

# Living a Missional Lifestyle



The Lord said: «... I will bless you; ..., and you will be a blessing.» (Genesis 12:2)

Cover credit: Mparany Rakotondrainy, Ethiopia  
Bible verse: NIV New International Version (US), 2011.

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# 1 NMS' Vision and Strategy



The vision of NMS is: «A living church throughout the world». The goal is for the Kingdom of God to grow, and the strategy shows that the *Kingdom of God grows when we share our faith in Jesus, fight injustice and end poverty.*<sup>1</sup>



SHARING  
FAITH IN JESUS

Many people do not know who Jesus is. We believe that Jesus is the only way to God, and that His love is the greatest thing a human being can experience. Therefore, we will make Jesus known to all people.



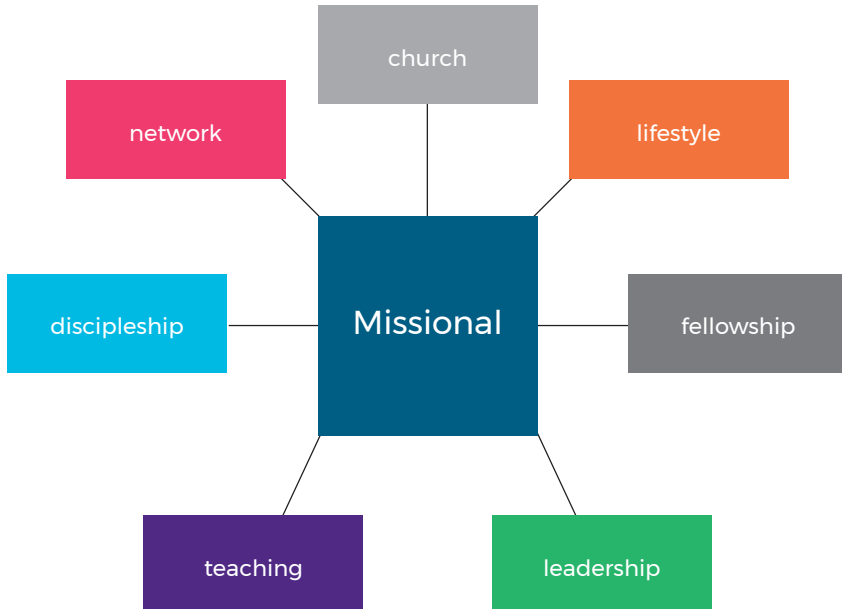
FIGHTING  
INJUSTICE

Many people live in fear and oppression because of cultural and religious traditions. We believe in a God that does not set different values on people - He values each person equally. Therefore, we fight for everyone's right for freedom and equality.



## ENDING POVERTY

Many people do not have enough food or medicine. We believe that it is possible for all people to find a way out of poverty. Therefore, we encourage each and everyone to use their own resources to create a worthy life for themselves and the people around them.<sup>2</sup>



We use experiences from the work we do in other countries to strengthen the diaconal aspect of church development in Norway. It is also motivated by the desire to use the «Use Your Talents» (UYT) method. This is done by utilizing the spiritual, human and relational resources that can be found in the congregation and the local community.

In this booklet you will find some tools to live boldly and share the Gospel through a Missional Lifestyle.

<sup>1</sup> NMS Global – Strategic plan document 2018-2020, 3.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 3.

# 2 Joining the Adventure of Mission with Jesus



Photographer: Arne Hustrulid - Thailand

## ***What makes an adventure an adventure?***

If we reflect on adventure movies, we can find the qualities that make an adventure an adventure: risk, living outside the comfort zones, excitement, journey, the unexpected, readiness to die, making the impossible possible, fighting together, the desire to win, offering of self, courage, saving the other, the weaker can help others to win, commitment. If you want to have thrill in your life, you need to be willing to take the ride.

## ***What can we learn from adventure when talking about Missional Lifestyle?***

Our God is a risk-taking God. Moving beyond our comfort zones, is both a God-given ability, but, more deeply, is part of what it means to be created in God's Image. The risk-taking God is not a reckless God. He moves out from His own secure Triune community, to engage with His

world in genuine love and vulnerability.<sup>3</sup>

We all know that mission is risky, and to venture out of our comfort zones can be very uncomfortable, but nothing is impossible for God. Risk taking is part of discipleship.<sup>4</sup>

If we truly wish to imitate our Lord Jesus, we need to embrace the risk and dependence that love requires. We can take chances which might make us susceptible to failure. In convincing others – through our lives, our relationships, and our ideas – we can risk rejection.

Mission belongs to God who uses ordinary people. We need to see the big picture, not just focus on our failings. The most important things are togetherness, focus on team and friendship. We need to be with small groups. It is hard to work on our own. Even a small person can change history. God can use the small person.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Jay Oord, The RiskTaking God, [http://thomasjayoord.com/index.php/blog/archives/god\\_-\\_take\\_risks](http://thomasjayoord.com/index.php/blog/archives/god_-_take_risks), 29th June 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Michael Frost & Alan Hirsch, The Faith of Leap: Embracing a Theology of Risk, Adventure and Courage (Michigan: Baker Books, 2011), 149.



## Reflecting together

1. Can you think of a time in your own life when you took a risk for God? How did you feel? What was the outcome?
2. If you could take a risk to do something for God now, what might it be?

# 3 Living in the Tangible Kingdom of God



Photographer: Endre Hilleren - Madagascar

We need to share and demonstrate the Gospel in tangible and practical ways. We build the Kingdom of God by connecting people around us to Jesus and together we emerge as a community of followers of Jesus. We attempt to live out the phrase; «What would Jesus do?» (WWJD), and are finding inspiration to do so by looking at «What did Jesus do?» (WDJD). In order to do so we need to live lives that are three-dimensional – illustrated by these three circles. We should live lives where these circles are connected, and not try to stand on our own.

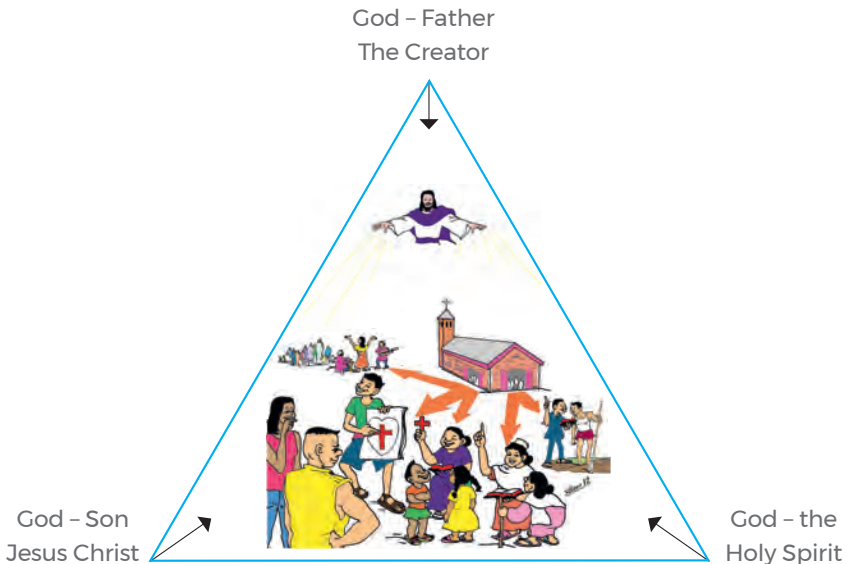




We can use a triangle to describe relationships in the Kingdom of God. In our walk with God, Jesus gives us a model of how we can live a balanced lifestyle with God, with ourselves and his people, and with those who do not yet know him.



We need a regular connection with God (UP) where he comes near us and is with us, with believers (IN) where we get support and encouragement from each other, and with non-believers (OUT) where we share and witness God's love and Jesus Christ's saving power. Read and see how Jesus did it in Luke 6:12-20 (next page).



Jesus said: «... As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.» (John 20:21) When Jesus called the first disciples, he invited them to become fishers of people. «Come, follow me,» Jesus said, «and I will send you out to fish for people.» (Mark 1:17) In Jesus' time, fishing was not done with rods and reels, but with a net. He referred to an activity that fishermen engaged in regularly, and would understand the picture He gave them. The key to successful fishing-by-net depends on the strength of the net. If we relate this image to the Missional Church today, the net would be made of all the relations we have with our family, friends and other people. These relations, then, make a net which we can use as a place where not-yet-Christians can swim. In a Missional Church, we spend more time building relationships than developing religious programs.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch, *The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st-Century Church*, (Michigan: Grand Rapids, 2013), 65



## Reflection

1. Which of the three circles described on page 8 is least strong for you personally? What needs to change?
2. What practical action can you take in each circle to live out your missional life more intentionally?
3. Write down how you personally engage in building relations in the Kingdom of God.

# 4 Living a Missional Lifestyle



Photographer: Endre Hilleren, Madagascar

We can define a Missional Church as a living Church; Christians who intentionally live according to the Word of God - guided by the Holy Spirit, - and who leave the church building and their homes to proclaim the Gospel of God to non-Christians; Christians that share God's love in word and deed, and witness as Jesus' disciples by taking care of the poor, the marginalized, the seeking and the lost.<sup>6</sup>

According to this definition, a life with Jesus does not happen only during the Sunday Service, but especially in our everyday lives. We talk about «everyday Christians» who share their faith in Jesus with others throughout their entire lives.

<sup>6</sup> Rivoniaina Razakandriana

## ***What do we mean when we talk about «living a Missional Lifestyle?»***

- Living out God's purpose for the world.
- A pattern of life centered in the Gospel.
- Demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus wherever we are.

The missiologist Jonathan Dodson says that a Missional Lifestyle is not an extra activity we tack onto our already busy lives. It is our life. Mission should be the way we live, not something we add into our lives. We can be missional in everyday ways without overloading our schedules.<sup>7</sup>

Jesus said: «You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.» (Matthew 5:13-16).

The Apostle Paul compares us to letters for others to read: «You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.» (2 Corinthians 3:3)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.vergenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Simple-Ways-To-Be-Missional-eBook.pdf>, 11.

## ***What kind of an influence are you?***

The question is not: Are you an influence?

The question is: What kind of an influence are you?

Everything we have is a gift from God – our health, our life, our salvation, our freedom, our friends, our family, our opportunities. God expects us to make the most of the things he gives us. He expects us to use our influence to help other people. Living a Missional lifestyle is living for Jesus in a way that is intentional and influential.

Jesus commands that we use our influence for good in this world. What we need in this world is a lot more positive influence. We need every Christian to be influencing the world on Jesus' behalf.

## ***Some ways to be missional and influential***

Jonathan Dodson and other contemporary missiologists have tried to explain simple ways to be missional. We can include some of them into our lives, but we need to adapt them to our contexts.<sup>8</sup>

### **Eat with non-Christians.**

We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing a meal with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians regularly? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbors over for family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and prioritize the conversation.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.vergenetwork.org/2011/06/08/8-easy-ways-to-easily-be-missional/>

**Walk, Don't Drive whenever possible.**

If you live in a walkable area, make a practice of getting out and walking around your neighborhood, apartment complex, or campus. Instead of driving to the convenience store, school or work, walk to get groceries, etc. Be deliberate in your walk. Say hello to people you don't know. Strike up conversations. Attract attention by walking the dog. Make friends. Get out of your house! Take an interest in your neighbors. Ask questions. Pray as you go. Save some gas, the planet, and some people.

**Be a Regular.**

Instead of hopping all over the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, eating out, and coffee, go to the same places. Get to know the staff. Go to the same places at the same times. Smile. Ask questions. Build relationships. Be a regular.

**Hobby with non-Christians.**

Pick a hobby that you can share. Get out and do something you enjoy with others. Try sports. Local rowing and cycling teams. Share your hobby by teaching lessons. Teach sewing lessons, piano lessons, violin, guitar, knitting, tennis lessons. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Have fun. Be yourself.

**Talk with your co-workers.**

How hard is that? Take your breaks with intentionality. Go out with your co-workers after work. Show an interest in them. Pick four colleagues and pray for them. Form groups in your neighborhood and don't make them exclusively Christian. Schedule play dates with the neighbors' kids. Work at being missional.

### **Volunteer with non-profits.**

Find a non-profit in your part of the city and use one Saturday a month to serve your city. Bring your neighbors, your friends, or your small group. Spend time with your church serving your city once a month. You can do it!

### **Participate in city events.**

Instead of just watching TV, or surfing the net, participate in city events. Go to fundraisers, festivals, clean-ups, summer shows, and concerts. Participate missionally. Strike up conversation. Study the culture. Reflect on what you see and hear. Pray for the city. Love the city. Participate with the city.

### **Serve your neighbors.**

Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, fixing a car. Stop by the neighborhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Ask your local municipality if there is anything you can do to help the community. Get creative. Just serve!



## **Reflecting together**

1. Read each of the 8 «tips.»
2. How can you implement these tips into your life?
3. How can you be more influential in regards to living a missional life?

# 5 Fostering Missional Imagination



Photographer: Magnus Vatne - Madagascar

## ***Imagination***

The term «imagination» refers to the forming of new ideas, images or concepts, dreaming dreams of what may be, seeing the impossible, or the unreal. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1969), is best known as a prophet for racial justice whose life was given over to—and taken by—that cause.<sup>9</sup>

The sense of the verb «to imagine» contains the full richness of the verb «to see.» To imagine is to see most clearly, familiarly, and understandingly with the eyes, but also to see inwardly, with «the mind’s eye.» It is to see, not passively, but with a force of vision and even with visionary force.<sup>10</sup>

We are born imaginative and creative, but the modern world asks us to qualify everything scientifically.

<sup>9</sup> Walter Brueggemann, *Prophetic Imagination*, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001).

<sup>10</sup> <https://theotherjournal.com/2013/03/01/a-missional-imagination/>



We need to revise our vision of the Church, thinking through the identity of the Missional Church and ways in which the local church can move towards missional focus.

### ***How to foster missional imagination?***

- a) Don't believe the lie telling you that you have no imagination! We need to experience and exercise it.
- b) Activate the discipline of imagining! Cultivate it from small steps to big steps! Example: Bible reading. Work out. Be intentional!
- c) Develop a «What if?» and «What could be?» attitude and mindset!  
Ask questions, change your direction of thinking!
- d) Soak in imaginative stories! Learn to engage through stories and dialog with imaginative stories! Learn about someone through their stories!
- e) Engage with imaginative dreamers! Being church is also finding yourself. Practice using a couple of hours just dreaming with others! Relax! Imagine doing the Kingdom of God in a small community! Something can come out of this imagination.
- f) Go on excursions to see imaginative projects! How are people getting started with their projects? How do they develop from dreams to results?
- g) Schedule «blue sky» thinking time with others! Be in a good space, clear your mind, relax, go somewhere else, change your environment or place. A new type of thinking can come during days like this.
- h) Have fun playing with ideas!
- i) Keep your energy and morale high! It is important. It is like when you exercise your muscles.
- j) Turn problems into possibilities! Do not think of problems as barriers!

### **Imagination quotes**

«Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere.»

– *Albert Einstein.*

«Imagination is like a muscle. I found out that the more I wrote, the bigger it got.» – *Philip José Farmer*

«You may think I'm small, but I have a universe inside my mind.»

– *Yoko Ono*



## **Reflection**

Write down your dreams and imaginations for your personal engagement in mission.

# 6 Fostering Spiritual Conversations



Mparany Rakotondrainy, Ethiopia

How can we have a good spiritual conversation? We need to learn to become «soul whisperers», not only loudspeakers proclaiming the Gospel. The best way to build a relationship is through dialog. We can begin by dropping a little word about God into the conversation, but never force it. We need to gently whisper to the soul of others, and not intimidate.

Read and see how Jesus introduced his message to the Samaritan woman during the conversation they had (John 4:1-42)

*Jesus talks to a Woman at the Well.* (1-26) Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John--<sup>2</sup> although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.<sup>3</sup> So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.<sup>4</sup> Now he had to go through Samaria.<sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, **tired as he was from the journey, sat**

down by the well. It was about noon.<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, «Will you give me a drink?»<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, «You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?» (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, «If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.»<sup>11</sup> «Sir,» the woman said, «you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?»<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?»<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, «Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.»<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, «Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.»<sup>16</sup> He told her, «Go, call your husband and come back.»<sup>17</sup> «I have no husband,» she replied. Jesus said to her, «You are right when you say you have no husband.<sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.»<sup>19</sup> «Sir,» the woman said, «I can see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.»<sup>21</sup> «Woman,» Jesus replied, «believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.»<sup>25</sup> The woman said, «I know that Messiah» (called Christ) «is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.»<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, «I, the one speaking to you-- I am he.»

*Jesus tells about the Spiritual harvest. (27-37)*<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, «What do you want?» or «Why are you talking with her?»<sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,<sup>29</sup> «Come, see a man who told me everything I ever

did. Could this be the Messiah?»<sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, «Rabbi, **eat something.**»<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, «**I have food to eat** that you know nothing about.»<sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, «**Could someone have brought him food?**»<sup>34</sup> «**My food,**» said Jesus, «**is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.**»<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.

*Many Samaritans believe in Jesus (38-42)*<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.»<sup>39</sup> **Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony,** «He told me everything I ever did.»<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.<sup>41</sup> And **because of his words many more became believers.**<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, «We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.»



## Reflecting together

1. What do you learn from this story about how Jesus fostered a spiritual conversation?
2. How is God working in your life today?

### Notes:

- Don't use religious jargon - Share in ways people can understand!
- Intentionally include Jesus in everyday conversations!
- Find ways to bless people- express thanks!
- Reveal how you cope and offer to pray!
- Reading the Word of God becomes a source of conversation.

# 7 Blessed and Being a Blessing



Photographer: Mparany Rakotondrainy, Ethiopia

*The Lord God says, «I will make you into a great nation, **and I will bless you**; I will make your name great, **and you will be a blessing.**» (Genesis 12:2-3). We've been **blessed** to be a blessing. The BLESS-lifestyle is meant to give you an easy, natural way to talk to your friends, neighbors and relatives about having a relationship with Christ.*

This «blessing strategy» can be summarized in five simple Missional Practices. And to help us remember these five simple Missional Practices of Jesus, we have expressed them in the form of an acronym that spells B.L.E.S.S. If you will put them into practice every day, it will change your world and your life. <sup>11</sup>

## **Begin with prayer.**

**Listen.** Don't talk, but listen to people, their struggles, their pains, in the places God sends you.

**Eat.** You cannot just check this off. It's not quick. Have a meal with people or a cup of coffee. Build relationships.

**Serve.** If you listen to people and you eat with people, they will tell you how to love them and you'll know how to serve them.

**Story.** When the time is right, talk and share the story of how Jesus changed your life.

By actively thinking in terms of blessing others daily, it will become a natural outflow from our lives that introduces our neighbors, co-workers and relatives to Jesus.



## Begin with prayer

Pray for the people in your life and in the places where you are! Sharing your faith with other people can often seem hard, but you can do it. Make a list of people you wish to bless! Start with those in your sphere of influence: family, friends, co-workers, neighbors or people you meet regularly. Focus your efforts, for example, by investing in three people. Give priority to those who don't attend a church! Pray for the people on your list daily! Prayer helps make the soil fertile before we start planting seeds.

### **You can pray:**

- That God would give you opportunities to do good for them. (1 Corinthians 3:5-7; Colossians 4:3)
- That God would give you wisdom to make the most of these opportunities. (Colossians 4:4-6)
- That God would give you boldness to say what needs to be said. (Ephesians. 6:18-20; Romans. 1:16)
- That, as you share your story, those to whom you tell it will have open hearts, and be receptive to hearing your story. (Matthew 13)

A prayer for your neighbor: «Lord, I want to lift up my neighborhood to You. I know that You want this neighborhood to be touched with Your love. And I know that You have placed me here as Your ambassador to help my neighbors find their way back to You. I pray that You will open doors for me to talk to each person about you.»

<sup>11</sup> Dave Ferguson, *5 Ways to B.L.E.S.S. Your Neighbors*, (Verge Network, 2017), <http://my.vergenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/5-Ways-To-BLESS-Your-Neighbors-Ferguson.pdf>





## Listen

Don't do much talking, but rather listen to people, their struggles, their pains, in the places God sends you.

It is helpful to have some open questions in mind: What is your favorite memory from childhood? What was your high school experience like? How do you manage to raise your children alone? What do you like to do for fun? What do you want to be doing in five years? If you could have the perfect job, what would it be? What do you believe about God? You may feel pressured to correct «wrong thinking» or «errant theology» in your conversations with non-believers. Try not to do this! There may be a time for that sometime in the future, but at this point just listen and learn about them. Then you'll gain a sense of where they still need to go on their journey.

It's through listening that we gain an understanding of many things, including their spiritual understanding, their background, the possible ways in which we can serve them, their fears, wants, desires, etc. Remember, at this point you are just listening and learning more about them. This builds trust and comfort into the relationship. It is very difficult to be effective in sharing your story if you have not first listened. Listening is the first step in learning how you can share your story later.



## Eat

Share meals and spend time with people in your life. You cannot just check this off. It is not quick. Have a meal with people or a cup of coffee. Build relationships.

Sharing meals together on a regular basis is one of the most sacred practices we can engage in as believers. Missional hospitality is a tremendous opportunity to extend the Kingdom of God. We can literally eat our way into the Kingdom of God! If every Christian household regularly invited a stranger or a poor person into their home for a meal once a week, we would literally change the world while eating.

Many are surprised to find that sharing a meal with people has anything to do with evangelism, but it has. People share the most interesting things about their lives over a meal - particularly if you are listening. Of course, one hindrance to sharing a meal is if you make it too elaborate. The rule is to keep it simple whether coffee time or lunch time. After all, it is all about the fellowship around the meal, not the meal itself.



## Serve

Respond to the needs of others by helping them in practical and impactful ways. If you listen to people and eat with, they will tell you how to love them and you'll know how to serve them.

«For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...» (Mark 10:45). We understand our call to be like Jesus. And Jesus was a servant. His entire ministry is a stunning example of serving wherever He went – from His first miracle in Cana, to the feeding of the 5,000, to the simple expression of washing the feet of His disciples. Jesus served, that's how He lived his life.

- Serve in your proximity: The first place to start serving is with those in close proximity to you. This makes a lot of sense. Look around – to your neighbors, to the people you work with. Everyone wants to do something big for the Lord, but that big thing could be right next door. Small things done in God's love can change the world around you.



## Story

- Serve powerfully: Jesus drew on God's power in numerous ways throughout His life. We see that in the miracles He performed. But we tend to forget that Jesus told His disciples (and us) that we would do even more powerful things. (John 14:12) Pray and heal the sick, drive out evil spirits.

When the time is right, you can begin to talk and share the story of how Jesus changed your life.

At the point at which you have built a close relationship with someone, this is now the time to be more than a good neighbor and to tell them about the great difference God has made in your life. As you think through how you will share your story, begin by asking God to bathe the process in His Spirit and give you wisdom. Think about your life before, during and after coming to Christ:

1. What was your life like before you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? What were your attitudes, needs and problems? What was most important to you? Where did you look for security, peace of mind and happiness?
2. How did you come to accept Christ and give Him complete control of your life? When did you first hear the Gospel? When were you first exposed to biblical Christianity? What were your initial reactions to Jesus Christ? When and why did you begin to feel positively about Christianity? What feelings did you struggle with right before your decision?
3. What happened after you trusted Christ? What changes did you see in your life? In your attitudes? In your actions? How long did it take before you noticed any changes? What does Jesus Christ mean to you now?



## Things to avoid

- Mentioning denominations (It can be confusing or polarizing).
- Vague terms unless you give concrete explanations (joyful, peaceful, happy, changed, etc.).
- Christian jargon that may not be understood (convicted, saved, born again, repentance, etc.).



## Guidelines for your story

- Begin with a story or anecdote that your friend can relate to.
- Be positive throughout and specific, providing interesting detail.
- Be realistic, knowing that Christ does not remove all of life's problems, but He does walk us through them.
- Communicate biblical principles but use verses sparingly, only when they relate directly to your experience.
- Make sure your conclusion connects to your ongoing faith walk with Christ.



## Some helpful thoughts

- Be prayerful. Respond to God's promptings about the right time and place for sharing your story.
- Be positive. Smile often and share with enthusiasm, knowing you do so in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Be natural and conversational. Never argue about faith or pressure your friend for a decision – the results are up to God! Be open to the Holy Spirit who will help you relate specifically to the individual with whom you are sharing.
- Be confident, knowing that God is using you to model His love, plant a seed, or «water» someone's growing faith.

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### Figures and graphics:

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