



GO2 SIMULCAST

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SESSION 1: WHY YOU SHOULD GO

PHILIPPIANS 1:20-22; MARK 16:15; MATTHEW 4:19-20

MAIN POINT

Of all the factors that go into choosing a career, why shouldn't the mission of God be the largest?

INTRODUCTION

- When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- What factors caused that childhood dream to continue or to change?
- Rank the following factors in how you're currently determining your career path: passions/interests, financial considerations, family expectations, mission of God, skills and experience, and age/life stage.

Few people actually choose as a career what they dreamed about becoming when they were children. Even fewer place the mission of God as the highest priority in choosing a career path. As we begin this 4-week series, pray and ask God to speak to you about your life, career, and why His mission and kingdom purposes should be the greatest factors for you to consider.

UNDERSTANDING

WATCH THE VIDEO, "SESSION 1: WHY YOU SHOULD GO."

- What is your initial reaction to the challenge to give at least the first two years after you graduate to spending some time on a church planting team or somewhere living strategically on mission?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PHILIPPIANS 1:20-22.

- What would you say is the "eager expectation and hope" of most college graduates?
- Should relationship with Christ impact what a person eagerly expects and hopes for? Has it for you? Explain.
- In your own words, what does the phrase "to live is Christ" mean?
- What was the "fruitful labor" Paul expected to occur by living in the world? Do you think we have this same expectation for every person in the body of Christ? Why or why not?

For Paul, the entire purpose of life was to live for Christ. That's it. He knew the only reason he was alive was because God created and sustained him. For that reason, he had no interest in anything that didn't bring glory to his Creator. The same thing should be said of every believer in Christ. Your life in Christ is about Christ. As David explained in the video session, as a follower of Jesus, "my life is His to spend however He wants according to His plans. We've surrendered our right to determine the direction of our lives . . . We know from the Word His plan is to make His grace and His glory known and enjoyed among all the nations."

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ MARK 16:15.

- What is the central command that Jesus gave His disciples in this passage? How are we to carry this out?

As David explained, in order to carry out Christ's command, "We must move on to those places where He is not known." We have unique opportunities today to do so, and around graduation is a unique time in your life to explore those possibilities. David went so far as to ask, "What if God has designed the globalization of the marketplace for the spread of His name among the nations?"

- Read the parallel account of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. Why did Jesus lead His command with a statement of His authority? Why is it important that we understand the authority of Jesus in the command to preach the gospel to the world?

To carry out the Great Commission, the disciples had to clarify their belief about Him. They had to believe deeply that this One standing resurrected before them was more than just a man. He truly was God in flesh, God in power, and God in authority. He was the Messiah, and finally they were able to share that good news with everyone. As Jesus' disciples today, we have been given the same task, and understanding and believing in the authority of Jesus must precede our obedience.

- What promise did Jesus leave His disciples with at the close of Matthew 28:20? How does this promise answer why you should go, and live, and work strategically on mission?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ MATTHEW 4:19-20.

- Why do you think Jesus chose to use the metaphor of fishing for men?

When someone follows Jesus, it's only the beginning of the journey. Those who follow Jesus are also formed by Jesus. Discipleship is the process by which we become the people Jesus wants us to be. But we are not just becoming something ambiguous; Jesus has a very specific formative purpose in mind for us, and that purpose includes His unique design of who we are. For these men, who knew everything there was to know about fishing, Jesus used those experiences to aid them in understanding their true purpose in life.

- Is there someone you know who embodies Jesus' call to fish for men? Who is it?

- What is different about the way that person views people and situations in his or her life? What other kinds of habits characterize him or her?

As those who are following Jesus, there is a call on our lives. We are to live for something more than just getting through the day until tomorrow; we are meant to be engaged in extending God's kingdom in the world. No matter how ordinary we might think we are, God has given us all gifts and talents that should be put to use as we minister in His name. As we do, we will find ourselves fishing for men, just as these early disciples did. J.D. pointed out, "Calling into ministry is not something God gives to a sacred few in the body of Christ in a sacred experience that is conferred through a mystical moment. . . . The question is not if you are called, but where and how."

APPLICATION

- How would you answer someone who asks the question, "Why should I give the first two years after I graduate to a church planting team or to living strategically on mission somewhere?"
- What obstacles do you think you'll face if you adopt this expectation to go?
- How can this group pray for you as we continue this study and as you consider giving your first two years after graduation to living on mission?

PRAYER

Praise God for His authority in your life and call to join Him on mission. Ask Him to continue to help you grow in your expectation of what it means to follow Him and to show you where and how you can live strategically on mission.

SESSION 2: CALLING AND STRATEGY

ACTS 11:19-21; ACTS 13:1-4; PROVERBS 22:29

MAIN POINT

You were created for the glory of Christ among the nations. Seeing your life through that lens changes everything.

INTRODUCTION

- Who is someone you know that you would say has a special calling from God?
- If some people are specially called to preach or to be missionaries, then does that mean the rest of us are off the hook in terms of telling people about Jesus here and around the world? Explain.

While it is true that there are some people God chooses to send to specific places at certain times for special service, God's mission for the world involves every believer. In today's video and study, we'll take a look at the calling to go and the strategy by which God desires every believer to participate in fulfilling His mission. How am I going to spend my life for the glory of God among the nations?

UNDERSTANDING

WATCH THE VIDEO, "SESSION 2: CALLING AND STRATEGY."

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 11:19-21.

- How would you describe the relationship between calling and strategy for these ordinary people who founded the church at Antioch?
- How would you describe the relationship between calling and strategy in your own life currently? How do you envision it after you graduate?

Among the fleeing evangelists were a small group of daring souls. Luke did not mention their names, only their places of origin—Cyprus and Cyrene. Persecuted and scattered did not mean a change in purpose. In fact, being scattered opened new opportunities for believers to engage the lost. When they began sharing with Gentiles about the good news of the Lord Jesus, lives were changed as hearts turned to Christ. The Lord was working in conjunction with these faithful servants as they took advantage of the opportunities that presented themselves in the place where they found themselves.

- What is your feeling on pioneering gospel ministry in a place it has not previously been? Does it excite you? Intimidate you? Explain.

- What opportunities are before you now for new ministry that you may never have again in another time and place?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 13:1-4.

- Considering that the church at Antioch was thriving and growing as it was, why would God call Paul and Barnabas to go somewhere else?
- What do we learn about calling and strategy from the church at Antioch?
- What does it say about us if we stay where we are comfortable and our own needs are met rather than going where we might be uncomfortable but can meet the needs of other people?

As David pointed out in the video, everyone at the church in Antioch was called and living on mission. However, God called Paul and Barnabas to go where there was need. Out of their service in the thriving and growing Antioch church, God called Paul and Barnabas to the mission field. With the prayer and full support of the believers at Antioch, they would travel as missionaries to new frontiers to share the gospel story.

- What does it mean to you to know that God sets each of us apart for specific acts of service to Him and His kingdom? How would our church function differently if we really believed God has set us aside for His work, like the early church did?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PROVERBS 22:29.

- How does this proverb speak to the calling and strategy of believers on mission for the glory of God?
- In the video, David and J.D. addressed the question, "Can two years really make a difference?" Based on the passages from Acts 11; 13; and Proverbs 22:29, how would you answer that question?

The unnamed, persecuted, and scattered believers in Acts 11:19-21 continued to use the skills they had to make a difference for the glory of God right where they lived, not knowing how long they would be able to live there. The church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas off to use the skills God had given them on mission among unreached people groups for as long as God directed them to. When we put God first by serving Him with excellence wherever we go and whatever we do, He will move and bring light to the nations. As David put it in the video session, "God's got this whole thing rigged, if we will see it through the lens that He's called us to see our lives through."

APPLICATION

- As you consider what it would mean to “tithe your career” by spending at least the first two years living strategically on mission, what struggles (if any) with calling and/or strategy are you wrestling with?
- J.D. pointed out that in the 10/40 window where unreached people groups primarily live, there are 2 million Americans in secular employment. Have you yet considered looking for a job in some part of the world where there is great spiritual need? Why or why not?
- How can this group pray for you as you seek to live on mission in your present circumstance? As you seek to live on mission after you graduate?

PRAYER

Thank God for already knowing how He will receive glory from your life spent on mission for Him. Thank Him for calling you to live on mission and for equipping you with the skills and courage you need to do so. Ask Him to help you trust Him completely as you seek to honor Him first with your career.

SESSION 3: OBSTACLES AND QUESTIONS

ROMANS 10:13-15; HEBREWS 12:1-3

MAIN POINT

We must be aware of the obstacles that could keep us from answering the call to share the gospel to unreached and under reached people groups.

INTRODUCTION

- When you think about going overseas to serve on mission for two years, what are your greatest fears or concerns?
- What reaction or advice have you received so far from family and friends, either for or against the idea of giving up your first two years after graduation to live strategically on mission?
- How would you counsel someone who asks, "What should I do right now to prepare to go live on mission when I graduate?"

God created us to be passionate people, filled with a desire to be fully committed and all in to Him and His mission. We run into obstacles, though, when we pour our passion into lesser things. Passions or concerns about things like money, relationships, hobbies, causes, and opportunities are not bad, but they pale in comparison to the life to which we've been called. Because we are sinners living in a sinful world with sinful people, we will certainly run into obstacles that could keep us from answering the call to share the gospel to unreached and under reached people groups. The passion you feel for living your life on mission, then, will only be fueled and sustained by intimacy with Jesus and a grasp of the depth of spiritual need that exists in the world.

UNDERSTANDING

WATCH THE VIDEO, "SESSION 3: OBSTACLES AND QUESTIONS."

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ROMANS 10:13-15.

- What truths are inherent to the life of every person in verse 13?
- How does verse 13 speak into the calling and mission of every believer?
- How do verses 14-15 help you better understand the importance of living strategically on mission for Jesus?

In the video, David talked about “functional universalism” as an obstacle to believers living on mission. But Paul let us know clearly in Romans 10 that people must hear the gospel to call on the name of Jesus and be saved. It is not through seeing God’s handiwork in creation (see Rom. 1:20) that people are saved. It is not through our own good works (see Rom. 9:32) that we are saved. No one will be saved apart from hearing the gospel, believing in Christ as Savior, and confessing Him as Lord. We are God’s chosen instruments through which He declares His gospel message to the world.

- Do you, or have you ever, operated under the idea that in the end, people who never hear about Jesus are going to be OK? Explain. How would continuing to operate by that belief impact your own decisions about living on mission and sharing the gospel?
- Why do you think God chose people to spread the gospel? What do we learn about God from His choice to spread the gospel through people like us?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ HEBREWS 12:1-3.

- In the video session, J.D. and David talked about some common obstacles that could keep us from answering the call to share the gospel to unreached and under reached people groups. What does Hebrews 12:1-3 say to do about those obstacles?
- Why do you think the writer separated those things that divide our focus into “sin” and “everything that hinders” in this passage?
- What are some things that aren’t necessarily sin, but might keep us from living on mission?
- What would it look like for you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus (v. 3) for the rest of your life, as you make decisions about your career?

J.D. and David named obstacles like a lack of intimacy with Jesus, expectations of parents and other relationships, and functional universalism as common hindrances to living on mission. The writer of Hebrews understood there would be such hindrances to fully following Jesus, and he instructed us to lay them aside so that we might run freely toward God’s kingdom purposes. We find the only life that satisfies (John 10:10) when we step through temporary, worldly concerns as we look to and run to Jesus and His eternal kingdom. Not only this, but God says we get our needs thrown in as well. So, when we feel like we are distracted and out of position, we need to simplify our pursuits, repent of our sins, and remind ourselves of the incredible work of the cross and the grace He desires to give to all people.

APPLICATION

- This session ended with Q&A. Are there any questions that weren't addressed that you would like to discuss?
- How do you respond to the statement: "This is a unique time of your life and the likelihood of you [giving up two years to live strategically on mission] decreases as time goes on"?
- How can this group pray for you as you consider the obstacles and questions you have about giving up the first two years after graduation to live and work somewhere strategically on mission?

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for His work on the cross and call on your life to share that good news with other people who have never heard it. Ask Him to help you identify the obstacles that keep you from living your life on mission for Him. Invite Him to fill your heart with compassion for those who have not yet heard about Jesus and to provide opportunities even now to make disciples.

SESSION 4: ARE YOU WILLING?

1 PETER 2:4-7; PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14

MAIN POINT

The cost of following Jesus is great, but He is worth it.

INTRODUCTION

- Who are some people you know or have read about in the Bible who were willing to follow God at any cost?
- Who are some people you know or have read about in the Bible who were not willing to follow God at any cost?
- What would compel a person to follow Jesus by living strategically on mission at any cost?

In the fourth and final video session, we'll be reminded that whatever you give up, whatever you endure, Jesus is worth it. The gospel is worth it. Are you willing to start the conversation about what truly following Jesus by going and making disciples might look like in your life?

UNDERSTANDING

WATCH THE VIDEO, "SESSION 4: ARE YOU WILLING?"

- What thoughts or questions did J.D.'s remarks bring to your mind in this final video segment?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 1 PETER 2:4-7.

- In what two different contexts is the word "precious" (or "honored" in the CSB) used in these verses?
- What are some different things people might mean by saying that Jesus is precious to them?
- What are some signs that Jesus and His gospel message are truly precious to us?

What David and J.D. have been sharing throughout the video study echo Peter's words here. Knowing Jesus and experiencing His preciousness is not something limited to a few special believers. First Peter 2:7 says that if you believe in Jesus, then He is precious to you. To those who are saved, there is no sliding scale of preciousness; to all who are saved, He is worth following at any cost.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14.

- What is the relationship between knowing Christ like Paul described here and following Him at any cost?
- After telling the story of Fajar coming to faith and choosing to follow Jesus at any cost, J.D. said, "It is hypocritical for us to say 'Amen' to Fajar's story and not be willing to do what it takes to get the gospel to people like Fajar." Why is that true?
- We all wrestle with the difference between simply cheering about stories like Fajar's as spectators, and living in a way that affirms we cheer as kingdom builders and participants ourselves. What do Paul's words in verses 12-14 tell you to do about that struggle?

Jesus is precious. Because He is precious, knowing Him means sharing with Him in His life and in His death. We do this by trading our earthly desires for His eternal purposes, living strategically on mission for the glory of God. J.D. explained, "The gospel is only good news if it gets there on time."

APPLICATION

- J.D. challenged you to "Put your 'Yes' on the table and let God put it on the map." What will that look like for you practically?
- What is one tangible step you will take to share the gospel with those who do not know Jesus?
- In regards to the ways you've been challenged and encouraged in this study, how can this group pray for you and help you going forward?

PRAYER

Praise Jesus that He is worth anything you give to Him and any earthly gain you give up in pursuit of Him. Ask Him to continue to show you how you can live strategically on mission for His glory in these days. Ask Him to open doors of opportunity and for boldness to step through those doors.

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