common Experiences \_\_\_\_\_

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• Common Interests \_\_\_\_\_

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• Common Needs \_\_\_\_\_

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• Common Hurts \_\_\_\_\_

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**NINETY PERCENT OF EVANGELISM IS THE ART OF ASKING QUESTIONS!**

Make a list of questions that will show you care and could lead to more conversation with the person most on your heart.

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3. Remember that fish get \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers." COLOSSIANS 4:5 (GNT)*

This is called receptivity. How open are they to the Good News?

It is important to realize that people go through a process in coming to faith in Christ, and they must be approached differently depending on where they are.

**THE PARABLE OF SOILS (MATTHEW 13):  
FOUR KINDS OF RECEPTIVITY**

- |                    |   |                      |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Hard soil       | = | The defensive heart  |
| 2. Shallow soil    | = | The impulsive heart  |
| 3. Soil with weeds | = | The distracted heart |
| 4. Good soil       | = | The receptive heart  |

**FACT:** Some people are close to making a commitment to Christ, while others have a long way to go!

**KEY:** Effective evangelism relies on assessing how receptive a person is and then helping them take the next step.

*Examples of Levels of Spiritual  
Receptivity from the Bible*

*"Listen to me, you stubborn-hearted, you who are now far from my righteousness."  
ISAIAH 46:12 (NIV)*

*"[Jesus with an unbeliever] Realizing this man's understanding, Jesus said to him, 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'" MARK 12:34 (TLB)*

*"He has brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were very far away from him, and to us Jews who were near." EPHESIANS 2:17 (TLB)*

*"But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ."  
EPHESIANS 2:13 (NLT)*

*“My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos’ work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts.” 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6 (TLB)*

**“EVANGELISM IS HELPING PEOPLE DISCOVER HOW  
GOD IS ALREADY AT WORK IN THEIR LIVES.”**

SAM WILLIAMS

# HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP

## *A Plan for Sharing Your Faith*

Good friendships are usually intentional, rather than accidental. Developing friendship with unbelievers often requires going the extra mile, taking some risks, and moving outside your comfort zone. With our busy lifestyles, this takes planning. If you don't plan to cultivate friendships with unbelievers, you'll find that you never have the time to do so.

*"We should make [our] plans—counting on God to direct us." PROVERBS 16:9 (TLB)*

**Step 1: Become \_\_\_\_\_ of the unbelievers God has placed in your life.**

- Make a list of them by name.
- Realize that they are your responsibility.
- Assess each person's level of spiritual receptivity.
- Discover and write down their interests and needs.
- Look for areas of common ground that you can build on.
- Figure out what kind of testimony each person would respond to.

**Step 2: Commit to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Use your list to pray daily for your unsaved friends.
- Pray that God will draw them to himself (John 6:44).
- Pray that God will remove their spiritual blindness (2 Corinthians 4:3–4).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will make their heart receptive (John 16:8–13).
- Pray you'll get the opportunity to share a clear witness (Colossians 4:3–5).
- Pray that God will give you wisdom in what to say (James 1:5).
- Pray the Holy Spirit will use the words you say (1 Thessalonians 1:5).

**Step 3: Show you \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Treat everyone with respect as people, not as "prospects."
- Be a genuine friend. Help them in practical ways.
- Be a good listener. It is a great way to show love.
- Make service your aim, not recruitment.
- Invite them into your home.
- Consciously focus your concern on meeting their needs.
- Go out of your way to love them until they ask you why.
- Accept people as they are, without being judgmental.

**Step 4: Be ready to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Identify yourself as a positive, joyful follower of Christ.
- Share a testimony when the occasion naturally arises. (It will!)
- Never force the Good News. Be patient. God is working!
- Use crisis situations to show why we all need God.
- Ask questions that lead to spiritual discussions.
- Give them appropriate message CDs, downloads, podcasts, or books to read.
- Concentrate on the essential. Don't get sidetracked by hang-ups.
- Invite them to a service at church.
- Offer to lead them in a prayer of commitment after sharing the Good News.

## **PUT INTO PRACTICE**

Finish building your personal testimony. You may need a couple days to do this, because it is very important that you do it well. Remember that it is your most powerful tool that God will use to bring others to Him. Please go back and do the following items in this section to build your personal testimony. The space has already been provided in this section of your book.

- 1. Part A: Identifying the Testimony Theme(s) of My Life**
- 2. Part B: Writing My Story**
  - a. What My Life Was Like Before I Met Jesus
  - b. How I Realize I Needed Jesus
  - c. How I Committed My Life to Jesus
  - d. The Difference It Has Made In My Life
- 3. Define your fishing POND. List the names of people and your relation to them.**
- 4. Make a list of the "common-ground" areas that you have with the person who is most on your heart.**
- 5. Make a list of the questions that show you CARE that could lead to more conversation with that person.**



## SESSION THREE

# Living on Mission for God

To engage daily in what God is doing around the world, you must first understand:

1. The spiritual state of the world.
2. The vision and strategy of The PEACE Plan.
3. What it means to live “Personal PEACE.”

# WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

God has always been interested in reaching the entire world.

*"[Jesus said] Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone."*  
 MARK 16:15 (NCV)

*"The Good News must be told to all people."* MARK 13:10 (NCV)

You don't have to be a pastor, teacher, missionary, or even an adult to take the Good News to other countries. The Bible clearly points out that it is **every believer's responsibility** to be a world-class Christian.

We are all called to be \_\_\_\_\_.

**MISSION TERM**

**MISSION**

**DEFINITION**

The task of the church to fulfill its five biblical purposes as given in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission: worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry.

**EVANGELISM**

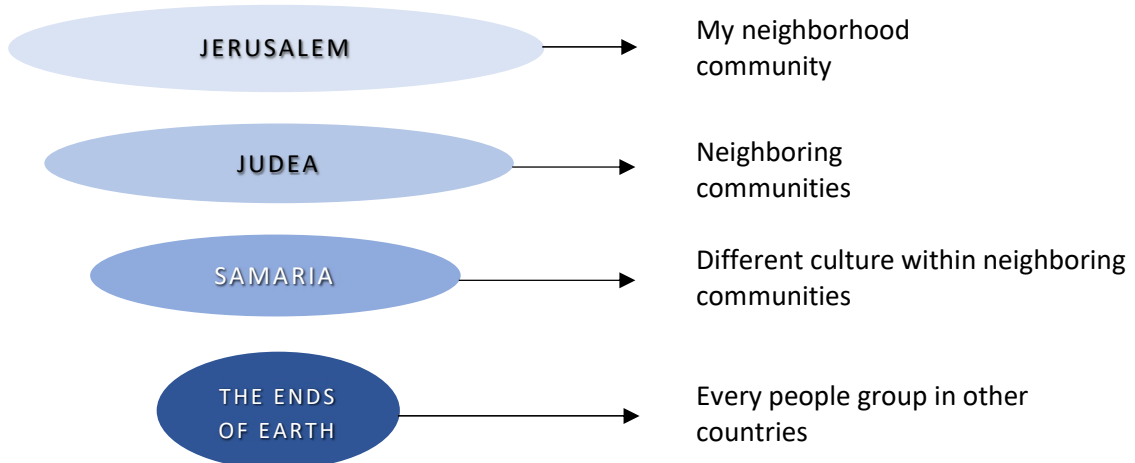
Introducing people to Jesus Christ, or sharing the Good News

**MISSIONS**

Fulfilling the five biblical purposes of the church in a different culture than your own.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**OUR CHURCH'S PATTERN**



*“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 (NIV)

God desires for **ALL** people to come to know him. In today’s world, we have so much technology that it’s easy to assume that everybody in the world has the opportunity to hear about Christ, but that just isn’t true.

The Truth is . . .

**“THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD  
READY TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS.”**

The Problem is . . .

**“THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE READY TO  
GO AND TELL THE GOOD NEWS!”**

*“Jesus said to his followers, ‘There are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them.’”* MATTHEW 9:37 (NCV)

*“Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. But before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him; and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them; and before someone can go and tell them, that person must be sent.”* ROMANS 10:13–15 (NCV)

# THE FIVE GLOBAL EVIL GIANTS

## 1. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Everything is meaningless, utterly meaningless! What do people get for all their hard work? Generations come and go, but nothing really changes . . . Everything is so weary and tiresome! No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content.” ECCLESIASTES 1:2-11 (NLT)*

## 2. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_.

- The world is full of great leaders who lead out of **self-serving motives**.
- The world is in need of great leaders who lead out of **others-serving motives**.

*“You’ve observed how godless leaders throw their weight around, and when they get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads.” MARK 10:42 (THE MESSAGE)*

*“Without wise leadership, a nation falls.” PROVERBS 11:14 (NLT)*

*“So the people wander about like lost sheep. They are in trouble because they have no leader.” ZECHARIAH 10:2 (GNT)*

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_.

- 3 billion live on less than \$2/day.
- 1 billion people live in slums.

*“Their skin has shriveled on their bones; it has become as dry as a stick. Those killed by the sword are better off than those who die of famine; racked with hunger, they waste away for lack of food.” LAMENTATIONS 4:8-9 (NIV)*

## 4. \_\_\_\_\_.

- Out of an estimated 35 million people living with HIV, 56 percent of them are girls.
- Nearly 1 billion people do not have access to clean water.
- Each day 17,000 children die from preventable or treatable disease.

*“Prophets who spoke long ago, before my time and yours, predicted that war, starvation, and diseases would come to many nations and powerful kingdoms.”*

*JEREMIAH 28:8 (TEV)*

## 5. \_\_\_\_\_.

- Nearly 1 billion people are still illiterate.

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” HOSEA 4:6 (NASB)*

*“Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him. God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace.” 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18–19 (NCV)*

- No government agency or organization is big enough to solve these problems.
- Only the church is big enough.
- Only the church has the moral authority.
- We have the promises of God to do this.

# JESUS MODELED AN ANSWER TO THE GIANTS: THE PEACE PLAN

The PEACE strategy is clearly seen in the life of the Lord Jesus as he fulfilled the mission God had sent him to accomplish.

**P**\_\_\_\_\_ that promote reconciliation.

*"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

MATTHEW 16:18 (NIV)

## 2 KINDS OF RECONCILIATION ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH JESUS:

- Jesus promotes peace by ending our conflict with God:

*"God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18 (NIV)

- Jesus promotes peace by ending our conflict with each other:

*"Together as one Body, Christ reconciled all groups to God by means of his death, and our hostility toward each other is put to death."*

EPHESIANS 2:16 (NLT)

### HOW CAN YOU PROMOTE RECONCILIATION?

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**E**\_\_\_\_\_ servant leaders.

*"I (Jesus) have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you."*

JOHN 13:15 (TEV)

*"Pass on what you heard from me in the whole congregation to reliable leaders, who are competent to teach others."*

2 TIMOTHY 2:2 (THE MESSAGE)

**"JESUS WAS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A SERVANT LEADER!"**

**HOW CAN YOU HELP EQUIP SERVANT LEADERS?**

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**A** \_\_\_\_\_ **the poor.**

*“If you see someone in need, and have the means to do something about it, but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God’s love in you? It disappears!”*

*1 JOHN 3:17 (THE MESSAGE)*

*“What God considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering.” JAMES 1:27 (TEV)*

*“If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and he will repay you!”*

*PROVERBS 19:17 (NLT)*

**HOW CAN YOU HELP THE POOR?**

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**C** \_\_\_\_\_ **for the sick.**

*“Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom, and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness.” MATTHEW 9:35 (GNT)*

*“You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.” LUKE 6:36 (NLT)*

*“Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.”*

*EPHESIANS 5:2 (NIV)*

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CARE FOR THE SICK?**

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**E** \_\_\_\_\_ the next generation.

*“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” MATTHEW 19:14 (NIV)*

*“So the next generation will know, and all the generations to come—Know the truth and tell the stories, so your children can trust in God.” PSALM 78:6-7 (THE MESSAGE)*

*“Teach the children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.”  
PROVERBS 22:6 (TEV)*

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION?**

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# MY PERSONAL PEACE PLAN

## SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS = PLANT CHURCHES THAT PROMOTE RECONCILIATION

### WHAT I CAN DO...

- Believe that God could use me to host a new small group! Begin praying for two couples (or four people) who do not have a relationship with Jesus. Invite them to my new small group. (Ask your pastors. They can help with resources on this.)
- List and pray for three people who do not know the Lord.
- Seek opportunities to share the Good News through my testimony.
- Invite and bring someone to a weekend service.

## EGOCENTRIC LEADERS = EQUIP SERVANT LEADERS

### WHAT I CAN DO...

- Invite two Christian couples (or four believers) to share the responsibility of my small group or start their own small group. Encourage them to pair up as spiritual partners to grow in God's five purposes for their lives.
- Help a believer take their next steps with God in their spiritual journey.
- Give someone a copy of the book *The Purpose Driven Life* for discussion.
- Meet with someone over coffee to share what God is doing in my life.
- Invite and bring them to my small group.

## POVERTY = ASSIST THE POOR

### WHAT I CAN DO...

- Pray for people in my spheres of influence that are in financial need.
- Ask God to make me aware of people living in poverty around me and commit some of my time, talent, and money (beyond my tithe) to assist these people on a regular basis.
- Seek to help people in practical ways through job searches, budget planning, or assisting in debt reduction.
- Teach people a new skill or provide tools through classes or training.

## **DISEASE = CARE FOR THE SICK**

### **WHAT I CAN DO...**

- Serve someone I know who is sick: take them a meal; offer to shuttle them to the doctor; do errands or shopping for them; watch their children; send an encouraging note or call; bring them a book to read in bed.
- Pray with those I know who are physically suffering for healing, strength, comfort, and peace.
- Commit to praying daily for two weeks for that person.
- Communicate genuine concern by following up with that person.

## **IGNORANCE = EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION**

### **WHAT I CAN DO...**

- Look for someone younger than me with whom I could build a relationship and mentor.
- Encourage someone around me who may be struggling as a result of a bad choice or who lacks an educational opportunity.
- Offer to tutor or support someone.
- Encourage them to take our discipleship (101 – 401) and other leadership classes that LTC offers.

See **Appendix D** for a checklist to further develop your Personal PEACE Plan.

**“IT’S TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO BE THE CHURCH.”**

**God has gone before us and set the example of what it means to live a life on mission through PEACE.**

**THE BIG QUESTION IS . . .**

**“AM I WILLING TO INVEST MY LIFE FOR PEACE?”**

# WHAT IT TAKES TO BE ON-MISSION FOR GOD

We must make 5 major shifts in our thinking.

1. We must shift our thinking from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ACTS 1:8 (NLT)*

*“For the Holy Spirit, God’s gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them. If you will stir up this inner power, you will never be afraid to tell others about our Lord.” 2 TIMOTHY 1:7–8 (TLB)*

2. We must shift our thinking from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“If you ask me, I will give you the nations; all the people on earth will be yours.”  
PSALM 2:8 (NCV)*

## “WATCH THE WORLD NEWS WITH ‘MISSIONARY EYES,’ AND THEN PRAY.”

*“From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose in all of this was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.” ACTS 17:26–27 (NLT)*

3. We must shift our thinking from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God.” LUKE 9:62 (TLB)*

*“No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.” 2 TIMOTHY 2:4 (NASB)*

*“Seek first God’s kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well.” MATTHEW 6:33 (NCV)*

*“Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.”*

*MATTHEW 6:33 (THE MESSAGE)*

4. We must shift our thinking from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live.” MARK 8:35 (TLB)*

*“Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back . . . and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.” HEBREWS 12:1 (TLB)*

5. We must shift our thinking from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Since God has shown us great mercy . . . offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him.” ROMANS 12:1 (NCV)*

*“Give yourselves completely to God—every part of you . . . you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes.” ROMANS 6:13 (TLB)*

*“Jesus replied, ‘Let me assure you that no one has ever given up anything . . . for love of me and to tell others the Good News, who won’t be given back, a hundred times over . . . All these will be his here on earth, and in the world to come he shall have eternal life.’”*

*MARK 10:29–30 (TLB)*

# WHAT WILL YOU LIVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE FOR?

*"I want to finish the race I'm running. I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus—the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness."*

ACTS 20:24 (GW)

*"Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home."*

LUKE 16:9 (NLT)

*"For what is it we live for, that gives us hope and joy and is our proud reward and crown? It is you! Yes, you will bring us much joy as we stand together before our Lord Jesus Christ when he comes back again. For you are our trophy and joy."*

1 THESSALONIANS 2:19–20 (TLB)

**"WHO WILL BE IN HEAVEN BECAUSE OF YOU?"**

**"THE BEST INVESTMENT IN LIFE IS GETTING PEOPLE CONNECTED TO GOD."**

**WHAT I WANT TO DO FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE:**

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# PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Father,

Thank you for inviting me to be your messenger of the Good News. I commit my life to telling others about Christ's love for them, sharing my testimony, and showing people what my relationship with Christ has done in my life. Thank you for how you have changed me. Give me the courage to share this change with other people. I know you have asked us to take your message to all people in all nations. I commit to living on mission through the PEACE Plan. I will be bold as I share your message, regardless of where it leads me or what it costs.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## PUT INTO PRACTICE

Go back and finish your PEACE plan. You will be ON-MISSION by living out this PEACE plan. Please take the time to do this carefully, because this is how you will glorify God with your life. Go back to the appropriate question of the PEACE plan in your book and answer these questions.

1. **PLANT CHURCHES that promote reconciliation:** How can you promote reconciliation?
2. **EQUIP servant leaders:** How can you help equip servant leaders?
3. **ASSIST the poor:** How can you help the poor?
4. **CARE for the sick:** What can you do to care for the sick?
5. **EDUCATE the next generation:** What can you do to education the next generation?

# WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

## *The PEACE Plan*

### **Read and Sign the Mission Covenant**

- Your commitment today shows a willingness to be used by God!

### **Share Your Story with Someone In Your Pond**

- Start with someone who knows you well and keep sharing your story.

### **Serve with Local PEACE**

- Take your first step today. Talk to your pastors and find out how you can serve.

### **Serve with Global PEACE**

- Explore the different places and passions where LTC is focused. Let us know how we can help get you connected.

### **Fill Out the Next Steps Card**

- Even if you are not sure where you want to get involved, let us know today what sparked your interest.

# Appendices

COMMUNICATION TIPS:  
HOW TO SHARE EFFECTIVELY



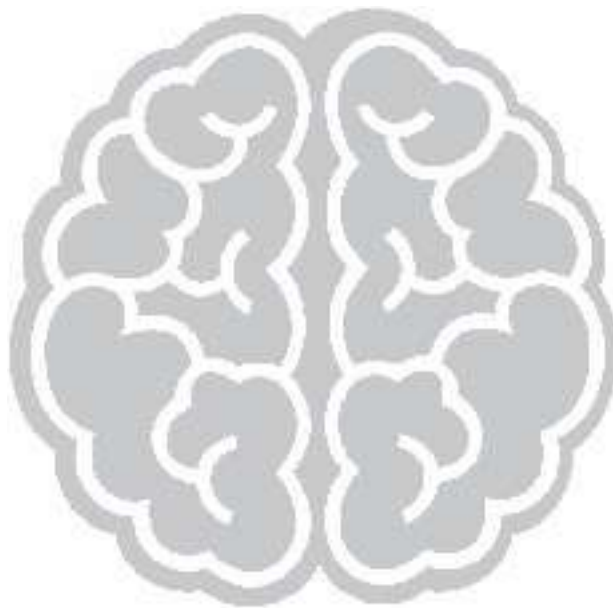
# APPENDIX A

## *Recognize Your Personal Style of Witnessing*

Your SHAPE not only determines your ministry in the church, it also influences the style of your mission in the world!

<b>S</b> piritual gifts	1 Corinthians 12, Romans 8, Ephesians 4
<b>H</b> earth	Matthew 12:34, Proverbs 4:23, Psalm 37:4
<b>A</b> bilities	Exodus 31:3, 1 Corinthians 12:5
<b>P</b> ersonality	1 Corinthians 2:11
<b>E</b> xperiences	2 Corinthians 1:4, Romans 8:28

*Right-brain witness (emphasizes personal experience) — “all your heart”*  
*Left-brain witness (emphasizes facts and Scripture) — “all your mind”*



Left Brain = **Mind**

Right Brain = **Heart**

**KEY:** People Need Both!

## SOME COMMON STYLES

- The Serving Style
- The Intellectual Style
- The Bringing Style
- The Testimonial Style
- The Literature Style
- The Confrontational Style

Don't feel guilty about styles you don't naturally use.

Don't judge others who don't use your style.

Realize that Jesus never used the same approach twice.

### *Twelve Tips to Effectively Share Your Testimony*

**1. Think through what you might say.**

*"Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone." COLOSSIANS 4:6 (GW)*

*"Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive."  
PROVERBS 16:23 (GNT)*

**2. Ask God for help in choosing the right words.**

*"Pray for me that when I speak, God will give me words so that I can tell the secret of the Good News without fear." EPHESIANS 6:19 (NCV)*

**3. Show love.**

*"If I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or clanging bell."  
1 CORINTHIANS 13:1 (GNT)*

**"PEOPLE DON'T CARE HOW MUCH WE KNOW,  
UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH WE CARE!"**

**4. Be positive and pleasant.**

*“A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.” PROVERBS 16:21 (GNT)*

*“Conduct yourself with wisdom in your interactions with outsiders (non-believers), make the most of each opportunity [treating it as something precious].”*

*COLOSSIANS 4:5 (AMP)*

*“A word of encouragement does wonders!” PROVERBS 12:25 (TLB)*

**5. Never use any put downs.**

Don't expect people to act like believers until they are believers!

*“Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.” COLOSSIANS 4:6 (THE MESSAGE)*

**6. Tell stories—give examples.**

People always relate better to a story.

*“Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables.” MATTHEW 13:34 (NLT)*

**7. Lighten up.**

*“The Son of man came, enjoying [life] . . .” LUKE 7:34 (PHILLIPS)*

**8. Be yourself; be natural; don't try to sound “spiritual.”**

*“Dear brothers, even when I first came to you I didn't use lofty words and brilliant ideas to tell you God's message.” 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1 (TLB)*

*“Your speech should be unaffected and logical, so that your opponent may feel ashamed at finding nothing in which to pick holes.” TITUS 2:8 (PHILLIPS)*

**9. Be vulnerable and authentic.**

*“Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives . . .” 1 THESSALONIANS 2:8 (NCV)*

*“We have spoken frankly to you; we have opened our hearts wide.”*

*2 CORINTHIANS 6:11 (GNT)*

*“Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ.”*

*PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NCV)*

**10. Memorize a few key verses.**

*“Concentrate . . . on being a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, and who knows how to use the word of truth to the best advantage.” 2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (PHILLIPS)*

**11. Keep it simple.**

*"I fear . . . [Satan will corrupt you] from the simplicity that is in Christ."  
1 CORINTHIANS 11:3 (NKJV)*

**12. Remember, the Holy Spirit is using your words.**

You are not trying to convince anyone on your own.

*"For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true . . ."* 1 THESSALONIANS 1:5 (NLT)

## APPENDIX B

### *How to Lead Your Testimony into a Conversation*

**1. Listen for problems or needs where Jesus has helped you.**

“You know, that used to be a big issue in my life, too (or my marriage, etc.). In fact, I felt pretty hopeless (frustrated, etc.). But then I discovered something that made a major difference in my life.”

**2. Refer to something in the news or on TV that deals with a common need or problem.**

“Did you read about . . . ? I can identify with how those people feel. It wasn’t that long ago that I struggled with that, too. But then something happened that changed everything for me . . .”

Start with a statement they agree with or a situation where they can relate.

**“IT SEEMS LIKE LIFE IS GETTING FASTER AND FASTER.”**

**“SOMETIMES LIFE JUST GETS SO COMPLICATED.”**

**“LIFE DOESN’T ALWAYS TURN OUT  
THE WAY YOU PLANNED IT.”**

**3. Apologize to people you’ve known a long time but haven’t witnessed to.**

“Bill, I need to apologize to you. We’ve known each other a long time, and I consider you to be a good friend. But friends don’t keep secrets—and I’ve never told you about the best thing that ever happened to me. I guess I was afraid of what you’d think. Anyway, . . . (begin your story).”

*“Each day tell someone that he saves.” PSALM 96:2 (TLB)*

# APPENDIX C

## PREPARING A TESTIMONY

- Pray and ask God to give you the right words.
- Write it out on paper. God honors preparation.
- Keep it short and to the point. Don't lose sight of your goal.
- Be succinct. Avoid excessive, unnecessary details.
- Try to keep your testimony less than three minutes.
- Refer to experiences most people have in common.
- Share a slice of your life (a story) that they will identify with.
- Be honest about your continuing struggles. Your life is not perfect.
- Don't imply that all of your problems ended at conversion.
- Spend the most time on ***"Part B: The Difference It Has Made in My Life."***
- Emphasize why you received Christ (the benefits of doing it).
- Mention the benefit of being certain of your destiny when you die.
- Don't exaggerate or brag about pre-conversion sins.
- Don't make negative remarks about other religions or people.
- Don't mention any denomination.
- Don't quote a lot of Scripture (a maximum of one verse).
- Don't answer questions they haven't asked.
- Give concrete examples of the changes in your life.
- The more specific you are, the more dynamic it will be.
- Avoid using dates, names, and ages. It doesn't matter to them.
- Be prepared. Practice it until it feels and sounds natural.
- Read it aloud and edit it to make it conversational.
- Let a friend read it and make suggestions.
- Speak casually and informally, in a matter-of-fact tone.
- Don't dramatize or embellish your story.
- Don't share mystical experiences. Share on their level, not yours.
- Don't talk down to people. Don't sound "preachy."
- Use "I, me, and my"—not "you." It's about you—not them.
- Use humor—it reduces tension and relaxes people. Smile!
- Choose a central theme from ***"Part A: Identifying the Testimony Theme(s) of My Life."***

# APPENDIX D

## *Becoming a World-Class Christian*

### A PERSONAL CHECKLIST TO EFFECTIVELY “LIVE PEACE”

There’s no single magic formula for what it means to live PEACE. But if God is working in your life, there are some characteristics you may recognize to help you discover his plan for you. Of course, no matter how many of these characteristics describe you today, the important starting question is: “Do I desire these things to be true in my life?”

### *A World-Class Christian is . . .*

- **Spiritually AWAKENED (an upward process)**
  - Lives in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
  - Obeys the Bible as a daily disciple and personally embraces the Great Commission
  - Serves through a local church, using his or her unique gifts and experiences
  - Gives faithfully of time, treasure, and talent to evangelistic mission efforts
  - Responds to God’s touch by praying and caring for people who need to know Christ
  
- **Continually ADJUSTING (an inward process)**
  - Seeks to understand and remove the barriers that keep people from hearing the Gospel
  - Discovers how God has uniquely created him or her to share Christ
  - Changes attitudes and behaviors that may hinder sharing the Gospel
  - Adapts to the variety of people and settings where Christ may be presented
  - Plans ways and develops partnerships to help effectively deliver the Gospel
  
- **Evangelistically ACTIVE (an outward process)**
  - Loves God and others by personally sharing Christ at every divine appointment
  - Builds intentional relationships with people who do not know Christ
  - Uses unique gifts, abilities, and vocational skills to serve and share Christ
  - Invites people into settings where they will hear the Gospel in personally relevant ways
  - Cooperates with other believers who are purposefully sharing Christ with targeted groups
  
- **A passionate ADVOCATE (a forward process)**
  - Longs for the multiplication of on-mission Christians and churches
  - Helps others discover their gifts and personal style for sharing Christ
  - Trains others in on-mission principles through active volunteer involvement
  - Sends on-mission Christians to all people and all people groups of the world

# ANSWER KEY

## INTRODUCTION

I was created to FULFILL God's purpose.  
God PLANNED his mission in my life before I was born.  
My PRIMARY GOAL in life is to fulfill the mission God has for me.  
Fulfilling God's mission in my life brings GLORY TO GOD.

### Three Goals of This Class

1. Understand God's MISSION for my life.
2. Communicate God's MESSAGE from my life experience.
3. To live God's PLAN through The PEACE Plan.

## SESSION ONE: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S MISSION

### Why God Created Us

1. We were made to have a RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
2. We were made to BECOME LIKE CHRIST.
3. We were made to SERVE GOD'S PURPOSE.
4. We were made to LIVE FOREVER.

### The Mission of Jesus

1. The Problem: Our sin has BROKEN OUR RELATIONSHIP with God.
2. God's Solution: He took the initiative to BRING US BACK to himself.
3. Jesus' Mission: To RESTORE OUR MY BROKEN RELATIONSHIP with God by
  - PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS, HEALING THE SICK, SETTING FREE those who are in bondage.
  - DYING ON THE CROSS in our place to save us from our sins.
  - Being RAISED FROM THE DEAD to give those who believe new life and eternal life.

### Ten Facts That Motivate Me

1. If I want to be like Jesus, HIS LIFE MISSION must determine MY LIFE MISSION.
2. Jesus EXPECTS ME to continue his mission.  
The mission that Jesus has given to me is to SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF WHAT JESUS DID FOR THEM ON THE CROSS.
3. Sharing the Good News is my RESPONSIBILITY.
4. Sharing the Good News is a PRIVILEGE.
5. I'm GRATEFUL for what Jesus has done for me.
6. People are HOPELESSLY LOST without Christ.
7. God wants EVERYONE saved!
8. I will be REWARDED for eternity.
9. God's TIMETABLE for history hinges around us completing Jesus' mission!
10. I will BE GLAD when I see people in heaven.



## What Is the Good News?

1. God became a man so I COULD RELATE TO HIM.
2. Jesus died for my sins so I DON'T HAVE TO.
3. Jesus destroyed death so I COULD EXPERIENCE ETERNAL LIFE.
4. Salvation is a free gift so I DON'T HAVE TO EARN IT.
5. It is based on faith so ALL I HAVE TO DO IS REPENT AND BELIEVE.

## SESSION TWO: COMMUNICATING GOD'S STORY

### The Value of Your Personal Testimony

1. UNIQUE
2. PERSONAL
3. 100% YOURS
4. MEMORABLE
5. RELATIONAL
6. EFFECTIVE

### The Four Parts of Your Story

1. What my life was like BEFORE I met Christ.
2. How I REALIZED I needed Christ.
3. How I COMMITTED my life to Christ.
4. The DIFFERENCE it has made in my life.

### Three Keys to Spiritual Fishing

1. Identify my POND.
2. THINK like the fish in my pond.
3. Remember that fish get HUNGRY AT DIFFERENT TIMES.

### How to Build a Bridge of Friendship

**Step 1:** Become AWARE of the unbelievers God has placed in your life.

**Step 2:** Commit to PRAYER.

**Step 3:** Show you CARE.

**Step 4:** Be ready to SHARE.

## SESSION THREE: LIVING ON-MISSION FOR GOD

We are all called to be ON-MISSION.

### The Five Global Evil Giants

1. Spiritual EMPTINESS.
2. Lack of SERVANT LEADERS.
3. POVERTY.
4. DISEASE.
5. ILLITERACY.

## Jesus Modeled an Answer to the Giants: The PEACE Plan

**P** LANT CHURCHES that promote reconciliation.

**E** QUIP servant leaders.

**A** SSIST the poor.

**C** ARE for the sick.

**E** DUCATE the next generation.

### What It Takes to Live PEACE

1. We must shift our thinking from SELF-CENTEREDNESS to GOD-CENTEREDNESS.
2. We must shift our thinking from LOCAL to GLOBAL.
3. We must shift our thinking from TEMPORAL VALUES to ETERNAL VALUES.
4. We must shift our thinking from SECURITY to SERVICE.
5. We must shift our thinking from COMFORT to SACRIFICE.