



**A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR DISCOVERING  
AND FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL**

# LIVING MISSIONALLY

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

You may have heard a phrase bouncing around Christian circles, to “live missionally,” but what does that mean? People tend to think of missionaries as Christians who go off to exotic places to be martyred in the wild for the sake of Jesus, but the church is working hard now to correct that mistaken belief.

If God has forgiven you and entered your life, two of your primary jobs on earth are:

- Love God and our neighbors (Great Commandment - Matthew 22:37-39)
- Tell people about Jesus (Great Commission - Matthew 28:18-20)

### **You are a missionary.**

You are sent by God to reach your neighbors, coworkers, family and the world. This 3-minute video shows a little of what it means to live every day “on mission.” The central plot of life on earth [link to Meaning03] is God’s rescue mission. He is going to win, but the miracle is that He has invited us to take part.

That’s a bold mission, but we don’t even know how to reach our neighborhoods. Even if we agree, how do we get started, stay on track and make a difference? As we look at the lives of those who are really going for it, certain elements stand out. Jesus is not just their Savior, but the King of their daily life.

Are you willing to go, do, say and give what ever He asks of you, no matter the cost? Then join the many other Christians “on mission” who are making the pledge today so we can help you make a difference in your community.

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# VISION



## WHAT IS MY PART TO PLAY?

God has wired us each with a unique set of gifts, experiences and passions. Your Kingdom Vision is where God is calling you to give your time, talent and treasure during this next season of life. With God in the center of your life, this vision will influence just about every decision you make. Ask Him to guide you as you take inventory of your life and decide who, how and where the Lord is asking you to serve.



**Who:** Do you care deeply for your co-workers, neighbors or an unreached people group? Are you gripped by a social justice cause? Where do you already have natural connections (hobbies, relationships)? What do you want to change enough that you would give your life to it? Here are some questions you can ask yourself to further clarify your burden: [Cru.org/training-and-growth/training/burden.html](http://Cru.org/training-and-growth/training/burden.html).

**How:** How do you see yourself using your gifts to serve God and others? There are lots of assessments out there to help you discover your spiritual gifts, strengths, and personality traits. God designed you this way for a reason and wants to see you thrive, serving Him in a way that makes you come alive.

**Where:** Is there a movement, church or organization you can connect with that is already pursuing your vision? If not, here are a few ways to find one:

- Review the many ministries associated with Cru: [Cru.org/training-and-growth/training/how-god-can-use-you.htm](http://Cru.org/training-and-growth/training/how-god-can-use-you.htm)
- Request a coach from Cru to talk with you: <http://mhub.cc/s/1808>
- Visit [Idealist.org](http://Idealist.org) to see thousands of non-profits and volunteer opportunities or [CrowdRise.com](http://CrowdRise.com), a popular site for finding and posting fund raisers

**First Step:** Write a short statement communicating what you believe God is calling you to do. Example, “I believe God is calling me to rescue and share the gospel with [who] by using my [how].”

*For more help discovering God’s vision for you, visit [GrantMinistry.Wikidot.com/Missional](http://GrantMinistry.Wikidot.com/Missional)*

# TEAM



## ON MISSION TOGETHER

A “team” is any group with a common goal. They’re not just hanging out for fun, but trying to achieve something. A *missional* team’s goal is to play their part in God’s mission on earth. God made us with a deep-heart need for each other and gave us different gifts that work better together.

Some people are great at planning and details. Others are spokespersons while still others sense when your team needs to go have some fun together. It’s hard to read 1 Corinthians 12 without seeing how other people can bolster you, but also consider what the team would be missing without you.



“The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God’s Word to him... The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother’s is sure.” ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer from [Life Together](#)

So, how do you find a missional team? Start with people you really enjoy being with and see if they will join you on mission. Once you’re together, you can decide what that mission should look like (see Vision). Another good option is to join those already moving. Some great churches are dedicated to equipping small groups to become missional teams. Ask your pastor or Bible study leader for ideas or an individual passionate about the same vision you have. Many organizations already have a team waiting for you, such as the many ministries of Cru: [Cru.org/ministries-and-locations/ministries/all](http://Cru.org/ministries-and-locations/ministries/all).

Once you’ve found a team though, what can you do together? You need to start with a commitment to meet regularly (to eat, [pray](#), [study God’s word](#), [have fun](#) and do mission together. Swap stories about what is God is doing. Get to know each others’ non-Christian friends too. There are more opportunities for your friends to see Jesus when they know more Christians. Here’s a [worksheet](#) and [strategy](#) to help you reach your friends together. Spur each other on to “stay the course,” and remember to have fun.

# PLAN



## FROM VISION TO REALITY

Without a plan, there are two likely outcomes: either you get distracted and don't do anything or you try ideas that may not work together or get you closer to the goal.

Don't be scared if that's not you, though. A good plan simply asks, "What do we want to see happen, and how are we going to get there?" The key is intentionality. When you look at something truly amazing (whether a manicured garden or our very own DNA), you have to recognize that "this didn't just happen."

If planning doesn't come naturally to you, the best person to help you figure out a coach who has been there before you or who at least has a more objective perspective is the best person to help you hash out the steps to reaching your vision.

Planning is one thing, but actually carrying it out can be difficult as well, especially as the busyness of life sets in. A book from Franklin Covey explains how you can stay on target with what's most important:

1. **Focus on the vision** or "desired outcome" you want to achieve. If you try to take on more than one or two big goals at a time, you won't even accomplish the one or two. Be sure the vision is clear ("I want to get from x to y by such and such a time") and has realistic steps that actually add up to the goal.
2. **Don't confuse goals** with desired outcomes. If your vision is to lose weight, your goals are diet and exercise. Commit to goals you can control that lead to the vision in a predictable way, leaving results to God.
3. **Meet often for a checkup** where each team member reports on whether they fulfilled their last meeting's commitments, reviews whether they are working toward the vision and makes new action steps for until next meeting.



# EQUIPPING



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO GET THE JOB DONE?

Success in anything for a Christian can be defined as “doing your best in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.” Doing your best, however, involves a habit of constant growth and development.

Equipping is identifying and acquiring what you need—education, skills, tools, prayer, manpower, training and resources, etc—in order to help you live out your kingdom vision. Needs differ based on your specific calling, but these questions can help:



1. What areas of your life need to be developed to better fulfill your calling?
2. Are there books, conferences, or other resources that will help?
3. List 3 steps you will take right away to better equip yourself for your kingdom vision.

A man named Demarick was part of a missional team (four couples) trying to reach their neighborhood. He suggested that each member of the team make a double portion of their next dinner and freeze the second half. That way, when they find out about someone in their neighborhood who has a need, they could show love to them by bringing over four meals for them to have on hand.

The man’s idea might be part of “The Plan,” but the meals (the ingredients) and even the cooking skills would be part of equipping. Another equipping resource this team developed was a Facebook group for their neighborhood that, among other things, helped them see when a need came up.

*For a list of resources, visit [GrantMinistry.Wikidot.com/Missional](http://GrantMinistry.Wikidot.com/Missional)*

# COACH



## FROM VISION TO REALITY

The biggest reason missional living fails is because of lack of mentorship. The best coach is someone who is about God's kingdom rather than their own and has already been where you want to go. You're probably going to have multiple coaches, one for each vision or area in which you want to grow (such as in parenting, serving the poor, etc).



Start with your network of relationships (your church leaders and friends) and keep asking questions, “who do you know who knows about [your vision]?” The mentor you find may be 5 or 6 degrees removed from the first person you asked, but “who do you know” questions will lead you to him or her. Ask yourself, “Do I like this person? Do I respect them? Is this a person of integrity who walks with the Lord? Would I like to emulate my life after his?” If it's clear they would make a good coach for you, ask them to have coffee sometime (nothing official or high-pressure) to tell you about what God has done through them. If it goes well, perhaps you can meet on a more regular basis.

The idea of asking someone to coach you may sound scary. It does require courage to overcome American ideals of not needing anyone or being a burden, but we are commanded in the bible both to be discipled and to disciple others. It may seem like a lot to ask of someone, but it is a benefit to them as well. Not only does being asked to coach give them the chance to follow God's command, but it is the highest compliment you can give. It is asking them to sacrifice their time, but most coaches will tell you how the process grows them even more than those they mentor. If you're having a hard time finding a coach, or you'd like to coach someone else, taking this survey will help us find the right match for you: [MHub.cc/s/1806](http://MHub.cc/s/1806).

Most coaches won't teach you from a curriculum. It's up to you to ask questions, to say “show me” or “tell me a story of when this happened in your life. How did you do that?” When we become like children, asking questions like they would, suddenly we get to the crux of the matter. You can also ask them to help you keep the components of missional living active in your life. As Iron Sharpens Iron is a great book on coaching.

*To learn how to coach someone else, visit [GrantMinistry.Wikidot.com/Missional](http://GrantMinistry.Wikidot.com/Missional)*