

Discovering My Life Mission Class 401

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)

"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. 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.*

- 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.
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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!

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

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)

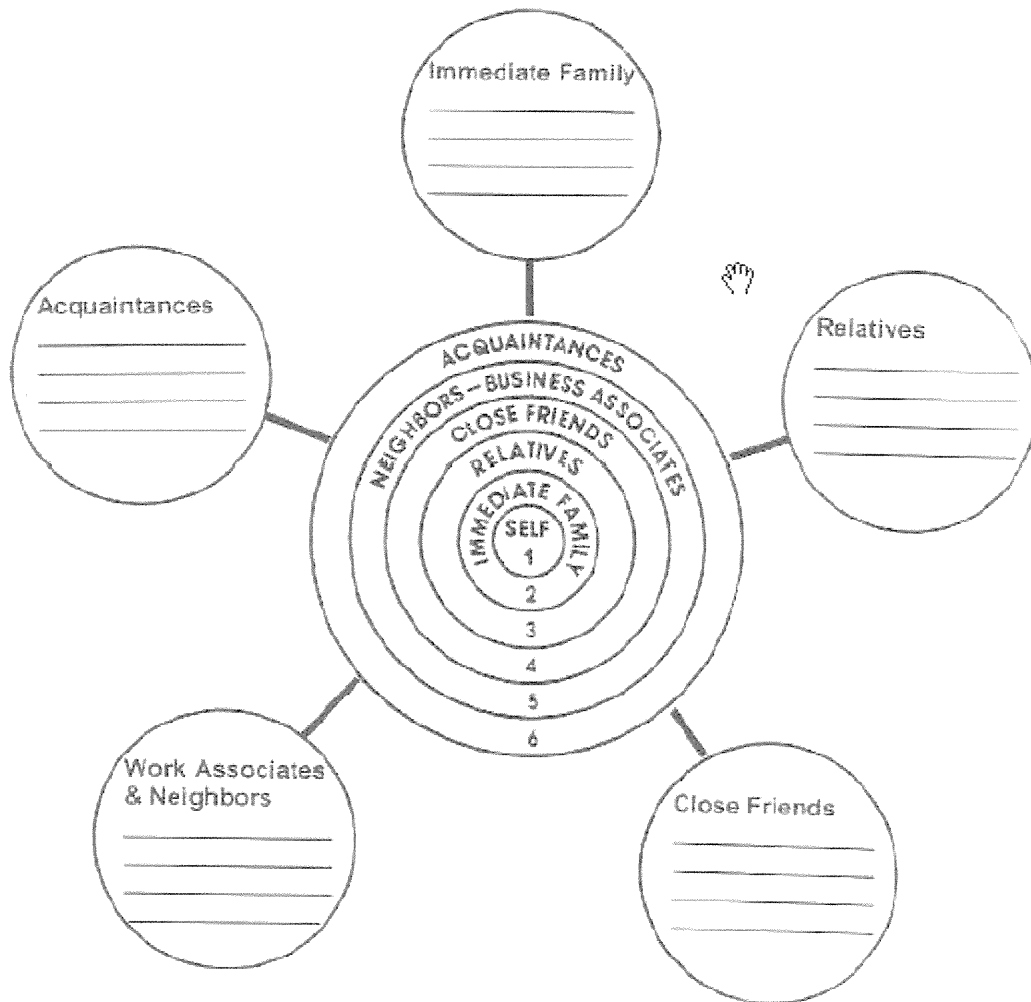
12. KEEP IT SIMPLE

*"I fear... (Satan) will corrupt you from the simplicity that is in Christ."
 2 Cor. 11:3 (KJV)*

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)

Class 401

**Congratulations!
You Have Completed Class 401**

