



COMMISSION

“I’m convinced that the main reason many of us don’t witness for Christ in ways that would be effective and relatively fear-free is simply because we don’t discipline ourselves to do it.

- Donald S. Whitney

PREP

Check out the introduction video from Pastor Chase:
www.templebiblechurch.org/disciplines

Overview

Paul posed a question to the believers in Rome, “How are they [unbelievers] to believe in him [Jesus] of whom they have never heard?” (Rom. 10:14). God has chosen his church to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. As we practice the disciplines, our inward transformation leads us to outward expressions of our faith for the purpose of glorifying God and spreading his name.

Passages

Luke 10:1-12 | Luke 10:17-20 | Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:15 | Luke 24:45-47 | John 20:21

Acts 1:8 | Philippians 2:9-11 | Revelation 7:9-10

Terms

Evangelism

Presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to sinful people, in order that they may come to put their trust in God through him, to receive him as their savior, and to serve him as their king in the fellowship of his church. (Packer)

Missions

The specific work of churches and agencies in the task of reaching people for Christ by crossing cultural boundaries. (Moreau)

Opening Question

o Who first shared the gospel with you? If you grew up hearing the gospel, who helped you understand it?

READING

by Ryan Murphy

I'm someone who thrives on structure and a clear, set out plan. I tend to believe that if that plan is thought through and well-executed that it will render you the best possible results. To this day, there is a large part of me that believes this to be true, but the Lord has expanded my mindset as I've grown in evangelism and being on mission.

After I graduated from college, I found myself serving God in the slums of Bangkok, Thailand. When I arrived with the other two-year commits, the organization we served with set out to pioneer new work this organization had never done before and had no experienced staff to help. As exciting as that sounded, I quickly realized how challenging it would be. There was already so much that was new. I was being thrown into the "deep end". The invitation from the Lord became clear: Embrace the opportunity to step outside your comfort zone.

I thought I was already doing that. I felt that I had done the hard part. I moved my whole life overseas for the sake of the gospel. But this new work was the hard part. It was outside my comfort zone of structure and ease. Our plan and the desire of how something should look often isn't the case, so I embraced the opportunity to step outside my comfort zone. As I did, I became more and more convinced that for the Gospel to be advanced through God's people we must make these kinds of steps.

With no plan or structure, I simply took steps of faith and opened myself up for whatever opportunity God put before me. I remember starting to pray that God would give

me eyes to see ways in which I could serve the community I was living in. Embracing this led to exciting things, things I would have missed or been blind to. Kids programs were formed. I joined in on community wide cleaning. I sat with the elders at night to practice the language and build relationships. These were some of the joyful opportunities I found myself participating in.

I had a weekly rhythm of teaching English to a friend of mine in the community where I lived. Most weeks looked the same, a simple English lesson. The heart behind it all was to love my friend well and help meet a need she had. However, I was praying that God would use this opportunity to make himself known to her. One Saturday, she came to our session with an English song she wanted me to listen to. She enjoyed the melody and tune but didn't understand the words. As she began to play the song for me, I was moved to tears. The song was a Christian song that spoke of the gospel and here she was asking me to translate it so that she could understand.

This is a moment I will never forget. The sovereignty of God became more tangible to me than I had ever experienced. He is working all around us. He is alive and active. He is inviting us to partner with him in what he is already doing. When it comes to evangelism and being on mission for the gospel, I needed to learn to have eyes to see the work the Lord was already doing around me, and join in.

DISCUSSION

Evangelism

Charles Spurgeon once said in a sermon, “You have never truly found Jesus if you do not tell others about him.”

- o *What do you think of this quote?*
- o *What is the connection between your relationship with Christ and you telling others about him?*
- o *What challenges come to mind when it comes to sharing the gospel with others?*

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Here we have an account of Jesus sending out some of his disciples to do the work of the ministry. We are going to look at two main sections of this story and answer questions around these three main ideas:

Who are we? How do we go? Why do we go?

Who are we? Luke 10:1-3

- o *What might be the significance of Jesus calling us lambs among wolves?*
- o *Imagine yourself in this text. You are one of 72 that Jesus is sending out. What are the immediate thoughts/feelings/emotions you have as you are sent?*

How do we go? Luke 10:4-12

- o *What sticks out to you regarding specifics around how we go?*
- o *Why would Jesus want us to bring nothing with us? What possessions do we carry with us as we go?*
- o *In verse 6, what attributes would a “son of peace” have? Why is a son of peace important?*
- o *The end of this section speaks to how and why we should leave if we are not received? What stands out to you about this?*

Why do we go? Luke 10:17-20

- o *Referencing back to verse 1, it states that we have been sent ahead of Jesus. Read Matthew 13:1-9 about the Parable of the Sower. How does this parable tie into why we go?*
- o *Discuss verse 20. What is the significance of our names being written in heaven and why is that more important than the works that they have seen done?*
- o *How would you answer, “why do we go?”*

DISCUSSION

The Great Commission

Christ gives clear commands to his disciples in these verses. In his physical absence from the earth, his followers are to continue his ministry. They are to be as he was, proclaimers of his instructions and his good news. We are direct beneficiaries of this command. In order for us to believe, the gospel must have been shared with us.

- o *Who shared the gospel with you? Who discipled you, helping you to grow?*
- o *How have you been taught to evangelize?*

Matthew 28:18-20

- o *What does it look like to you to make disciples? How are you intentionally following this command?*

Mark 16:15

- o *What does it mean to proclaim? How do you live out being someone who proclaims the gospel?*

Luke 24:45-47

- o *Why is it important that we specifically proclaim “that repentance for the forgiveness of sins”? How have you proclaimed this to someone else?*

John 20:21

- o *What does it look like in our lives to have the same vocation as Christ?*

Acts 1:8

- o *What does it mean to be someone’s witness?*

Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 7:9-10

God’s mission is our mission. Throughout all of Scripture God is showing us his heart for people of all nations, tribes, and tongues to experience his goodness. As ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), this mission and desire is ours as well.

- o *How can we cultivate our hearts to be aligned with this mission?*
- o *Why would God use the church to be the vessel of spreading his gospel?*
- o *How can we partake in God’s global mission?*

CHALLENGE

This week, take on one or more of these challenges. This is not meant to be a finalized list of what it means to live out evangelism and missions. This list is to give you opportunities for practice. Find ways to practice the disciplines in order to make them habits. Spend some time reading through the challenges and commit to the one(s) the Holy Spirit draws you to.

- o Write down three names of people you know who are not believers. Pray for them specifically twice a day for a week. Pray for opportunities for them to hear the gospel.**
- o Pick a country and pray for the people of that country. Choose a day to fast from a meal, instead of eating, spend time in prayer for the gospel to spread like wildfire in that nation.**
- o Practice your testimony. See if you can get down to saying it in 3-5 minutes. Tell it to 3 people who have never heard it before.**
- o Pick a gospel presentation to memorize. Get it down and share it with 3 people who have never heard the gospel presented in that way.**
- o Reach out to one of our partners overseas. You can find a list of them in our lobby by the big map. Email Ryan Murphy at rmurphy@tbcweb.org to get their contact information and see how you can help them in their ministry.**
- o Spend time each morning for a week reciting one of the Great Commissions and ask for God to reveal opportunities to make disciples.**

RESOURCES

10 Who Changed the World

Daniel L. Akin

The Soul Winner

Charles Spurgeon

Every Square Inch

Bruce Riley Ashford

*The 3D Gospel: Ministry in Guilt, Shame, and Fear
Cultures*

Jayson Georges

SERMON NOTES