

CLASS 401

Discovering My Life Mission



WELCOME TO DISCOVERING MY LIFE MISSION

This class is the fourth of our basic purpose-driven classes.
Congratulations on making it all around the bases!

In CLASS 101 - You committed to being a **Member** of God's family.
In CLASS 201 - You committed to the habits for Spiritual **Maturity**.
In CLASS 301 - You committed to having a **Ministry** in our church.
In CLASS 401 - You will begin to discover your **Mission** in the world.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

• **I WAS CREATED TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE.**

"The Lord has made everything for his own purpose..." Pr. 16:4 (LB)

• **GOD PLANNED MY LIFE MISSION BEFORE I WAS BORN.**

"God is our Maker, and in our union with Christ, he has created us for a life of good works, which he has already prepared for us to do." Eph. 2:10 (GN)

My Life Mission has both universal elements (what God calls every Christian to do) and unique elements (what God custom-designed me to do).

In CLASS 401, we'll focus on the *universal* part of your Life Mission.

In CLASS 501, we'll focus on the *unique* parts of your Life Mission.

• **FULFILLING MY MISSION BRINGS GLORY TO GOD.**

JESUS: "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." John 17:4 (NIV)

• **MY PRIMARY TASK IN LIFE IS TO FULFILL MY MISSION.**

"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me--to tell people the Good News about God's grace." Acts 20:24 (NCV)

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

That I commit the rest of my life to being a messenger of God's Good News to other people, and using my time, talents, and treasure for his Kingdom, regardless of where it leads or what it costs.

*"We make it our goal to please him..." 2 Cor. 5:9 (NIV)
"...our goal is to measure up to God's plan for us..." 2 Cor. 10:13 (LB)*

THE CLASS OUTLINE

SESSION ONE: DISCOVERING MY MISSION

- God's Purpose in Creating Us
- Jesus' Mission on Earth
- Why Jesus' Mission Must Matter To Me

SESSION TWO: SHARING THE MESSAGE

- Part 1: My Testimony – The Story of How I Began a Relationship with Jesus
- Part 2: The Good News – Explaining How to Accept Christ
- Communication Tips: How To Share Christ More Effectively

SESSION THREE: FISHING IN MY MISSION POND

- 5 Keys to Spiritual Fishing
- How People Come to Christ
- How to Build A Bridge of Friendship

SESSION FOUR: BECOMING A WORLD-CLASS CHRISTIAN

- What On Earth Is God Doing?
- Saddleback's Global Vision and Your Passport To The World
- How to Get In On What God Is Doing: Acts 1:8 Opportunities
- What it Takes to Be On-Mission for God

SESSION 1

Discovering My Life Mission

To discover your mission in this world, you must first understand:

- God's overall purpose in creating human beings.
- Jesus' mission in coming to earth.

I. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR CREATING US

1. **We were made to have a _____**
"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." Gen. 1:26 (NIV)

"Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us... His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us." Eph. 1:4-5 (LB)

2. **We were made to _____**
"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Rom. 8:29 (NIV)

"God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son... We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him." Rom. 8:29 (Mes)

"Just as we are now like Adam, the man of the earth, so we will someday be like Christ..." 1 Cor. 15:49 (NLT)

"We know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is." 1 John 3:2b (NCV)

3. **We were made to _____**
"God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which He planned in advance for us to live our lives doing." Eph. 2:10 (NCV)

4. **We were made to _____**
"He has planted eternity in the human heart." Eccl. 3:11 (NIV)

"This is his purpose: that when the time is ripe he will gather us all together... to be with him in Christ forever." Eph. 1:10 (LB)

THIS LIFE IS _____ FOR LIFE IN ETERNITY!

II. JESUS' MISSION ON EARTH

The Problem: Our sin has broken our relationship with God.

"Your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have hidden his face from you." Isa. 59:2 (NIV)

God's Solution: He took the initiative to bring us back to Himself.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (LB)

"God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself..." 2 Cor. 5:19a (LB)

WHAT WAS JESUS' LIFE MISSION?

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:10 (NIV)

"This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth." John 18:37b (NCV)

"I came to give life--life in all its fullness..." John 10:10 (NCV)

"I have come as a Light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in the darkness." John 12:46 (LB)

"I must tell the Good News about God's kingdom... This is what I was sent to do." Luke 4:43 (ICB)

III. WHY JESUS' MISSION MUST MATTER TO ME TEN FACTS THAT MOTIVATE ME

1. IF I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS, _____ LIFE MISSION MUST INCLUDE _____ LIFE MISSION.

Jesus prayed to the Father: *"In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world."* John 17:18 (Mes)

2. JESUS _____ ME TO CONTINUE HIS MISSION. The 5 Great Commissions of Jesus

"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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt. 28:19-20 (NIV)

"You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere." Mark 16:15 (LB)

"With my authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me." Luke 24:47 (NLT)

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21 (NIV)

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NIV)

3. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IS MY _____.

"... you must warn them so they may live. If you don't speak out to warn the wicked to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death." Ezekiel 3:18 (NCV)

"Telling the Good News is my duty - something I must do. And how terrible it will be for me if I do not tell the Good News." 1 Cor. 9:16 (NCV)

If I'm a Christian, my mission is not _____!

4. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IS A _____.

"And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him... This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors." 2 Cor. 5:18b (LB)

"I am proud of the Good News, because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes..." Rom. 1:16 (NCV)

5. I'M _____ FOR WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

"Remember that in the past you were without Christ... You had no hope, and you did not know God." Eph. 2:12 (NCV)

"For I have a great sense of obligation to people in our culture and to people in

other cultures...”

Rom. 1:14 (NLT)

“For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all...”

2 Cor. 5:14 (NIV)

6. BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE _____ WITHOUT CHRIST.

“Jesus is the only one who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save people. We must be saved through him.”

Acts 4:12 (NCV)

“Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. But before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him; and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them.”

Rom. 10:13-14 (NCV)

7. BECAUSE GOD WANTS _____ SAVED! (Luke 15)

“God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

1 Tim. 2:4 (NIV)

“God does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives.”

2 Peter 2:9 (NCV)

8. I WILL BE _____ FOR ETERNITY.

“Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people.”

Col. 3:24 (ICB)

**9. GOD’S _____ FOR HISTORY HINGES AROUND US
COMPLETING OUR MISSION!**

“The Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come.”

Matt. 24:14 (NCV)

“They asked him, ‘Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ Jesus replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. BUT you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’”

Acts 1:6-8 (NIV)

“After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them and said ‘Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’”

Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)

10. I WILL _____ WHEN I SEE PEOPLE IN HEAVEN.

“I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart.”

Luke 15:7a (ICB)

Knowing this, what should be my response?

“I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus - the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness.” Acts 20:24 (NCV)

SESSION 2

Sharing The Message

"You are the ones chosen by God... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you." 1 Peter 2:9 (Mes)

"...He has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. Therefore, we are Christ's representatives." 2 Cor. 5:19b-20 (GWT)

FOUR PARTS OF YOUR LIFE MESSAGE

My Testimony – My story of how I began a relationship with Jesus.

The Good News – Explaining how to accept Christ.

I. SHARING MY TESTIMONY

A personal testimony is the most persuasive form of communication.

The Bible is full of testimonies:

DAVID

"Come and listen, and I will tell you what God has done for me." Ps. 66:16 (NCV)

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony." John 4:39 (NIV)

THE MAN BORN BLIND

"I don't know whether he is good or bad, but I know this: I was blind, and now I see!" John 9:25 (LB)

PETER AND JOHN

"We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20 (NLT)

PAUL

On six different occasions (Acts 22-26) Paul used his personal testimony to share the Good News with unbelievers.

JESUS

"Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay." John 3:11 (Mes)

We are commanded to share our testimonies

"Let the whole world know what he has done for you." Ps. 105:1b (LB)

"Every day tell how he saves us. Tell the nations of his glory; tell all peoples the miracles he does." Ps. 96:2-3 (NCV)

THE VALUE OF YOUR TESTIMONY

1. It is unique! There are no others just like it.
2. It is personal and easy to understand.
3. You are the authority on it. It's difficult to argue with.
4. People love to hear personal stories and they remember them.
5. People can relate to it. It builds a relational bridge.
6. In our postmodern world, it may be your most effective witness.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

A. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS AN ADULT

THE FOUR PARTS OF YOUR TESTIMONY

1. WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE I MET CHRIST.

*What common circumstances would an unbeliever identify with?
What were your attitudes that an unbeliever would identify with?
What was most important to you?*

*What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life?
(sports/fitness, success at work, marriage, sex, making money,
drugs/alcohol, having fun, entertainment, popularity, hobbies)*

2. HOW I REALIZED I NEEDED CHRIST.

*What significant steps led up to your conversion?
What needs, hurts, or problems made you dissatisfied
with the way you were living without God?
How did God get your attention? What motivated you?*

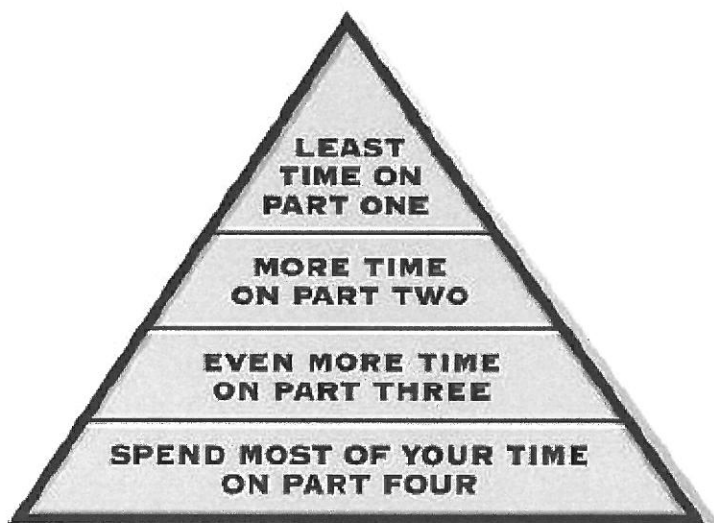
3. HOW I COMMITTED MY LIFE TO CHRIST.

*What specifically did you do? Where did it happen?
What did you say in your prayer? Be specific.*

4. THE DIFFERENCE IT HAS MADE IN MY LIFE.

*What benefits have you experienced or felt?
What problems have been resolved?
How has Jesus helped you change for the better?
How has it helped your relationships?
Give a current example.*

The Testimony Pyramid



B. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS A CHILD BUT WALKED AWAY OR NEVER GREW UNTIL A DEEPER RECOMMITMENT AS AN ADULT.

Use the same four steps, but start with the time just prior to your *recommitment*. Give some examples of how you were trying to meet your own needs without Christ but it wasn't working. Describe what caused you to realize you needed Christ directing your life and how you made a full commitment to him. Then explain how Jesus is currently meeting the deepest needs in your life.

C. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AT AN EARLY AGE AND NEVER STRAYED.

Use the same four steps with this modification: Point out some deep need or common problem that you see *other people* trying to resolve. Point out how unsuccessful their attempts are to meet their own need. Then explain why you never experienced that problem by trusting Christ early in life. Don't say the exact age. Continue with steps 3 and 4.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY

- Pray and ask God to give you the right words.
- Write it out on paper. God honors preparation.

- Keep it short and to the point. Don't lose site of your goal.
- Be succinct. Avoid excessive, unnecessary details.
- Try to keep your testimony below 3 minutes.

- Refer to experiences most people have in common.
- Share a slice of your life (a story) that they will identify with.

- Be honest about your continuing struggles. Your life is not perfect.
- Don't imply that all of your problems ended at conversion.

- Spend the most time on part 4: the difference Christ has made.
- Emphasize WHY you received Christ (the benefits of doing it).
- Mention the benefit of being certain of your destiny when you die.

- Don't exaggerate or brag about pre-conversion sins.
- Don't make negative remarks about other religions or people.
- Don't mention any denomination.

- Don't quote a lot of Scripture. (A maximum of one verse)
- Don't answer questions they haven't asked.

- Give concrete examples of the changes in your life.
- The more specific you are, the more dynamic it will be.
- Avoid using dates, names, and ages. It doesn't matter to them.

- Be prepared. Practice it until it feels and sounds natural.
- Read it aloud and edit it to make it conversational.
- Let a friend read it and make suggestions.

- Speak casually and informally, in a matter-of-fact tone.
- Don't dramatize or embellish your story.
- Don't share mystical experiences. Share on *their* level, not *yours*.

- Don't talk down to people. Don't sound "preachy."
- Use "*I, me, and my*" not "*You*". It's about you – not them.
- Use humor - it reduces tension and relaxes people. Smile!

- Choose a central theme. (See list)

POSSIBLE TESTIMONY THEMES

How Trusting Jesus has helped me deal with my...

- Worries / Anxiety
- Guilt/Shame
- Anger / Temper
- Emptiness/Lack of Purpose
- Grief
- Stress / Burnout
- Low self-esteem
- Poor health
- Disappointment
- Insecurity
- Regrets
- Discontent / frantic activity
- Fears
- Loneliness
- Lack of emotional support
- Addictions / Habits
- Self-centeredness
- Despair / Depression
- Cheap thrills
- Boredom with my life
- Fear of Death
- "Something was missing"
- Bitterness & resentment
- Pain of rejection
- Marriage Problems
- Financial Problems
- Business Problems

How Trusting Jesus has given me

- Inner Peace
- Forgiveness and a fresh start
- Patience and love
- Purpose in life and meaning
- Comfort and Joy
- New energy and power for living
- Significance. I am valuable to God
- Strength to go on
- Trust in his good plans
- Confidence and sense of security
- A second chance at life
- Contentment and peace
- Faith to face my fears
- Assurance He's always with me.
- A church family that supports me.
- Power to change. Freedom
- Love for other people
- Hope
- Real, lasting happiness
- Adventure with God
- Assurance of heaven
- A sense of fulfillment
- The ability to be free from my past
- God's unconditional love
- Positive changes in my marriage
- Positive changes in my finances
- Positive changes in my business

God allows experiences in my life so I can relate to others who need Christ!

COMMON GROUND CIRCUMSTANCES

Could you give a testimony about how Jesus helped you with any of the following experiences?

POSITIVE:

Adoption, breaking a bad habit, financial gain, raising kids, marriage strengthened or restored, new baby, new business, new friends, new home, new marriage, new job, success, renewed love, restored relationships

MAJOR CRISES

Abuse, accident, addiction, abortion, bankruptcy, broken dream, eating disorder, death, depression, disease, discrimination, divorce, empty nest, financial problems, infertility, incest, jail, rape, surgery

- **Realize you have more than one testimony!**

- Different situations will require different testimonies!
- Choose the testimony that best matches your listener.
- Realize you can tell about how others' lives have been changed too. Your small group can share your stories with each other.
- Don't use religious terms or clichés or broad generalities.
- Ask: "If I were an unbeliever, would this make sense to me?"

TRANSLATING CHRISTIAN WORDS

A cliché lexicon

CHRISTIAN TERM	WHEN TALKING WITH SEEKERS
"Blessed"	"Happy"
"I was Born Again"	"I was given a fresh, new start"
"I was Saved"	"My life changed at that moment"
"Jesus is my Lord"	"He's the Manager/CEO of my Life"
	"I put Jesus in the driver's seat."
"I repented"	"I changed my mind" (a mental U-turn)
"I had sinned"	"I knew I'd blown it"
"All are sinners"	"Nobody's perfect. No one bats 1000"
"I felt convicted"	"I realized that..."
"The Holy Ghost"	"God's Spirit"

PHRASES TO AVOID IN A TESTIMONY TO UNBELIEVER

"I just Praise the Lord for..." "Now I am so blessed" "Hallelujah!"
 "Amen" "It was glorious" "I was convicted" "The Lord laid on my heart"

HOW TO LEAD INTO YOUR TESTIMONY

- 1. Listen for problems or needs that Jesus has helped you with.**
"You know, that used to be a big issue in my life too (or my marriage, etc). In fact, I felt pretty (hopeless, frustrated, etc.) But then I discovered something that made a major difference in my life."
- 2. Refer to something in the news or on TV that deals with a common need or problem.**
"Did you read about... I can sure identify with how those people feel. It wasn't that long ago that I struggled with that too. But then something happened that changed everything for me..."

Start with a statement they'd agree with or situation they relate to.

"It seems like life is getting faster and faster."

"Sometimes life just gets so complicated."

"Life doesn't always turn out the way you planned it."

3. **Apologize to people you've known a long time but haven't witnessed to.**
"Bill, I need to apologize to you. We've known each other a long time, and I consider you to be a good friend. But friends don't keep secrets – and I've never told you about the best thing that ever happened to me. I guess I was afraid you'd think I was some kind of nut. Anyway... (begin your story)."

"Each day tell someone that he saves." Psalm 96:2b (LB)

II. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

The universal part of your Life Message is the Gospel, the *Good News* of how we can be saved, forgiven, and begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The moment you trust in Christ, you are called and commissioned to be a messenger of the Good News to people who haven't heard or responded to it.

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

1. GOD BECAME A MAN - SO _____

*"It is the **Good News** about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line; and by being raised from the dead he proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself."*

Rom. 1:3-4 (LB)

2. JESUS DIED FOR MY SINS - SO _____

*"It is this **Good News** that saves you if you firmly believe it... that Christ died for our sins. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said."*

1 Cor. 15: 2-4 (NLT)

"For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others."

2 Cor. 5:19 (LB)

3. JESUS DESTROYED DEATH - SO _____

*"Jesus destroyed death, and through the **Good News** he showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed."*

2 Tim. 1:10 (NCV)

4. SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT - SO _____

"People are made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus as a way to forgive sin through faith."

Rom. 3:24-25 (ICB)

5. IT IS BASED ON FAITH - SO _____

Jesus said, "Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15 (NIV)

*"The **Good News** shows how God makes people right with himself - that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, 'Those who are right with God will live by trusting in him.'"*

Rom. 1:17 (NCV)

Memorize these 5 basic truths!

3 SIMPLE TOOLS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD (tract)

THE BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION

“God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together.” 1 Tim. 2:4 (LB)

“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12 (NLT)

HOW TO ESTABLISH A SPIRITUAL BASE (card)

(How to lead a person in a commitment to Christ)

III. COMMUNICATION TIPS: HOW TO SHARE EFFECTIVELY

1. RECOGNIZE YOUR PERSONAL STYLE OF WITNESSING

Your “*SHAPE*” not only determines *your ministry in the church* it influences *the style of your mission in the world!*

<i>S</i> piritual gifts	(1 Cor. 12, Rom. 8, Eph. 4)
<i>H</i> earth	(Matt. 12:34, Pr. 4:23, Ps. 37:4)
<i>A</i> bilities	(Ex. 31:3, 1 Cor.12:5)
<i>P</i> ersonality	(1 Cor. 2:11 LB)
<i>E</i> xperiences	(2 Cor. 1:4, Rom. 8:28)

Right brain witness (*emphasizes personal experience*) “*all your heart*”

Left brain witness (*emphasizes facts and scripture*) “*all your mind*” *Need both!*

SOME COMMON STYLES:

The Serving Style
 The Intellectual Style
 The Bringing Style
 The Testimonial Style
 The Literature Style
 The Confrontational Style

Don't feel guilty about styles you don't naturally use.

Don't judge others who don't use your style!

Realize that Jesus never used the same approach twice!

2. THINK THROUGH WHAT YOU MIGHT SAY

“*Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone.*” Col. 4:6 (GWT)

“*Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive.*” Pr. 16:23 (GN)

3. ASK GOD FOR HELP IN CHOOSING THE RIGHT WORD

“*Pray for me that when I speak, God will give me words so that I can tell the secret of the Good News without fear.*” Eph. 6:19 (NCV)

4. SHOW LOVE

“*If I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or clanging bell.*” 1 Cor. 13:1 (GN)

People don't care how much we know, until they know how much we care!

5. BE POSITIVE AND PLEASANT

“*A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.*” Pr. 16:21 (GN)

“*Be tactful with those who are not Christians...*” Col. 4:5 (JB)

“*A word of encouragement does wonders!*” Pr. 12:25 (LB)

6. NEVER USE ANY PUT-DOWNS

"Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out." Col. 4:6 (Mes)

Don't expect unbelievers to act like believers _____

7. TELL STORIES - GIVE EXAMPLES - People always relate to a story better.

"Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables."

Matt. 13:34 (NLT)

8. LIGHTEN UP! *"The Son of man came enjoying life..." Luke 7:34 (Ph)***9. BE YOURSELF. BE NATURAL. DON'T TRY TO SOUND "SPIRITUAL"**

"When I came to you, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy but simply to tell you what God has guaranteed." 1 Cor. 2:1 (JB)

"Your speech should be unaffected and logical so that your opponents may feel ashamed at finding nothing in which to pick holes." Titus 2:8 (Ph)

10. BE VULNERABLE AND AUTHENTIC

"Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives." 1 Thess. 2:8 (NCV)

"We've spoken frankly to you, we've opened our hearts wide." 2 Cor. 6:11 (GN)

"Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ." Phil. 1:27a (NCV)

11. MEMORIZE A FEW KEY VERSES

"Concentrate... on being a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, and who knows how to use the Word of truth to the best advantage." 2 Tim. 2:15 (Ph)

12. KEEP IT SIMPLE

"I fear... (Satan) will corrupt you from the simplicity that is in Christ."

2 Cor. 11:3 (KJV)

13. REMEMBER, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS USING YOUR WORDS

You are not trying to convince anyone on your own.

"For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true." 1 Thess. 1:5a (NLT)

SESSION 3

Fishing In My Mission Pond

“Jesus called out, ‘Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men.’” Matt. 4:19 (LB)

_____ and _____ go together!
Introducing people to Christ is like fishing, not hunting!

HUNTING

Aggressive
Based on confrontation

“Go out there & shoot them”
Uses “1 size fits all” bullet

Take your best shot & it’s over
Scares off the animal if you miss

The animal has no choice
Must be a skilled shot

VS

FISHING

More gentle
Based on attraction

“Get them to nibble on your bait”
Allows you to try all kinds of lures

Reeling in a fish requires *give & take*
You get more than one chance

The fish gets a choice!
Anyone can put bait into the water!

In Jesus’ day, they only used nets for fishing. Today, we have many kinds of methods for fishing, even bass boats with built-in sonar equipment!

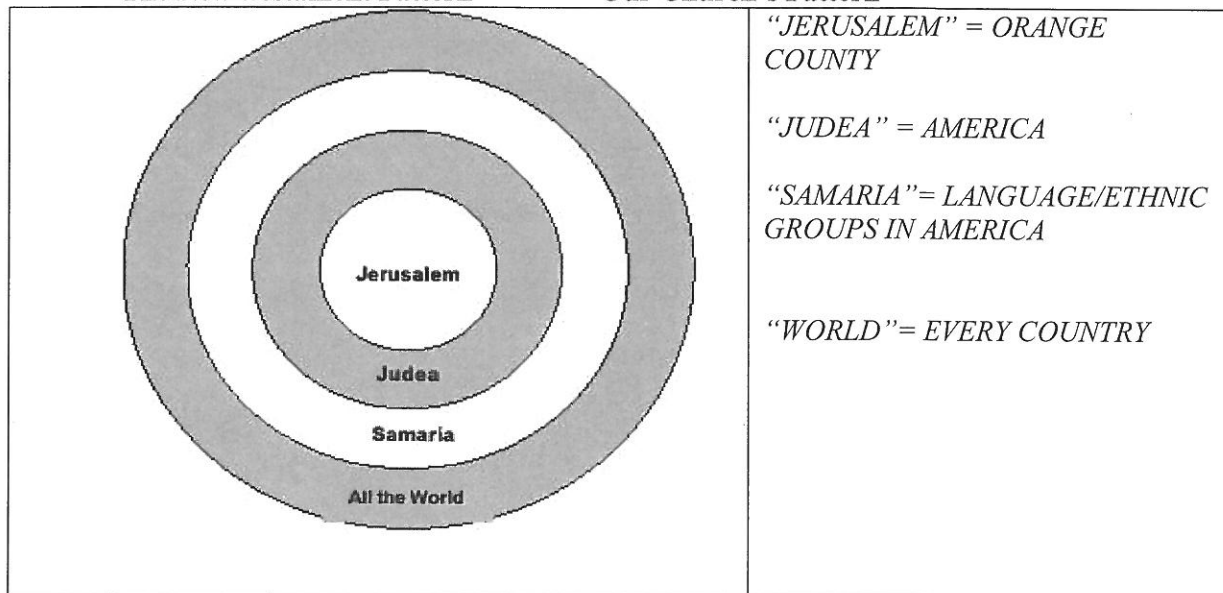
5 KEYS TO SPIRITUAL FISHING

1. IDENTIFY YOUR _____

“You will be my witnesses - in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.” Acts 1:8b (NIV)

The New Testament Pattern

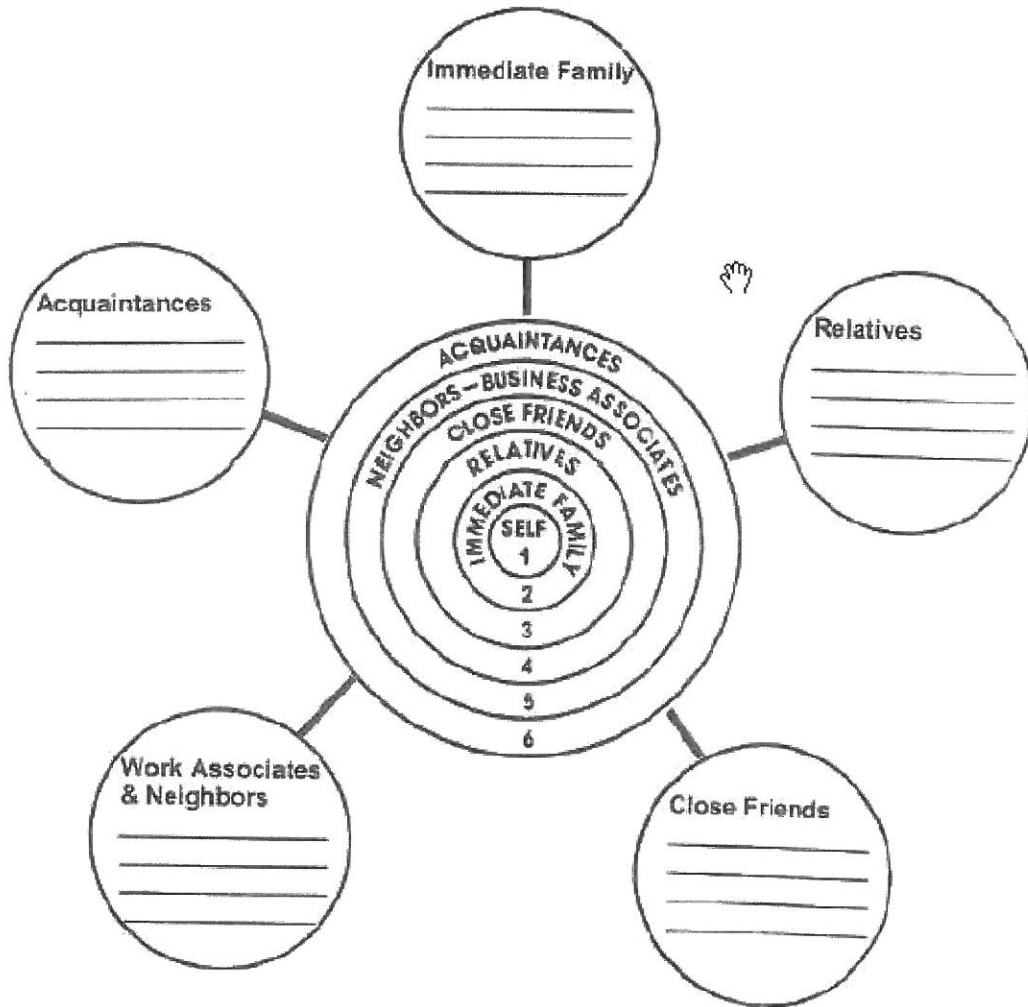
Our Church’s Pattern



MY CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

(My Fishing Pond)

God holds me most responsible for people I already have relationships with.



Where do I start first? **Those closest to me!**

"Go home to your family and friends. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you." Mark 5:19 (NCV)

Family (John 1:40-46), Coworkers (Acts 18:1-4), Friends (John 4:39-42)
People who cross our paths (John 4:4-30)

2. LEARN ABOUT _____ IN YOUR POND.

“To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews...to those who are without the law I became like a person who is without the law... to those who are weak I became weak so I could win the weak. I have become all things to all people so I could save some of them in any way possible. I do all this because of the Good News and so I can share in its blessings.” 1 Cor. 9:20-23 (NCV)

“Every prudent man acts out of knowledge.” Pr. 13:16 (NIV)

The more you know about a person, _____

A. WHAT ARE THEIR _____

*“Jesus knew what they were thinking...”
Matt. 9:4, 12:25; Mark 2:8; Luke 5:22, 9:47, 11:17*

A powerful filter: *Your Reticular Activating System*
What gets our attention:

1. Things we _____
2. Things that _____
3. Things that are _____

OUR CHURCH’S TARGET: SADDLEBACK SAM & SAMANTHA
The Typical South Orange County Resident

- They are well educated.
- They like their jobs & where they live.
- Health and fitness are high priorities.
- They are skeptical of "organized" religion.
- They think they are enjoying life more now than ever.
- They are self-satisfied, even a little smug, about their success.
- They prefer the casual and informal over the formal.
- They are over-extended in both time and money.

Discuss: What else are unbelievers in our area like today?

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-
-
-

B. WHAT DO I _____ WITH THEM?

"...Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ."
1 Cor. 9:22b-23 (LB)

This is the fundamental secret of telling others about Christ.

"With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity." *Mark 4:33 (Mes)*

- Before you can share the Good News, you must first find _____.
- Before you can *reach* them, you must be able to _____ to them.

Make a list of areas where you have common ground with the unbelievers in your life.

- Common Experiences
- Common Interests
- Common Needs
- Common Hurts

3. REMEMBER THAT FISH GET _____

"Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers..."
Col. 4:5 (GN)

This is called "*Receptivity*." How _____ are they to the Good News?

It is important to realize that people go through a process in coming to faith in Christ and they must be approached differently depending on where they are.

Missions: Evangelism Ministry

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

During Greater Shiloh Baptist Church’s storied history we were like most churches, we **had a missions program**. That meant we were segmented, compartmentalized and divided up into the “Missionary Society”. It was simply something to do. However, we have made a fundamental change – we are now an Acts 1:8 church and we are Greater Shiloh **Missionary Baptist Church**. Missions have ceased as a program, and have now become a way of life for us; it is our purpose and must now pervade every area of church life.

We are now a church on **Mission with God**, where missions become the mission of the church. We must continually revisit our mission/vision statement as a guide for all our ministries. Our mission/vision statement does reflect the global heart of God and we are moving to help each individual member also reflect God’s heart.

So every ministry of the church must provide its people with opportunities to plug into the Church’s Global Outreach Plan and actually get personally involved in local and global ministry.

Prepare now by joining one of our teams:

- **JERUSALEM TEAM** will address missions in the city of Birmingham.
- **JUDEA TEAM** will address missions in Alabama’s Black Belt region.
- **SAMARIA TEAM** will partner with others and go outside of Alabama.
- **ENDS OF THE EARTH TEAM** will partner with other mission groups to take short-term trips outside of the United States.

Finally, every member must understand that Prayer is the essential link in the chain of causes that will lead to Global Evangelization.

