

Mission Living

TEACHING NOTES

KEY VERSES

1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Colossians 3:16,
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

KEY THEMES

God is at work
Yielding to the Spirit

My salvation story (Philippians 2:12-13)

Jesus loves me this I know

Eternal perspective

The Church

The New Testament Church

A body, not a building (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

God uses people of faith, who are lead by the Spirit

It's a lifestyle (Luke 11:9-13)

Be still and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10)

Active (not passive) faith

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives (Colossians 3:16)

Bloom where you are planted (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

Lesson Objective:

To understand that we are to live out an active faith while being led by the Spirit.

PERSONAL STUDY**Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Begin by quieting yourself before God. Ask Him to help you concentrate and learn what He has for you from this time with Him and His Word.

 **Evangelism: On mission with God guided by the Holy Spirit**

We have learned that God's plans and purposes are being carried out daily regardless of our involvement. However, God's design is not merely to save a person from eternal separation from Him. He also wants us to make Him known. As we get to know God, we begin to share His burden for people who don't know Him. The Holy Spirit empowers us to play key roles in helping people understand who God is and the life He is drawing them into.

 **Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24**

When we begin to align our lives with God's mission of reaching people who don't know Him, we might assume we need to change our setting to accomplish His purpose. What is Paul instructing each person to do with regard to their current roles in life?

God desires for us to live out His mission right where we are. If He wants to relocate us He will make this clear as we are being faithful in serving Him with our lives.

God wants us to see every area of our lives as a place where He can be modeled and shared. How are you currently living on mission with God in these areas of your life?

At home?

At work or school?

With friends and neighbors?

**Read Colossians 3:12-16 and Galatians 5:22-26**

What are some of the qualities listed in these passages the Holy Spirit can produce in our lives to help us share God's love with people around us?

What do people typically see in our lives when we don't allow the Holy Spirit to produce this kind of fruit?

When have you been impacted by someone who has allowed the Fruit of the Spirit to be evident in their life?

How would these qualities be helpful as we try to be on mission with God? What makes them so impactful?

Key verse

Put to memory 1 Peter 3:15. Place your scripture memory card in a place you will see it often.

Prayer time

2 Peter 1:3 tells us, *“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.”* Ask God to show you ways you can be more aware of the opportunities you have with people. Ask Him to help you follow the Holy Spirit's lead in your life and not get so consumed with the tasks of life.

Be still with God and ask Him if there is anyone He wants you to pray for and then reach out to.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

In preparation for reading and studying God's Word, we should invite God's Spirit to open our hearts and minds to receive the Truth. Take a moment to do this now.

God uses people of faith

God invites us to be a part of His Plan to make disciples. Let's explore scripture to see what we can do to ensure that we are obeying God's command.

Read Isaiah 6:8

What was Isaiah's attitude when God asked for a volunteer?

Read Luke 10:1

The seventy-two disciples also shared a willingness to be used by God, which made them respond positively when Jesus chose them.

The first way to ensure you are obeying God's command to make disciples is to be willing. If you do not "feel" willing to be used by God, ask Him to change your heart on this matter.

Read Luke 19:1-6 and Mark 5:24-32

In both of these passages we see how Jesus took the time to respond to the needs of the people around Him despite the demands of the crowd and the busyness of His ministry.

The second way to ensure you are obeying God's command to make disciples is to be aware of the needs around you. Stop now and ask God to make you aware of the people He is asking you to share Christ with.

Read John 4:27-42

In this passage, a Samaritan woman has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. What does she do in verse 28?

From verse 29 we can see that she is still not 100% sure that the man she is speaking to is Jesus, but she is sure of one thing, she wants to share Him with others. It is a natural reaction to want to share a life-changing encounter with someone, or in this case, many people.

What happens as a result of this woman sharing her excitement with her neighbors? (See verse 39)

In this story, we see that the Samaritan woman was willing to share what Jesus had done for her. It should encourage us that a simple woman with a poor reputation saw the opportunity to share with the people in her life.

The Samaritan woman wasn't a Biblical scholar and she didn't bring along her pastor to evangelize her neighbors. She was just "doing her thing," responding intentionally by calling her neighbors and friends back to meet Jesus. It was Jesus who did the work through a willing and excited woman.



Re-read verses 34-38

Ponder this scripture along with what you have learned in *Equipping the Church: Evangelism* so far. How is God moving you toward a clearer understanding of evangelism? In what ways are you becoming more willing to evangelize when God presents the opportunity?

Key verse

Continue memorizing 1 Peter 3:15. See if you can write it out from memory below.

Prayer time

Pray that you will be willing and aware when it comes to evangelism. Talk with God about your salvation story. Ask Him to give you an excitement and a willingness to share your experience with others. Thank Him for the opportunity to share what Christ has done for you and the roads you've been on that led you to Him.

PARENT GUIDE

God is working and moving all around us. The process of watching and listening for God is called discernment. It involves stopping, listening, and watching for the Holy Spirit. For many this is difficult because we have too much noise in our lives. Hopefully this is a process you are familiar with. It is important that we teach and model discernment for our children. Here are a few “Table Talk” questions to help you introduce and discuss this topic with your children.

Table Talk

What do you think it means to hear from God?

(After your child has shared, this is a great opportunity for you to share from your own journey about how God speaks to you.)

Read Psalm 46:10. What are some things we can do to help us hear God better?

(One of the answers we are looking for is found in Psalm 46:10 to “Be still and know.” We want our children to know that God speaks in all kinds of ways, but calming our hearts and minds are a key element to hearing His voice.)

How do we spend time alone with God?

(Again, this a great time to share about your own journey and talk about your own time alone with God. Tell them what you do and why it is valuable.)

What are obstacles or barriers that keep us from spending time with God?

(Possible answers to this questions could be busyness, noise, TV, playing, etc... We want kids to know that it is important that we carve out time for God in our daily lives. This could mean rearranging or removing things from our schedules in order to make space.)

What are some steps we could take as a family to make sure we are all getting time alone with God?

Read Luke 11:9-10 and ask what promises are communicated in these verses?

(These verses do a great job of communicating the promise that when we seek God we will always find Him. It is like knocking on a door and knowing that God will always answer. We want our kids to know that spending time with God is always worth it.)

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Psalm 91:1 says, *Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.* Jesus mentions prayer to His disciples over 30 times in the Gospels and He modeled this teaching by often going off alone to seek the Father. Jesus received His guidance and direction for each day and situation from His time with the Father.

**Read John 5:16-20 & John 8:21-30**

If the Son of God had to get direction from the Father in order to successfully do ministry, should we try to evangelize our community apart from the leading of the Father? Why?

Who did the Father send that enables us to get this type of leading and guidance from heaven?
(John 16:5-15)

When are you spending time in solitude with the Father to consistently hear the Spirit's voice?

Why would fellowship with the Father and the Spirit be the richest thing that you have on this earth?

Our American culture and busy society fights against our necessity to be alone with the Lord. It is imperative that we as Christians do ministry and evangelism out of the abundant life flowing from our relationship with God.

“Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

(John 7:38-39)