

firstmbchurch

# my **PATH**

A discipleship plan for developing  
**fully devoted followers of Christ.**

Group Study Guide

3 VALUES | 1 MISSION | 6 PRIORITIES

# ENGAGE IN MISSIONS

*... because we understand God best with perspective.*

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## DO YOU REMEMBER? GIVE IT A SHOT.

We have three values, one mission, and six priorities.

**Our mission:** First MB Church exists to help people \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ Jesus.

**Our values:** We aim to be real \_\_\_\_, with a real \_\_\_\_, making a real \_\_\_\_.

**Our priorities:** To fulfill our mission and values, we believe we should:

- 1) \_\_\_\_ with a few, 2) \_\_\_\_ with God, 3) \_\_\_\_ a life of \_\_\_\_\_,
- 4) Engage in \_\_\_\_\_, 5) \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere, and 6) \_\_\_\_\_ somehow.

At some point most people will ask the question, “What is God’s will for my life?” Although this is a good question, it can be misleading.

God’s will is not some hidden, mysterious, heavenly agenda item God is keeping a secret. David Platt in his book *Follow Me* wrote,

“What if God the Father has not sent His children on a cosmic Easter egg hunt to discover His will while He sits back in heaven saying, ‘You’re getting colder . . . warmer . . . colder . . .’? And what if searching for God’s will like this actually misses the entire point of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?”

The simple truth is there are two parts to God’s will for

your life. First, He wants you to believe in and accept Jesus as your personal Savior. Second, He wants you to live a life on mission.

## **On Mission.**

What does it mean to live a life on mission? In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "I will build My church." When reading this passage it is easy to focus on Peter's confession of Jesus being the Messiah along with the forces of hell not being able to defeat the church. What often gets overlooked is Jesus being the architect and builder of His church.

**He can use you in the building of His church, but it is not up to you to do the building.** Your job is to make yourself available.

Too often when it comes to living a life on mission, you can get your role confused. You might think it is your job to help Jesus build the church, when in actuality it is Jesus working through you. One of the first aspects of living a life on mission is realizing **it is not about you.**

## **Not So Simple.**

Living as if it is not about you can be especially challenging in our American culture. You like to say it is all about God, but deep down you still struggle with wanting things your way. Seeded within the American culture is a sense of narcissism. This is an overinflated sense of self-importance, placing your desires over God's mission.

God's purpose on earth is greater than your preferences in life. The American dream in many ways is everyone pursuing their own definition of happiness. What if a white picket fence, 2 ½ kids, and a six figure salary was not God's ultimate purpose for your life? None of these are bad, but **what if God's purpose was for you to set aside your own preferences, take up your cross, and follow Him?** What if it

was God's will for you to live a life on mission?

Ephesians 4:4-6 reads:

“There is one body and one Spirit —just as you were called to one hope at your calling— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful works among all peoples.

**Psalms 96:3**

We are all part of one body of believers, whether that is here locally or on the other side of the world. God's one mission is to seek and save the lost.

At First MB, we want everyone to have a one church global perspective. This means a non-believer in the middle of Africa means just as much to God as your unsaved neighbor.

**One of the best ways to break free of a self-important attitude is to experience another culture.** This can be accomplished at First MB on one of our trips to France, Africa, Thailand, or Mexico. Going on a trip will give you the opportunity to experience Jesus from a different culture. You can see how there is one faith being expressed in a wide variety of ways. **All believers worship as one body through one Spirit to our one Lord.** The direction of the worship toward God is what matters, not the language.

## Great Commission

There are numerous verses about living a life on mission found in the Bible. The ones which are probably the most well-known are in Matthew 28, and known as the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-19 reads:

“Then Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus is giving this commandment with “all authority.” He is the head of the church and His desire for the church is to go and make disciples.

Unfortunately, you might find yourself believing that mission work is for the “varsity level Christian,” that there is no way a “regular” believer can be on mission for Jesus, or missionaries must have some super special level of spirituality to go and make disciples.

This is not the case anywhere in the Great Commission. **If you are a believer in Jesus, you have been called to be a part of His mission.** You are meant to do the Great Commission *with* God, not *for* God.

If you struggle with fear and doubt, you are in great company. Directly before the Great Commission, we find Matthew 28:17 which reads: “When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted.” Jesus is giving His final statement to His disciples and still some of them doubted. They had witnessed Jesus’ miracles, death, burial, and resurrection, but doubt still lingered in their heads.

When you think about living on mission and possibly going on a mission trip, fear and doubt might try to hold you back. If this is the case, realize you are still an amazing disciple. You can persevere just like the original disciples did.

## Going, Going, Gone

Jesus is telling His disciples to go. A better translation of this would be “as you are going.” Jesus wants them to be on mission wherever they are, not just in one particular location.

It is more about *who* you are than *where* you are. Where God has placed you and the people He has put around you is not by accident. You can live on mission in your

neighborhood just like you can across the world. There are opportunities within Wichita to reach across cultural boundaries and share God's love.

Here locally First MB is involved with World Impact, Family Promise, and Youth Horizons. These are all great opportunities for you to expand your realm of influence locally. Cultural differences are not a barrier, but an opportunity to learn from other believers. Don't stay within your comfort zone and miss out on the beautiful cultural diversity God has created.

In Revelation 7:9 the Apostle John records "there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language." God is the author of diversity. It is part of the church on earth and will be part of all believers in heaven.

Expand your cultural experiences and live on mission.

## Your Mission

The Mission has begun. Jesus tells His disciples in Acts 1:8, "You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." They started locally then gradually expanded. The first church grew exponentially, but only in Jerusalem. It wasn't until the death of Stephen at the end of Acts 7 believers went beyond Jerusalem. Acts 8:1 reads:

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"We're not continuing to write the Bible — that is complete — but what Jesus 'began' to do in his three-year earthly ministry and 'continued' through His church in Acts He continues through us today. We are the next episode. We're still in the same season, and the finale is still to come. Every believer now has a part of the story to write."

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**J.D. Greear**

Gaining By Losing: Why the Future Belongs to Churches that Send

“On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria.”

It was on this day the gospel message went out from Jerusalem, except the apostles stayed behind. The Great Commandment had started outside Jerusalem and it wasn't with the church leaders. You don't have to be a church leader to live on mission.

The record of those persecuted in Acts 8 starts again in Acts 11:19-21 which reads:

“Those who had been scattered as a result of the persecution that started because of Stephen made their way as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the message to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, Cypriot and Cyrenian men, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Hellenists (Greeks), proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.”

The church in Antioch was started by unnamed believers who lived on mission. It was in Antioch where believers were first called Christians. This church was doing so well that Paul and Barnabas went and spent a whole year with them. **You can have an impact for God's Kingdom and it doesn't matter your vocation, education level, or income. What matters is making yourself available.** The Antioch church started because some unnamed believers were obedient to God's call to live on mission.

## Obstacles

What obstacles do you have that keep you from going on a mission trip? It doesn't have to be a completely open door for it to be the right mission.

Throughout the book of Acts the Apostle Paul experienced tremendous persecution during his missionary journeys. He was insulted, run out of town, flogged, stoned, and put in prison. Instead of quitting, he relentlessly kept on God's mission. Acts 14:19 reads:

“Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and when they had won over the crowds and stoned Paul, they dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead.”

Here Paul has been stoned and his body dragged out of town. The stoning involved Paul's head and body being beaten to a bloody mess. Acts 14:20 reads: “After the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.”

Paul got up and went back into the very town where he was just stoned. He could have left the area, but instead he went back into town. Paul was living on mission. He wasn't going to let a stoning, flogging, or prison get in his way.

What is in your way? Lack of time or finances? Are you too busy? Take some time to think of what keeps you from stepping outside your cultural comfort zone and living on mission.

What is your role in missions? Not all the apostles went on the missionary journeys like Paul. Everyone's role might be different but the mission is still the same: seek and save the lost.

Maybe your role is to get involved here locally with one of First MB's ministry partners. At First MB we want everyone who is able to experience a mission trip to a different country at some point in their life. Go to [firstmbchurch.org/missions](http://firstmbchurch.org/missions) to

learn more. Actively pray and get involved with the current missionaries First MB is supporting. Ultimately your role is to live a life on mission.

### The “10/40 Window”



Approximately five billion people in 8,633 different people groups live in the “10/40 Window,” an area between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees south latitude. 5,935 (68.7%) of these people groups are considered unreached and have a population of 3.05 billion. This means approximately 61% of the individuals in the 10/40 Window live in an unreached people group. The 10/40 Window is home to some of the largest unreached people groups in the world such as the Shaikh, Yadava, Turks, Moroccan Arabs, Pashtun, Jat, and Burmese.

[joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/10\\_40\\_window](http://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/10_40_window)

## Discussion Questions

1. Read Romans 1:14. The Apostle Paul felt a deep obligation to share the gospel message with everyone. What obligation do you feel when it comes to world missions?
2. In what ways can experiencing another culture through missions help grow your faith?
3. What comes to mind when you think of a missionary? Do you believe anyone can become a missionary? Why or why not?
4. List out three practical ways you can get involved in mission work either locally or internationally.
5. What are some obstacles keeping you from getting involved in missions?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-28. Where would the church be at today if Paul let any of these obstacles stop his missionary work? In what ways is seeking the easiest path not always the right path?
7. How can becoming part of the Great Commission change your life?



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real people | real faith | real impact  
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