



SESSION 1

BE MISSIONS MINDED

Theme: God is missions-minded,
and He expects us to be too.

I. What Is "_____ "?

A. The _____ "mission"

The word "mission" comes from a Latin word meaning "_____."

The word "mission" has _____ even though it has several different uses today.

B. The missions _____ (Eph. 4:11–16)

As a movement, "missions" means endeavoring to win _____ people to Christ, to _____ them, and to establish _____.

II. _____ Missions?

A. Missions reflects _____ (Gen. 3:1–15; 2 Peter 3:9)

God's _____ points out our need for _____ while His _____ motivated Him to provide the _____ of salvation.

God revealed Himself to be missions minded as soon as the _____ for missions _____.

B. Missions reflects _____

1. To _____ individuals (Luke 19:1–10)

Jesus came "to _____ and to _____" the _____ and thereby make them _____ before God.

2. To become the _____ of salvation (Matt. 20:28)

We take on Christ's righteousness through _____ in Christ's death on our behalf. With Christ's righteousness on our _____, God _____ us and _____ His _____ from us.

C. Missions is our _____ (Matt. 28:18–20; John 20:21)

Jesus told His followers to _____ the salvation message, _____ believers, and instruct them in the _____.



Time with God

Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

MONDAY

Read Ephesians 4:11–16.

The establishment of churches is the goal of missions. According to Ephesians, what are established churches supposed to do?

How does your church equip people to share the gospel? Are you taking advantage of such training?

THURSDAY

Read Luke 19:1–10.

Zacchaeus stole a lot of money from his fellow Jews. Jesus came to seek to save sinners like Zacchaeus. Why?

What are you doing to join Jesus in His quest to seek and save the lost?

TUESDAY

Read Genesis 3:1–15.

What did God do for Adam and Eve after they sinned against Him?

What do God's actions reveal about His heart for the lost?

FRIDAY

Read Matthew 20:28.

To what degree did Jesus seek the lost?

How should you respond to the high price Jesus paid for the salvation of sinners?

WEDNESDAY

Read 2 Peter 3:9.

Do you share God's concern for the lost? How do you know?

How might you increase your concern for the lost?

SATURDAY

Read Matthew 28:18–20.

How do you know the Great Commission in these verses is for you?

How will you let the Great Commission affect your daily life?

Tough Questions Answered



What was the gospel message in the Old Testament?



The very first hint at the gospel is in Genesis 3:15. God came to Adam and Eve to confront them for sinning against Him for the first time and to give them the hope of salvation. He shared that a Seed of the woman would come to defeat Satan (the serpent). "Seed" simply means offspring. Jesus, the Son of God, was born of the virgin Mary after being conceived by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is fully God and fully man but without the sin nature He would have inherited from His father Joseph. Jesus came as God promised. He suffered on the cross but defeated Satan for good through His death and resurrection.

The very first hint at the gospel is in Genesis 3:15.

Adam and Eve had to put their faith in God and believe His promise of a future Savior. They knew that God made His offer of salvation by His grace and that they deserved to die and suffer for their sins.

When God called Abraham and promised him that the world would be blessed through him (Gen. 12:1–3), God's plan for a Savior became a little clearer. Abraham learned that the Savior would be one of his descendants. He believed God, and God credited his account with righteousness (15:6). That means God removed Abraham's guilt and replaced it with Christ's righteousness.

Later, God gave the law to Moses and the Israelites to help them understand their sinfulness. But the law couldn't save them. The Old Testament clearly revealed that salvation came by faith rather than works (Hab. 2:4). Paul quoted Habakkuk and added that no one could be justified (declared righteous) by the law (Gal. 3:24).

When King David came onto the scene, God narrowed His plan for a Savior even more, promising a descendant Who would sit on David's throne forever (2 Sam. 7:12, 13). David believed God would send a Savior. He wrote that God doesn't save people based on works (Ps. 32:1, 2). Paul affirmed that God accounted David righteous based on David's faith (Rom. 4:6–8). Salvation has always been by grace through faith in a Savior, anticipated in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament.

Lost on North Sentinel Island



John Chau, a 26-year-old missionary, spent ten years getting ready to take the gospel to North Sentinel Island 700 miles off the coast of India. The tribe living on the island is among the most isolated in the world. Their remoteness means their culture has remained intact and relatively unaffected by the modern world. The tribe has also not encountered modern viruses and diseases that threaten to wipe it out. So, India has made traveling to the island illegal. The government even uses boats to ensure no one gets on the island.

John eluded India's patrol boats and approached the island, hoping to contact the natives and build their trust in him. But before he could make any meaningful connection, he was killed with a barrage of arrows from the natives. The isolated tribe saw John as a threat.



What drove John to spend ten years training to live in the wilderness? Why did he approach a dangerous tribe with little hope of success? No doubt God's love in his heart for the lost motivated him to act. Perhaps his testimony will motivate you to share God's love with those who know nothing about Him!

Memory Verse Review



Memory Verse—Luke 19:10

Jesus is the Seed God promised to Adam and Eve back in Genesis 3:15. He said the Seed would come and crush the serpent's head, a reference to Satan and his grip on the world. That crushing happened on the cross. While on earth, Jesus made clear that He came to seek and to save the lost. Before He left, He commissioned His followers, including us, to go into the world with the gospel. We are to carry on Christ's mission.

1. What do you see as your life mission?
2. What could you do to make seeking the lost a major part of your mission?
3. Ask God to give you a heart for the lost and for missions.

Additional Memory Verses—Luke 5:30–32.

Measuring Growth



Missions means seeking to win unreached people to Christ, to disciple them, and to establish churches. Missions begins with God's holiness and love. God sought out Adam and Eve after then sinned in the Garden of Eden. Other Old Testament accounts, including Joseph in Egypt and Jonah in Nineveh, demonstrate God is missions minded. When Jesus came to earth, He made clear that His mission was to seek and save the lost. As believers, God expects us to be involved in His mission to reach the world for Christ.

Look for the following indicators that you recognize your part in God's mission.

1. I have sought training in presenting the gospel.
2. I pray for opportunities to share the gospel.
3. I see witnessing to the lost as a primary part of my daily life.