

5-SESSION  
BIBLE STUDY

# LIFE

## ON MISSION

A Simple Way to  
SHARE THE GOSPEL

DUSTIN WILLIS | AARON COE

Foreword by DAVID PLATT



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SHARE THE GOSPEL

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Dedicated to the thousands of missionaries who work hard every day to make Jesus known in North America, many of whom are doing so without great fanfare and without much financial reward.

One hundred percent of the royalties from this Bible study will directly support missionaries in North America through Send North America.

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# SEND NETWORK

Your life has a mission. We want to see you succeed in this mission, whether by leading a church, planting a church, or living on mission in your everyday life. The Send Network was established to deliver resources and provide opportunities that equip you and your church with the gospel and that mobilize you to be on mission in your local community and beyond.

[SENDNETWORK.COM](http://SENDNETWORK.COM)

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A Bible study like this is the product of the ideas of countless people. Though two people had the opportunity to write the study, hundreds of people contributed to its fruition.

Threaded throughout the pages of this study you will find an incredible tool called Three Circles. Three Circles is a simple way to take life conversations and turn them into gospel conversations.

Our good friend Pastor Jimmy Scroggins and the people of Family Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, have not only generously given this tool away through this study and through the Life Conversation Guide but have also boldly shared the gospel by using Three Circles all over south Florida and throughout the world. Jimmy, thank you for your boldness, zeal, and sacrifice in advancing the gospel.

Learn more about Family Church in West Palm Beach, Florida, at **[gofamilychurch.org](http://gofamilychurch.org)**.

# FOREWORD

**DAVID PLATT**

Ordinary people with extraordinary power preaching, praying, giving, and suffering for the spread of the gospel.

This is the picture of the early church we see on the pages of the New Testament. A small band of 12 men responded to Jesus' life-changing invitation: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19, ESV). In the days to come, they watched Jesus, listened to Him, and learned from Him how to love, teach, and serve others the same way He did. Then came the moment when they saw Him die on a cross for their sins, only to rise from the dead three days later. Soon He gathered them on a mountainside and issued this call:

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.  
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them  
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.  
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**MATTHEW 28:18-20**

Just as Jesus had said from the beginning, these followers would now become fishers of men. His authoritative commission would become their consuming ambition.

Later Jesus' disciples gathered with a small group of other Christ followers, about 120 in all, and they waited. True to His promise, Jesus sent His Spirit to every one of them, and immediately they began proclaiming the gospel. In the days to come, they scattered from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the ends of the earth (see Acts 1:8), and within one generation they grew to over four hundred times the size they were when they started. How did this happen?

The spread of the gospel in the Book of Acts took place primarily because ordinary people, empowered by an extraordinary presence, proclaimed the gospel everywhere they went. To be sure, God appointed well-known apostles like Peter, John, and Paul for certain positions of leadership in the church. Yet it was anonymous Christians who first took the gospel to Judea and Samaria, and

it was unnamed believers who founded the church in Antioch, which became a base for the mission to the Gentile world. It was unidentified followers of Jesus who spread the gospel throughout all of Asia. Disciples were made and churches were multiplied in places the apostles never went. The good news of Jesus spread not just through gifted preachers but through everyday people whose lives had been transformed by the power of Christ. They went from house to house and to marketplaces and shops along streets and travel routes, leading people to faith in Jesus on a daily basis.

This is how the gospel penetrated the world during the first century: through self-denying, Spirit-empowered disciples of Jesus who were making disciples of Jesus. Followers of Jesus were fishing for men. Disciples were making disciples. Christians weren't known for casual association with Christ and His church; instead, they were known for complete abandonment to Christ and His cause. The Great Commission wasn't a choice for them to consider but a command for them to obey. And though they faced untold trials and unthinkable persecution, they experienced unimaginable joy as they joined Jesus to advance His kingdom.

I want to be part of a movement like that. I want to be part of a people who really believe we have the Spirit of God in each of us for the spread of the gospel through all of us. I want to be part of a people who gladly sacrifice the pleasures, pursuits, and possessions of this world because we're living for treasure in the world to come. I want to be part of a people who forsake every earthly ambition in favor of one eternal aspiration: to see disciples made and churches multiplied from our houses to our communities to our cities to the nations.

This kind of movement involves all of us. Every follower of Christ fishing for men. Every disciple making disciples. Ordinary people spreading the gospel in extraordinary ways all over the world. Men and women from diverse backgrounds with different gifts and distinct platforms making disciples and multiplying churches through every domain of society in every place on the planet. This is God's design for His church, and disciples of Jesus mustn't settle for anything less.

That's what this Bible study is all about. Dustin Willis and Aaron Coe explain biblical foundations and explore practical implications of the way God has designed your life to be part of His purpose in the world. As you study and apply these truths, I encourage you to join God's work in your neighborhood, in North America, and among the nations for the sake of His great name.

# HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

*Life on Mission* provides five weeks of study. Each week is divided into sections for group interaction and personal study. After your first group session, you'll complete a week of daily, personal study before the next group session.

## START

The first section of each group session includes initial icebreakers and group discussion designed to spark conversation and introduce the topic of the session.

## WATCH

The Watch section of each session provides key statements for participants to follow during the video interview.

## RESPOND

The final component of the group session provides discussion questions related to the video interview teaching and offers an opportunity for learners to share and grow together.

## PERSONAL STUDY

The individual component of the study offers five short, interactive devotions for use each week between group sessions. Complete the devotions and learning activities before attending the group session related to that topic.

Your life on mission matters. How you spend these moments with God will determine just how much. Use the two parts of this material—group and personal study—as necessary preparation for your life on mission.

# TIPS FOR LEADING A GROUP

## PRAYERFULLY PREPARE

Prepare for each session by—

- › reviewing the weekly material and group questions ahead of time;
- › praying for each person in the group.

Ask the Holy Spirit to work through you and the group discussion as you point to Jesus each week through God's Word.

## MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS

Create a comfortable environment. If group members are uncomfortable, they'll be distracted and therefore unengaged in the group experience. Plan ahead by taking into consideration—

- › seating;
- › temperature and lighting;
- › food or drink;
- › surrounding noise;
- › general cleanliness (put pets away if meeting in a home).

At best, thoughtfulness and hospitality show guests and group members they're welcome and valued in whatever environment you choose to gather. At worst, people may never notice your effort, but they're also not distracted. Do everything in your ability to help people focus on what's most important: connecting with God, with the Bible, and with others.

### INCLUDE OTHERS

Your goal is to foster a community in which people are welcome just as they are but encouraged to grow spiritually. Always be aware of opportunities to—

- › **INVITE** new people to join your group;
- › **INCLUDE** any people who visit the group.

An inexpensive way to make first-time guests feel welcome or to invite people to get involved is to give them their own copies of this Bible study book.

### ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION

A good small group gathering has the following characteristics.

- › **EVERYONE PARTICIPATES.** Encourage everyone to ask questions, share responses, or read aloud.
- › **NO ONE DOMINATES—NOT EVEN THE LEADER.** Be sure what you say takes up less than half of your time together as a group. Politely redirect discussion if anyone dominates.
- › **NOBODY IS RUSHED THROUGH QUESTIONS.** Don't feel that a moment of silence is a bad thing. People often need time to think about their responses to questions they've just heard or to gain courage to share what God is stirring in their hearts.
- › **INPUT IS AFFIRMED AND FOLLOWED UP.** Make sure you point out something true or helpful in a response. Don't just move on. Build personal connections with follow-up questions, asking how other people have experienced similar things or how a truth has shaped their understanding of God and the Scripture you're studying. People are less likely to speak up if they fear that you don't actually want to hear their answers or that you're looking for only a certain answer.
- › **GOD AND HIS WORD ARE CENTRAL.** Opinions and experiences can be helpful, but God has given us the truth. Trust Scripture to be the authority and God's Spirit to work in people's lives. You can't change anyone, but God can. Continually point people to the Word and to active steps of faith.

### KEEP CONNECTING

Think of ways to connect with group members during the week. Participation during the group session is always improved when members spend time connecting with one another away from the session. The more people are comfortable with and involved in one another's lives, the more they'll look forward to being together. When people move beyond being friendly and in the same group to truly being friends who form a community, they come to each session eager to engage instead of merely attending.

Encourage group members with thoughts, commitments, or questions from the session by connecting through—

- › **emails;**
- › **texts;**
- › **social media.**

When possible, build deeper friendships by planning or spontaneously inviting group members to join you outside your regularly scheduled group time for—

- › **meals;**
- › **fun activities;**
- › **projects around your home, church, or community.**

# SESSION 1

## START

If this is your first time meeting together as a group or if anybody has recently joined the group, take a moment for people to introduce themselves.

Start the group session by asking everyone the following question.

*If people described you with a single word, phrase, or activity, what would it be?*

After everyone has had a chance to respond, follow up by asking these questions.

*Do you think most people would be able to describe you by accurately identifying a characteristic or an activity that you value?*

*Would anyone also like to describe themselves with an interest, ability, or characteristic that may not be as familiar to people?*

Transition to the video with the following thought.

**Today we'll begin looking at ways each of us can use our different interests, abilities, and areas of influence for a common purpose. God is inviting each of us to join His great redemptive work by living life on mission.**

# LIFE ON MISSION

## WATCH

Follow the notes below as you watch this week's video featuring Ronnie Floyd.

- In dealing with today's culture, be courageous but wise.
- Be involved in the community.
- The real motivation is that Christ came to redeem the world.
- We have been given the Holy Spirit's power, and we're to be witnesses wherever we are, whatever we may do.
- Everyone has influence.
- God has created us to extend His glory to the nations, to make a difference and know that God can use us.

Scripture references: Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; John 20:21

Three Circles, shown below, is a simple conversation guide for your life on mission.

