

What Does Mission in a Missional Community Look Like?

Mission is your group's effort to support one another in loving, serving, and sharing Jesus with non-Christians.

Living life on mission isn't optional. It is an essential part of being a disciple of Jesus (Matthew 28:19). It also has many practical benefits in the life of a missional community:

- Promotes community through shared purpose.
- Exposes our sin and need for Jesus, providing opportunities for discipleship. •Keeps groups from becoming stagnant, ingrown, and insular.
- Embodies Jesus' vision for who we are as the Church.

It is helpful for missional communities (MC's) to have a clear picture of what exactly we mean when we talk about "mission." We've included four clarifying statements you can use with your group below, as well as discussion questions for each area:

1 | MISSION IS PEOPLE, NOT PROJECTS.

When you hear "mission," don't think "service project." Rather, think about the non-Christians that God has put in your path. God doesn't see these people as "projects", but rather as His sons and daughters made in His image!

Key Question: Where has God already given you relationships and favor with non-Christians? (ex. work, school, neighborhood, kid's sports teams, gym, etc.)

2 | MISSION IS INTENTIONAL, NOT ADDITIONAL.

Oftentimes we don't need to add more relationships and activities to our busy lives to faithfully live out Jesus' mission. Rather, we just need to think about who God has already placed in our path and be intentional to love, serve, and share Jesus with them. This doesn't have to be complicated! In fact, it's as simple as what we see in the life of Jesus where He listened to, served, and loved whoever He happened to cross paths with. He didn't have an eight-step ministry plan. He was simply present and available to those who needed to hear His truth.

Key Question: How can you intentionally love, serve, and share Jesus in your current relationships with non-Christians?

3 | MISSION IS A TEAM SPORT.

Mission in missional communities goes beyond praying for one another as we individually seek to reach non-Christians. Prayer is an essential starting point, but it's not the ending point. Mission in MC's is a team sport as you actively look for opportunities to support one another in loving, serving, and sharing Jesus with the non-Christians in your lives.

While some missional communities will try and proactively reach the same group of people together (missionary team approach), geography and other factors can make this a challenge for some groups. Many missional communities will look instead to support members as they reach non-Christians that are already in their lives (team of missionaries approach). This often looks like creatively coming up with opportunities to get the missional community together with those non-Christian friends. For example, a Superbowl party, a summer picnic, helping someone move, or a game night are great ways to bring people together.

Key Question: What are opportunities for your MC to join you in loving, serving, and sharing Jesus with the non-Christians in your life?

4 | MISSION REQUIRES DECLARATION.

While we want to demonstrate the good news of Jesus by loving and serving non-Christian friends with our actions, we also want to declare the good news of Jesus with our words. We don't just want to be seen as "nice" people who serve the needs of those around us. We want to get to know the stories of non-Christians in our lives and speak the gospel to them in such a way that it sounds like good news.

Key Question: How can you demonstrate the love of God to the people you are reaching? How would the gospel sound like good news to the people you are reaching?

GETTING STARTED: MISSION GROUP EXERCISE

Where do you begin? Pray and ask that the Spirit would lead and guide your Missional Community as you discuss mission together. We believe that prayer empowers everything that matters and that the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is essential for mission. Ask each person in your group to reflect on these questions above and then share with the group.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Glocal - Refugees - glocalboise.org

- Become a Glocal Friend (3 months),
- Host a baby shower for a refugee,
- drive for English class

Contact: Laura Armstrong,
LauraA@GlocalBoise.org

Safe Families - safe-families.org/involvement/

- One family becomes a host family and the group supports the family
- Support families through meals, delivering supplies, help with household tasks, befriending and mentoring parents, babysitting, or help with transportation.
- Collect or donate clothing, baby items, furniture, toys, etc., or help connect families to services such as household repairs, car repairs, resume assistance, transportation, etc.

Contact:

Jem Friends - <https://jemfriends.org/>

- Directly love and support JEMyouth by providing: Meals, Transportation, Welcome baskets, Care packages, Birthday parties
- Teach common skills advancement needs including preparing for driver's license testing, career coaching, GED tutoring, budgeting, and car maintenance.

Contact: Alexis Flores - volunteer@jemfriends.org

Biblical Study Center - boisebsc.org/

- Serve lunch on a Thursday to BSU Students

Contact:

Hillside Jr. High FCA

- Provide Pizza for FCA once a month

Contact: Rob@jesusistruehope.com

Taft Elementary or another local school

- Stock the teacher's lounge with snacks and drinks
- Bring breakfast for teachers,
- Stock their student food pantry
- Volunteer to read with students.

Contact: Tori@jesusistruehope.com

Chrysalis - chrysaliswomenidaho.org/

- Building and grounds maintenance
- Organize a drive for donations- paper products, hygiene items, clothing, food drive, etc.
- Share your talent- card making, crafts, singing, art, etc.
- Service Projects
- Teaching and Group facilitators
- Bring a meal to Chrysalis on Sunday night.

Idaho Food Bank - idahofoodbank.org

Boise Rescue Mission - boiserm.org/

Love INC - boiseloveinc.org/volunteer/

Ronald McDonald House - rmhcidaho.org

Other ideas:

Are there any needs in your neighborhood, among your coworker, at your child's school?

Example: Helping a co- worker of someone in the MC move into their new apartment and bring a housewarming gift from the whole missional community.