



Fox Valley Church  
**ON MISSION**

**3-D Living**  
A Spirit-led Approach to Mission  
[www.foxvalleychurch.org](http://www.foxvalleychurch.org)

# INTRODUCTION

We want to be clear from the start, this training is not about making people feel guilty. Guilt has never produced a man or woman with the kind of staying power needed to tell people about Jesus, year in and year out. **Mission, the kind that explicitly tells people about Jesus, is not motivated by guilt, but by love!**

Second Corinthians 5:14 God shows the way. “Christ’s love compels us.” This word *compel* can also be translated *control*: “Christ’s love controls us.” The word means to hold something together and was sometimes used to describe how a river bank or retaining wall would control the flow of water so that it would serve a good purpose. This is what Jesus’ love does in our life as we surrender to His control. The love of Christ keeps us from living for ourselves and pushes us to love like Jesus. This kind of love seeks the best for people.

## Love motivated Paul:

- to tell a business woman named Lydia about Jesus;
- to help a demonized girl who had been trafficked for fortune-telling; and
- to tell the story of Jesus to a war-hardened veteran working as a jailer (Read about all this in Acts 16).

## Love should be our motivation for mission!

The good news for us is that God has already poured His love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). Do you need love for mission? If you call yourself a Christian, you already have it! We need to activate it by introducing people to the God who loves them and sent His Son to die for their sins. The love of Jesus in our hearts is all the motive we need to be on mission. We are more ready for mission than we realize.

Love is the number one motivation for mission.

## God’s Part and Our Part on Mission

In the next few pages you will be introduced to a Spirit-led evangelism method (3-D Living) but before we do that, let’s settle an important question: **Who does what in evangelism?** What’s God’s part and what’s our part?

### According to the Bible:

- It’s not our job to convert anyone.
- It’s not our job to make someone recognize that Jesus is God.
- It’s not our job to argue someone into the Kingdom!

Whew! Aren’t you glad? In His great mercy, God does all the heavy lifting in evangelism.

### God’s Part

God’s Spirit is responsible for opening a person’s heart so that they can see who Jesus really is and repent of their sins (Jn. 16:7-10). Listen to how the Apostle Paul, one of the greatest evangelists ever, talks about it:

“For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of the darkness,’ made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:6).

### He made His light shine in our hearts.

One of the reasons why people cannot see Jesus and love Him is because the “god of this world” has blinded them (4:4). So, how can a blind man or woman see the light? The only way that a blind person can see the gospel for what it really is, is if God makes His light shine in his or her heart by His Spirit. The Spirit shows who Jesus really is. That is nothing short of a miracle! That’s God’s part and why we say that God does all the heavy lifting in evangelism.

## Notes

## Our Part

So what's our part? It's simple – we proclaim the good news with love:

“For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake” (4:5).

Don't let the word *preach* intimidate you. God doesn't expect every Christian to speak in public or pull out a bull-horn on a crowded street. The word simply means to make an announcement or tell people about some news that's going on. That means, when we tell someone why we decided to follow Jesus, we are proclaiming Christ. Our part also involves serving others. When we serve people through the love of the Holy Spirit, we win their hearts and when we win their hearts, we win their ears.

## Intentional Living

Ultimately this training is about *intentional living* as disciples to **tell and show the story of Jesus** to our neighbors. It is all too easy to become comfortable or simply distracted by the busyness and messiness of life and forget our calling to make disciples by sharing the love of God with our world (Matt. 13:23). There is a powerful pull to become only focused on ourselves and forget about those whom God has placed around us that will spend eternity apart from him without Jesus.

In heaven we will be able to worship God forever, to be taught by Jesus directly, to have the best community and friendships, and to be fully and finally healed from our sin and our pain (Rev. 21:4). The only two things we will not be able to do in heaven is **tell** the story of Jesus to the lost and **show** the story of Jesus to the broken, poor, and needy. We hope these next two lessons spur you on in this mission (Heb. 10:24).

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds

Hebrews 10:24



# LESSON ONE

## Leading with Mission

### I. BIBLE CONVERSATION (10 Minutes)

#### Matthew 4:18-22

<sup>18</sup>As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup>and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Here are a few questions to orient us to the passage.

- What is the context of this passage? (What happens before and after?)
- What does Jesus mean that He will make His disciples “fishers of men”? (Matt. 4:19)
- Why do you think Jesus began His ministry by telling His disciples they would fish for men?

## Mathew 28:16-20

<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Here are a few questions to orient us to the passage.

- What is the context of this passage? (What happens before and after?)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why do you think Jesus' final teaching is to go and make disciples of all nations? (Matt. 28:19)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Do you believe this command of Jesus applies to you? Why or why not?

## II. ARTICLE (10 Minutes)

Most Christians agree there are few things as thrilling on this side of eternity as witnessing the miracle of a new spiritual birth. However, in discussions about whether the church should lead with evangelism or lead with discipleship, there is not the same unity. Why not lead a church with discipleship and then assume that evangelism will follow? It is because few Christians ever get around to evangelism if they don't lead with it. Moreover, it is too easy to get an inward focus of "always preparing." Most importantly Jesus didn't lead with discipleship – He led with evangelism. The first call to discipleship was wed to a call to gospel mission:

"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men" (Mk. 1:17).

In the gospel accounts written by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the call to mission precedes any in-depth Bible teaching by Jesus. The first call to His disciples gave them a new vision for their lives by which they would intentionally seek to share the good news of Jesus with those far from him. When it came to making disciples, mission was the first thing on Jesus' mind and the last thing. Before ascending He commissioned them to take the gospel into the world (Matt. 28:18-20).

What about the early church? They led with mission too. Even though the Great Commission passage in Matthew is addressed to the 11 disciples, it is beyond dispute that the early church took it as a mandate for every Christian. Think about it. If the 11 followed Jesus' command and taught new believers to obey all that He commanded, that would include the Great Commission and mean that the eleven passed this mandate down to everyone they discipled.

So, when we look at the early church, what do we see? We see, ordinary, Spirit-filled believers telling people about Jesus:

"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went" (Acts 8:1).

Who were these people preaching the word? Not the apostles! Not the experts! These were ordinary people committed to Jesus' missional work (Acts 11:19-21). It was the church

## Notes

on mission that saw God do extraordinary things by the power of the Holy Spirit. One of the purposes of miracles was to point to the power and authority of Jesus. The book of Acts records 13 miracle stories; 11 occur in the context of the church on mission.

Only two of them happen when the church is gathered (20:7-12).<sup>1</sup>

We are at our best when we are telling and showing the story of Jesus Christ.

The church on mission is the church empowered by God's Spirit. **Remember, we are at our best when we are telling and showing the story of Jesus Christ.**

This is a pattern for us to follow: Jesus led with mission and the Spirit keeps us on mission. If you call yourself a Christian, God calls you to mission. If you want to see miracles, you've got to get on mission. This is why we lead with evangelism at Fox Valley Church.

### When is the last time...

Life Shepherds often wonder about the missional frequency in their small group or ministry. **By missional, we mean that a person is living with the intention to tell and show people the story of Jesus to those who don't know him.** Sometimes leaders think about asking the people in their church, "When is the last time you shared the good news about Jesus Christ?" Many are afraid of what they might hear:

- Last year...
- Never...
- It's not my job...

You may find this hard to believe, but another thing that keeps Life Shepherds from asking that question is that they don't want to "guilt" people into mission. Christians who get guilted into mission never stay on mission.

Why don't we see more people in our small groups and ministries living missionally? Two potential answers for why many Christians never share Christ are:

- 1) They have never been taught how.
- 2) Living on mission is hard to sustain unless we're doing it with others who will motivate and challenge us.

Trying to help with these two barriers is the very reason we are doing this training together as a Life Group!

However, there is a third reason why many people don't live on mission and share about Jesus with their lost friends. It may be the biggest barrier of all: **fear.**

- 3) The fear of being rejected, of not knowing what to say, or of being labeled a "religious fanatic" is enough to keep most Christians from taking steps to tell the story of Jesus with others.

We don't want to sugar coat it. Any or all of these things may happen if you choose to live on mission. All of the apostles (except John who was exiled to an island) were put to death for their obedience to live on mission. Thankfully that is something we will most likely never have to face in America. However being on mission is costly, this is why we say **living on mission is taking a personal risk for the Gospel.**

Living on mission is taking a personal risk for the Gospel.

<sup>1</sup>Two recorded miracles in Acts when the church is gathered (2:1-4; 20:7-12). Eleven recorded miracles when the church is scattered on mission (3:1-16; 5:19-20; 8:5-7; 39-40; 9:32-43; 12:1-19; 13:4-12; 14:8-10; 16:16-18; 27:2-25; 28:1-10). Luke also states that signs and wonders were performed by the apostles, but it is unclear if they were on mission or gathered with the church. Six miracle updates with no stories attached (2:43; 4:29-30; 5:12-16; 6:8; 14:3; 19:11-12).

**So what do we do about our fear?**

**FIRST:** Remember and believe the Gospel. God paid the greatest price for us so that we could know Him. He did not spare His only Son but gave Jesus' life so that we could spend eternity with Him. Do you believe this? Does it stir your soul that God gave everything so that you can know him? Knowing God's love and sacrifice on our behalf is the first step in overcoming fear.

**SECOND:** Stake our lives on living only for the approval of God. In Galatians 1:10 Paul says "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ." Jesus is the one to whom we will give an account for how we lived. We will either live in fear of Him, or in fear of others.

**THIRD:** Be filled with the Spirit and pray for boldness. One of the main reasons the Holy Spirit is given is that we can be empowered on mission (Acts 1:8). Even the greatest missionary of all time, Paul, asked the Church at Ephesus to pray that God would give him boldness and clarity to share the gospel, therefore, we need to pray for boldness (Eph. 6:19-20). Taking a personal risk is worth it, and God can empower us to do it!

Finally, living on mission successfully is taking the initiative by the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

**III. DISCUSSION (15 Minutes)**

1. What stood out to you as we read through the article?
2. What keeps you from telling the story of Jesus to the people in your life? Comment on any of the statements below:
  - *"I'm too shy."*
  - *"It's impolite."*
  - *"I don't know anyone."*
  - *"I've already shared it with everyone I know."*
  - *"I don't believe it's my job."*
  - *"I'm afraid."*
  - *"I don't know how."*
3. What has helped you to live on mission the most?
4. Would consistent support and prayer from our Life Group help you live on mission? What could it look like to live on mission together?

## IV. EXERCISE (10 Minutes)

## Notes

### Be ready to tell your story

Stories have great power to create interest and glorify God. Even if you have done so before, take some time in your group to write out your faith story and talk about it. After writing this out, practice telling it to someone in your group. The following worksheet will help you.

### My Story Worksheet

#### 1 I first sensed my need for Jesus when:

Think of how you felt and questions you had or what interested you in Jesus. It is helpful to think of a single big idea such as loneliness, purpose, acceptance, or fear to capture your story.

#### 2 I finally decided to trust in Jesus and follow Him when I realized:

#### 3 Since I entered into a relationship with Jesus, I have changed:

(ex. greedy to generous, selfish to loving others, addicted to freed, broken to healed, fearful to hopeful, loneliness to loved)

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus helps me in my daily life by...

#### 4 Ask for a response:

Have you considered exploring what God is like and how to follow Jesus?

# LESSON TWO

## Living On Mission

### I. BIBLE CONVERSATION (10 Minutes)

#### John 4:35-38

<sup>35</sup>Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup>Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup>Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Here are a few questions to orient us to the passage.

- What is the context of this passage? (What happens before and after?)
- What do we learn about being on mission from this passage?

#### 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

<sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

Here are a few questions to orient us to the passage.

- What is the context of this passage? (What happens before and after?)
- What do we learn about being on mission from this passage?

### II. ARTICLE (10 Minutes)

Evangelism fads come and go. In the 1970's, Gospel tracts were big. They were easy to transport (they fit in your pocket or purse) and they were transferable (you could give them away). In the 1980's, God was using school buses to get people to church so that they could hear the good news and be saved. He doesn't seem to be using that anymore, at least not in our area. Evangelism fads come and go, but there is a way to live that never comes across as gimmicky and seems to be timeless. This involves a constant reliance on the Spirit for life-on-life witnessing and is called 3-D Living.

### 3-D LIVING

#### D -- Develop Relationships

We are strategically placed by God in our current sphere of influence (Acts 17:26). It's no accident that we live in the neighborhood we do, work the job we do and serve at Fox Valley Church. God has us right where He wants us so that we can love people. We know that the most loving thing that we can do for a person is to introduce him or her to Jesus Christ. But developing relationships is costly. Deep relationships are going to cost us numerous cups of coffee or tea, shared meals, sacrificial acts of service and all the minutes and hours that add up to true love.

When we win their hearts, we win their ears.

Developing relationships with people can help create interest in the Gospel. When we win their hearts, we win their ears. That said, it's a mistake to think that developing a relationship with someone has to take a long time. Jesus went deep with the woman at the well, a perfect stranger to Him, within minutes of meeting her (John 4). We see this pattern in Jesus' life. As with Jesus, so with His disciples. God is pleased to use everyday encounters to tell the story of Jesus. Spiritual relationships can develop quickly.

Many well-intended Christians find themselves bottle-necked in evangelism because they only believe in telling the story of Jesus to close friends and they simply don't have the relational bandwidth for any new relationships. Jesus' plan is much bigger and the Spirit's ways are far more creative.

The first step in living intentionally on mission is to Develop Relationships.

This means we need to be friendly and looking to see how the Holy Spirit is working around us. He is always bringing people into our lives so they can experience God's love through us.

#### D -- Discover People's Stories

Love listens. As we develop relationships with the people God has placed in our life, ask them their stories. Find out where they grew up, what they're passionate about and where they're at with God. Here are some suggested questions to begin discovering people's stories and move the conversation in a spiritual direction:

Tell me your story.  
Where did you grow up?  
Was church/temple/  
mosque a part of your  
life growing up?

What makes  
you feel  
excited and  
come alive?

What are some skills  
or talents that God has  
blessed you with?

What person do you admire the  
most and why?

What are you really hoping for in  
the next six months?

Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.

Remember Theodore Roosevelt's axiom, "**People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.**" Good listeners leave people feeling cared for and many will "bounce the ball back" (i.e. ask you about your story). If they don't, we might want to say something like, "Someday I'm going tell you my story." When God does give us the opportunity to tell our story, be sure to tell them how He has shown mercy (Mk. 5:19).

## Notes

**D -- Discern their Next Steps**

No significant work of God happens without prayer. Someone, somewhere has said it well, “Before you talk to *people* about Jesus, talk to *Jesus* about people.” God will do the heavy lifting in personal evangelism, we just need to be loving and bold and leave the results to Him. Ask God to reveal what He’s already doing in the hearts of people. Ask Him what their next steps are. **Spirit-led evangelism is relying on Him to show us the next steps.**

Most of us take our next step when someone asks us:

- Do you know Christ? / Do you want to trust Christ?
- Do you want to grow spiritually?
- Will you surrender all to Christ?

**Next Spiritual Steps:** Often the Spirit leads us to ...

**Invite them to church or a church event**

Although fewer and fewer people in our culture regularly attend church, many are still open to an invitation. Inviting people to church is a great next step because they will see the love we have for each other and encounter the church in worship. A rightly-ordered worship service can leave a person saying, “Surely God is among you!” (1 Cor. 14:25). Afterwards, share a meal with them and ask them what they thought about the message and where they’re at with God. Inviting someone to church is a great way to go deeper in a spiritual conversation.

**Invite them to one-on-one Bible study in one of the Gospels**

Telling the story of Jesus is about introducing a person to the God who loves him or her and sent His Son to die for sins. The best way to introduce people to Jesus is to take them through one of the Gospels. This is a great joy for us and great joy in heaven when we take others through Jesus’ story for the first time. Don’t miss out!

**Ask:** “Have you ever considered exploring what God is like and how to follow Jesus?”

**Invite them to put their faith in Christ**

At some point, we will need to move from God-talk to Gospel-talk. We will need to move past the “Where are you at with God?” question to “Are you ready to put your trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and follow Him?”

**Ask:** “Is there anything that would keep you from trusting in Jesus today?”

**Ask:** “If you were to die tonight, and God were to ask you, ‘Why should I let you into My heaven?’ What would you say to Him?”

**Ask:** “We’ve spent a lot of time exploring who Jesus is together. What more do you need to hear? I’m challenging you to put your faith in Christ.”

Remember it is not us who can open their eyes to the truth of who Jesus is. We must let God do his part and be faithful to do our part. There is only one way to God, but there are many ways to Christ! Ask the Spirit of God for insight into the kind of questions that would be helpful. He delights to answer such prayers, because the Spirit is on mission.

### III. DISCUSSION (15 Minutes)

1. Without looking, what are the 3 D's of 3D living?
2. Which step do you struggle with the most? Why?
3. Who has God put in your life that you can be developing a relationship with?
4. How can you be developing more relationships?
5. When was the last time you discovered someone's story? How did it impact you?
6. What might happen if you invited someone to church? Once a person visits and begins attending weekend worship services, what is their next best step at Fox Valley Church?

### IV. Exercise (10 Minutes)

#### An Exercise in Developing Relationships

Now that we have discussed the importance of being on mission, how can we develop relationships with others? Take a moment and add to the list.

- Hang out in a coffee shop a few hours a week.
- Grab lunch with co-workers instead of eating alone. (You might even add this as a mission line-item in your monthly budget.)
- Get a gym membership (or actually use the one you already have).
- Volunteer at your kid's school or on their sports team.
- Get intentional with what you're already doing.
- 
- 
- 

Now put a check in front of the one step you will trust God to take. Take a 3 x 5 card and ask people to write down the names of a few lost people. **Start 3-D Living.** Spend time discussing who God is revealing and why. Then pray for these people and each other as a group.