

Core Value: Missional Living

We live in a post-Christian culture in which the majority of people in our city and land have not been significantly shaped by the message of the Bible (60% of our culture)

The church as a whole still regards most people as innately Christian in orientation (30%) but are simply de-churched. Therefore, most Christian leaders believe we can reach people through church meetings and services. The false belief is that people will come to church if the product is better. John Finney's research indicates that today the most effective evangelistic ministry is not the work of an attractional event but rather the development of two kinds of relationships:

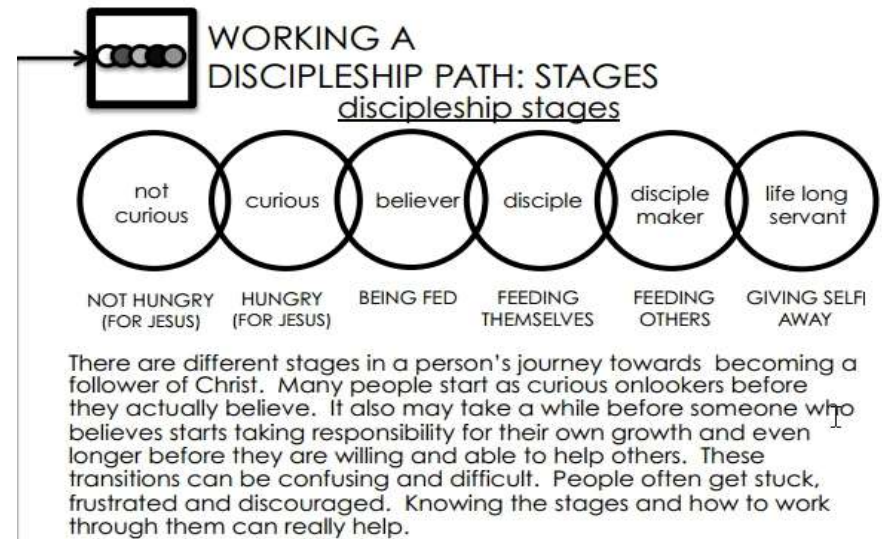
1. One on one meeting with non-Christians or casual Christians
2. Group situations (organic) where there is an opportunity to talk about the nature of faith.

Matthew 9:36-38- We need a missional people with a missional urgency to missionally live outside the walls of a religious institution. We need to do church in the context of everyday life. We must learn to share our Gospel community with people where they are. Many will be attracted to our community before they are attracted to Christ. We need to operate as missionaries in a foreign land.

Answer the following questions (Adapted from Everyday Church by Steve Timmis):

1. How do you see yourself? A businessman, housewife, professional, a fan? You will build your life around your identity. *Missional Calling*
2. Where are the places and opportunities you meet people- *Missional Spaces*
Are you allowing yourself to be in proximity to those to whom you can reach?
3. Where do people experience community (a sense of belonging and deepening relationships) in our culture? *Missional Opportunities*
4. What are the patterns or rhythms of your life where you are able to engage people? *Missional Moments*
5. How could you be more effective in leveraging your opportunities and rhythms of living to develop deepening relationships with non-believers or the de-churched? *Missional Intentionality*
Are you too busy to develop meaningful relationships?

6. How could you begin to pursue Gospel conversations with those within your spheres of influence? (*Allow them to speak their story and share yours*) *Missional Conversations*
Are you spending regular time with these people in order to hear their story?
7. Could the church help you reach these people by supporting you and engaging them through the Gospel community in which you are involved? *Missional Communities*
Are you willing to share your ministry to these people with your church family?



Although the Bible is clear that none is righteous and none seek God (Romans 3:10-11), God has placed eternity in the hearts of men (Ecclesiastes 3:11). All men are seeking answers to the big questions:

1. *Origin*
2. *Meaning*
3. *Morality*
4. *Destiny*

Examples of missional living:

1. Instead of creating a ministry within the organization of the church and then invite the lost to attend, could we intentionally join existing groups that are established in order to meet the non-believer where

they live? (Join the community recreational leagues, participate in civic organizations)

2. If the goal is to move people into smaller groups, why try to attract them with attractional events or worship services and instead share with them attractional communities? (Cookouts in the home, invite them over for meals, the Gospel community intentionally shares fellowship and ministry)
3. Introduce people to our network of Christian relationships so that the burden of caring for them is shared by other believers.
4. Spend intentional time with neighbors, co-workers, new friends who parent kids on your child's sports team. Join them in non-religious gatherings where you can begin to hear their story and share yours.
5. Be sensitive to missional moments where you can be distinctive through your obedience, faithfulness, and joy as you serve the Lord conspicuously before a lost world. Our missional power is not in our attempts to be like the world, but in our God-given strength to be different from the world.

2 Cor. 2:15-17 "For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ."

From Everyday Church by Steve Timmis: The three components of our missional efforts:

1. *Building Relationships- Neighborhood, workplace, home*
2. *Sharing the Gospel Message- Hear their story and share yours. Ask them why they believe what they believe.*
3. *Including People in Community- Connect them to your Christian community. Your church family will commit to connect with these people.*

Jonathan Dodson suggests these 8 ways to be missional (without a church building):

1. *Eat with non-Christians*
2. *Walk, don't drive- practice this in your neighborhood to meet new people*

3. *Be a regular- Find a routine to meet up with the same unchurched or non-believing people. (The same restaurants, stores, recreation teams)*
4. *Hobby with non-Christians- share this with your church family*
5. *Talk to your co-workers- Hear their story*
6. *Volunteer with non-profits- (Mercy mall)*
7. *Participate in city events- festivals, fund-raisers, parent-teacher networks, concerts. Get involved in redemptive cultural events*
8. *Serve your neighbors- mow, rake, gifts at holidays, be a good neighbor*

I'll add a couple more:

- Shine in suffering- Let your light shine before men in the face of suffering. You will be distinct from the world in the most effective way there is.-

1 Peter 4:16- Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

- Strategize with Missional Prayer- personal, community, intentional prayer for lost people

"God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will" (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

1 Peter 3:15-16- but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Make the most of every opportunity. Live attractional lives within attractional communities.

Attractional Community- Read 1 Peter 4:7-12 (love, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, service, grace)

"The preacher may be eloquent and biblical, but if that is the primary characteristic, then the church is merely a good preaching center. The music may be stirring and skilled, but if that is the primary characteristic, then the church is merely a good worship center. A good church is a church in which the believers share their lives together as an alternative and authentic society. Such a church will be well-resourced because no one holds what he has or who he is with a clenched fist. Just as a flower unfolds before the warmth and light of the

sun, so our hands open as they are exposed to the grace of God in Christ. Grace produces grace, which is why a gospel community can only be a community of open-handed, undeserved generosity.”- Steve Timmis
(Time, Talent, Treasure is held loosely)

Study Together

Pray Together

Serve/Love Together

Eat Together

Share Together

App to use to help develop your missional living:

- **Mindly-** Map your connections

Potential opportunities:

Congregational Opportunities (Congregation)

- 3x month- *In homes/smaller venues (Sunday/Saturday)*
- 1x month- *Community Gathering (Banquet Hall?)*
- 5th Sunday- *Missional Worship Event (Strategic locations)*

Gospel Community Opportunities (Committed)

- *Gospel Communities (4-6 couples or families) in homes on any evening during the week*
- *Student Ministry activities at Tomlins or other venues (Wednesdays)*

Discipleship Opportunities (Core)

- *Men's/Women's Foundations studies*
- *KIDZ Connect- Introduction to foundational truths for kids and training for parents to lead their own children*
- *Gospel communities- Jesus' Leadership Growth model*

Missional Opportunities (Commissioned)

- *Gospel Intentionality (Work, neighborhood, rhythms of life) Groups share mission of reaching those within members' spheres of influence*
- *Kid gatherings in area gyms- Schools/Churches (ROCK-Recreational Outreach Center for Kids- Wednesdays?)*
- *Mercy Mall- 9:30-2 (Also Mondays 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.; Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.)*
- *5th Sunday- Missional Worship Event*
- *Inviting unchurched to Gospel communities and congregational gatherings*
- *Local, National, and International opportunities presented by members of church*