

# **IHOP 401**

Reaching The Community !!

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**OUTLINE OF IHOP 401**

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**INFINITE HOUSE OF PRAISE  
IHOP 401**

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**Welcome To  
INFINITE HOUSE OF PRAISE  
IHOP 401**

This class is the fourth of our basic IHOP Growth classes.  
Congratulations on making it this far because of  
your hunger and discipline for IHOP Growth !!

In IHOP 101 - You committed to being a **Member** of God's family.  
In IHOP 201 - You committed to having a **Ministry** in our church.  
In IHOP 301 - You committed to the habits for Spiritual **Development**.  
In IHOP 401 - You will begin to discover your **Mission** in the world.

**THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:**

• **I WAS CREATED TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE.**

*"The Lord has made everything for his own purpose..." Pr. 16:4 (LB)*

• **GOD PLANNED MY LIFE MISSION BEFORE I WAS BORN.**

*"God is our Maker, and in our union with Christ, he has created us for a life of good works, which he has already prepared for us to do." Eph. 2:10 (GN)*

My Life Mission has both universal elements (what God calls every Christian to do) and unique elements (what God custom-designed me to do).

In CLASS 401, we'll focus on the *universal* part of your Life Mission.

• **FULFILLING MY MISSION BRINGS GLORY TO GOD.**

*JESUS: "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."*  
*John 17:4 (NIV)*

• **MY PRIMARY TASK IN LIFE IS TO FULFILL MY MISSION.**

*"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me--to tell people the Good News about God's grace."*  
*Acts 20:24 (NCV)*

## THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

*That I commit the rest of my life to being a messenger of God's Good News to other people, and using my time, talents, and treasure for his Kingdom, regardless of where it leads or what it costs.*

*"We make it our goal to please him..." 2 Cor. 5:9 (NIV)*

*"...our goal is to measure up to God's plan for us..."*

*2 Cor. 10:13 (LB)*

## *Jesus' Mission = My Mission*

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 A SOUL SAVED.**

*“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)*

## ***Sharing The Message***

*"You are the ones chosen by God... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you."*

*1 Peter 2:9 (Mes)*

*"...He has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. Therefore, we are Christ's representatives." 2 Cor. 5:19b-20 (GWT)*

### **I. SHARING MY TESTIMONY**

A personal testimony is the most persuasive form of communication.

#### **The Bible is full of testimonies:**

##### **DAVID**

*"Come and listen, and I will tell you what God has done for me." Ps. 66:16 (NCV)*

##### **THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**

*"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony." John 4:39 (NIV)*

##### **THE MAN BORN BLIND**

*"I don't know whether he is good or bad, but I know this: I was blind, and now I see!" John 9:25 (LB)*

##### **PETER AND JOHN**

*"We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20 (NLT)*

##### **PAUL**

On six different occasions (Acts 22-26) Paul used his personal testimony to share the Good News with unbelievers.

##### **JESUS**

*"Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay." John 3:11 (Mes)*

### **We are commanded to share our testimonies**

*"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. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS AN ADULT**

### **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.*

### The Testimony Pyramid



**B. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AS A CHILD BUT WALKED AWAY OR NEVER GREW UNTIL A DEEPER RECOMMITMENT AS AN ADULT.**

Use the same four steps, but start with the time just prior to your *recommitment*. Give some examples of how you were trying to meet your own needs without Christ but it wasn't working. Describe what caused you to realize you needed Christ directing your life and how you made a full commitment to him. Then explain how Jesus is currently meeting the deepest needs in your life.

**C. IF YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN AT AN EARLY AGE AND NEVER STRAYED.**

Use the same four steps with this modification: Point out some deep need or common problem that you see *other people* trying to resolve. Point out how unsuccessful their attempts are to meet their own need. Then explain why you never experienced that problem by trusting Christ early in life. Don't say the exact age. Continue with steps 3 and 4.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY**

- 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. (See list)

## POSSIBLE TESTIMONY THEMES

### How Trusting Jesus has helped me deal with my...

- Worries / Anxiety
- Guilt/Shame
- Anger / Temper
- Emptiness/Lack of Purpose
- Grief

### How Trusting Jesus has given me ....

- Inner Peace
- Forgiveness and a fresh start
- Patience and love
- Purpose in life and meaning
- Comfort and Joy

<input type="checkbox"/> Stress / Burnout	New energy and power for living
<input type="checkbox"/> Low self-esteem	Significance. I am valuable to God
<input type="checkbox"/> Poor health	Strength to go on
<input type="checkbox"/> Disappointment	Trust in his good plans
<input type="checkbox"/> Insecurity	Confidence and sense of security
<input type="checkbox"/> Regrets	A second chance at life
<input type="checkbox"/> Discontent / frantic activity	Contentment and peace
<input type="checkbox"/> Fears	Faith to face my fears
<input type="checkbox"/> Loneliness	Assurance He's always with me.
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of emotional support	A church family that supports me.
<input type="checkbox"/> Addictions / Habits	Power to change. Freedom
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-centeredness	Love for other people
<input type="checkbox"/> Despair / Depression	Hope
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheap thrills	Real, lasting happiness
<input type="checkbox"/> Boredom with my life	Adventure with God
<input type="checkbox"/> Fear of Death	Assurance of heaven
<input type="checkbox"/> "Something was missing"	A sense of fulfillment
<input type="checkbox"/> Bitterness & resentment	The ability to be free from my past
<input type="checkbox"/> Pain of rejection	God's unconditional love
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Problems	Positive changes in my marriage
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Problems	Positive changes in my finances
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Problems	Positive changes in my business

**God allows experiences in my life so I can relate to others who need Christ!**

### **COMMON GROUND CIRCUMSTANCES**

Could you give a testimony about how Jesus helped you with any of the following experiences?

#### **POSITIVE:**

Adoption, breaking a bad habit, financial gain, raising kids, marriage strengthened or restored, new baby, new business, new friends, new home, new marriage, new job, success, renewed love, restored relationships

#### **MAJOR CRISES**

Abuse, accident, addiction, abortion, bankruptcy, broken dream, eating disorder, death, depression, disease, discrimination, divorce, empty nest, financial problems, infertility, incest, jail, rape, surgery

- **Realize you have more than one testimony!**
- Different situations will require different testimonies!
- Choose the testimony that best matches your listener.
- Realize you can tell about how others' lives have been changed too. Your small group can share your stories with each other.
- Don't use religious terms or clichés or broad generalities.
- Ask: "If I were an unbeliever, would this make sense to me?"

## TRANSLATING CHRISTIAN WORDS

*A cliché lexicon*

CHRISTIAN TERM	WHEN TALKING WITH SEEKERS
<i>“Blessed”</i>	<i>“Happy”</i>
<i>“I was Born Again”</i>	<i>“I was given a fresh, new start”</i>
<i>“I was Saved”</i>	<i>“My life changed at that moment”</i>
<i>“Jesus is my Lord”</i>	<i>“He’s the Manager/CEO of my Life”</i>
	<i>“I put Jesus in the driver’s seat.”</i>
<i>“I repented”</i>	<i>“I changed my mind” (a mental U-turn)</i>
<i>“I had sinned”</i>	<i>“I knew I’d blown it”</i>
<i>“All are sinners”</i>	<i>“Nobody’s perfect. No one bats 1000”</i>
<i>“I felt convicted”</i>	<i>“I realized that...”</i>
<i>“The Holy Ghost”</i>	<i>“God’s Spirit”</i>

### PHRASES TO AVOID IN A TESTIMONY TO UNBELIEVER

*“I just Praise the Lord for...” “Now I am so blessed” “Hallelujah!”*  
*“Amen” “It was glorious” “I was convicted” “The Lord laid on my heart”*

## HOW TO LEAD INTO YOUR TESTIMONY

### 1. Listen for problems or needs that Jesus has helped you with.

*“You know, that used to be a big issue in my life too (or my marriage, etc). In fact, I felt pretty (hopeless, frustrated, etc.) But then I discovered something that made a major difference in my life.”*

### 2. Refer to something in the news or on TV that deals with a common need or problem.

*“Did you read about... I can sure identify with how those people feel. It wasn’t that long ago that I struggled with that too. But then something happened that changed everything for me...”*

Start with a statement they’d agree with or situation they relate to.

*“It seems like life is getting faster and faster.”*

*“Sometimes life just gets so complicated.”*

*“Life doesn’t always turn out the way you planned it.”*

### 3. Apologize to people you’ve known a long time but haven’t witnessed to.

*“Bill, I need to apologize to you. We’ve known each other a long time, and I consider you to be a good friend. But friends don’t keep secrets – and I’ve never told you about the best thing that ever happened to me. I guess I was afraid you’d think I was some kind of nut. Anyway... (begin your story).”*

“Each day tell someone that he saves.” Psalm 96:2b (LB)

## II. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

The universal part of your Life Message is the Gospel, the *Good News* of how we can be saved, forgiven, and begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The moment you trust in Christ, you are called and commissioned to be a messenger of the Good News to people who haven't heard or responded to it.

### WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

#### 1. GOD BECAME A MAN - SO \_\_\_\_\_

“It is the **Good News** about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line; and by being raised from the dead he proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself.”

Rom. 1:3-4 (LB)

#### 2. JESUS DIED FOR MY SINS - SO \_\_\_\_\_

“It is this **Good News** that saves you if you firmly believe it... that Christ died for our sins. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said.”

1 Cor. 15: 2-4 (NLT)

“For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.”

2 Cor. 5:19 (LB)

#### 3. JESUS DESTROYED DEATH - SO \_\_\_\_\_

“Jesus destroyed death, and through the **Good News** he showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed.”

2 Tim. 1:10 (NCV)

#### 4. SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT - SO \_\_\_\_\_

“People are made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus as a way to forgive sin through faith.”

Rom. 3:24-25 (ICB)

#### 5. IT IS BASED ON FAITH - SO \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said, “Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1:15 (NIV)

“The **Good News** shows how God makes people right with himself - that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, ‘Those who are right with God will live by trusting in him.’”

Rom. 1:17 (NCV)

**Memorize these 5 basic truths!**

### 3 SIMPLE TOOLS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

*STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD (tract)*

#### *THE BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION*

*“God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together.” 1 Tim. 2:4 (LB)*

*“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12 (NLT)*

### III. COMMUNICATION TIPS: HOW TO SHARE EFFECTIVELY

#### 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!*

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

Right brain witness (*emphasizes personal experience*) “*all your heart*”

Left brain witness (*emphasizes facts and scripture*) “*all your mind*” *Need both!*

#### SOME COMMON STYLES:

The Serving Style  
The Intellectual Style  
The Bringing Style  
The Testimonial Style  
The Literature Style  
The Confrontational Style

Don’t feel guilty about styles you don’t naturally use.

Don’t judge others who don’t use your style!

Realize that Jesus never used the same approach twice!

#### 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 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)*

**13. REMEMBER, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS USING YOUR WORDS**

You are not trying to convince anyone on your own.

*“For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.”*  
*1 Thess. 1:5a (NLT)*

## *Fishing In My Mission Pond*

*“Jesus called out, ‘Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men.’” Matt. 4:19 (LB)*

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ go together!  
Introducing people to Christ is like fishing, not hunting!

### **HUNTING**

Aggressive  
Based on confrontation

*“Go out there & shoot them”*  
Uses “*I size fits all*” bullet

Take your best shot & it’s over  
Scares off the animal if you miss

The animal has no choice  
Must be a skilled shot

**VS**

### **FISHING**

More gentle  
Based on attraction

*“Get them to nibble on your bait”*  
Allows you to try all kinds of lures

Reeling in a fish requires *give & take*  
You get more than one chance

The fish gets a choice!  
*Anyone* can put bait into the water!

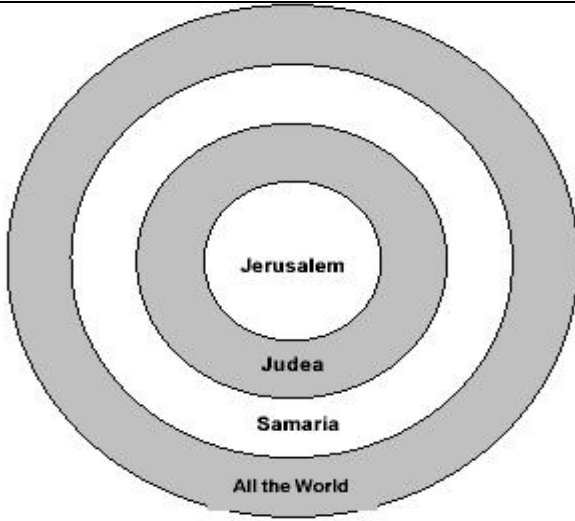
In Jesus’ day, they only used nets for fishing. Today, we have many kinds of methods for fishing, even bass boats with built-in sonar equipment!

## **5 KEYS TO SPIRITUAL FISHING**

### **1. IDENTIFY YOUR \_\_\_\_\_**

*“You will be my witnesses - in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.” Acts 1:8b (NIV)*

**The New Testament Pattern**



**Our Church's Pattern**

*"JERUSALEM" = TARRANT OR DALLAS COUNTY*

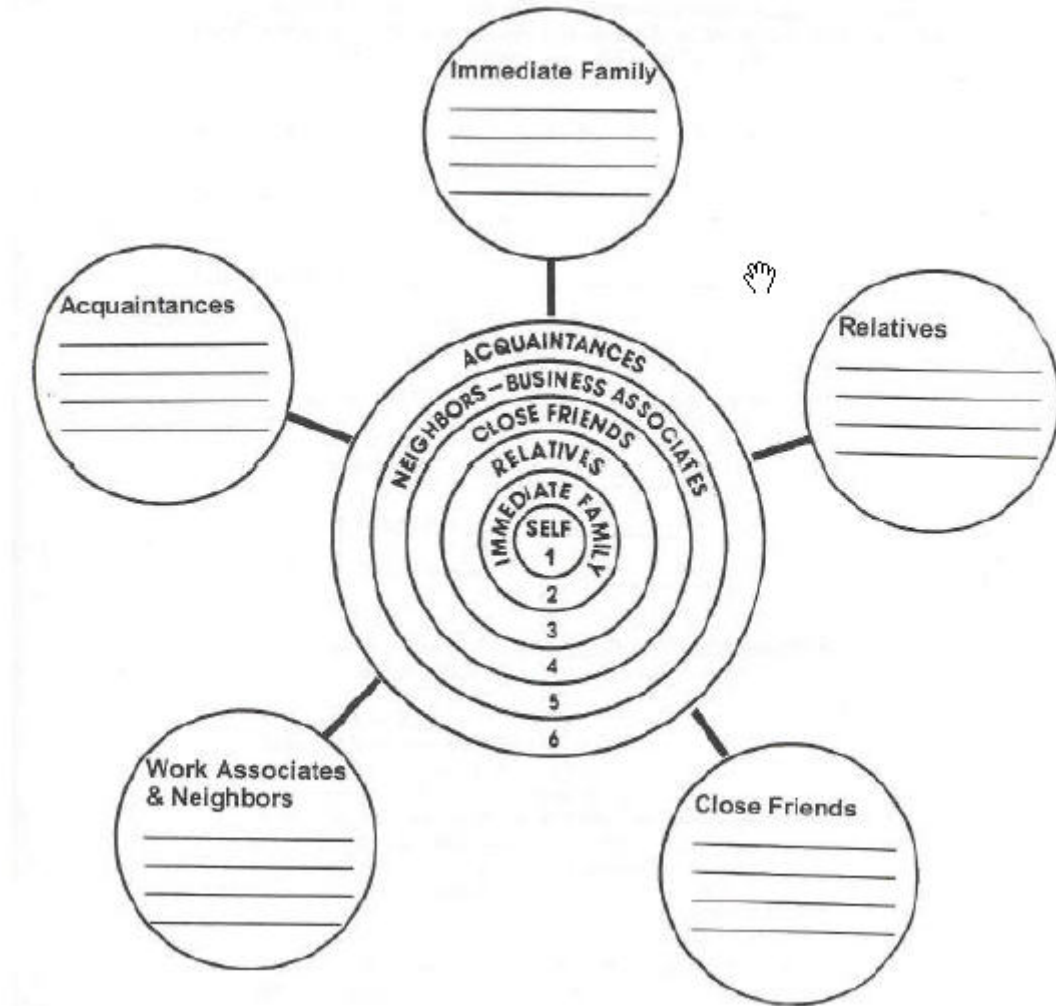
*"JUDEA" = AMERICA*

*"SAMARIA" = LANGUAGE/ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMERICA*

*"WORLD" = EVERY COUNTRY*

*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)

**2. LEARN ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_ IN YOUR POND.**

*“To the Jews I became like a Jew to win the Jews...to those who are without the law I became like a person who is without the law... to those who are weak I became weak so I could win the weak. I have become all things to all people so I could save some of them in any way possible. I do all this because of the Good News and so I can share in its blessings.” 1 Cor. 9:20-23 (NCV)*

*“Every prudent man acts out of knowledge.” Pr. 13:16 (NIV)*

The more you know about a person, \_\_\_\_\_

**3. WHAT ARE THEIR \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Jesus knew what they were thinking...”  
Matt. 9:4, 12:25; Mark 2:8; Luke 5:22, 9:47, 11:17*

A powerful filter: *Your Reticular Activating System*  
What gets our attention:

1. Things we \_\_\_\_\_
2. Things that \_\_\_\_\_
3. Things that are \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss: What else are unbelievers in our area like today?

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**4. WHAT DO I \_\_\_\_\_ WITH THEM?**

*“... Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ.”  
1 Cor. 9:22b-23 (LB)*

This is the fundamental secret of telling others about Christ.

*“With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity.” Mark 4:33 (Mes)*

- Before you can share the Good News, you must first find \_\_\_\_\_.
- Before you can *reach* them, you must be able to \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

Make a list of areas where you have common ground with the unbelievers in your life.

- Common Experiences
- Common Interests
- Common Needs
- Common Hurts

## 5. REMEMBER THAT FISH GET \_\_\_\_\_

*“Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers...”*  
Col. 4:5 (GN)

This is called “*Receptivity*.” How \_\_\_\_\_ are they to the Good News?

It is important to realize that people go through a process in coming to faith in Christ and they must be approached differently depending on where they are.

### **Examples of levels of spiritual receptivity**

*“Listen to me, you stubborn-hearted, you who are far from righteousness.”*  
Isa. 46:12 (NIV)

(Jesus with an unbeliever) *“Realizing this man's understanding, Jesus said to him, ‘You are not far from the Kingdom of God.’”* Mark 12:34(LB)

*“He has brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were very far away from him, and to us Jews who were near.”* Eph. 2:17 (LB)

*“Now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ.”*  
*Eph. 2:13 (NLT)*

The Parable of Soils (Matt. 13); Four kinds of receptivity

Hard soil = The defensive heart  
Shallow soil = The impulsive heart  
Soil with weeds = The distracted heart  
Good Soil = The receptive heart

Facts: · Some people are *close* to making a commitment to Christ,  
while others have a *long way* to go!

· Effective evangelism relies on assessing how receptive a person is  
and then helping them take the next step.



## INSIGHTS

- Evangelism is a \_\_\_\_\_ of moving people through the stages!
- People move through these stages *at different speeds*.
- People often require *multiple exposures* at each stage before moving on.
- A person can *get stuck* at any stage. The #1 reason is \_\_\_\_\_
- Every stage requires a \_\_\_\_\_ by me!

*“My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos' work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts.”*  
1 Cor. 3:6 (LB)

## WHAT TO DO WITH PEOPLE AT EACH STAGE

- What do you do when someone is at the RESISTANT stage?**  
*They are skeptical, self-satisfied, resistant, or spiritually apathetic. (-6)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to become receptive.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ through love and service.
3. Invite them to a fun \_\_\_\_\_ (like Food Fellowships).
4. What NOT to do with resistant people: DON'T \_\_\_\_\_

*“Don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.”*  
2 Tim. 2:23-26 (NLT)

Note: Some people we might think are “resistant” are actually just *unaware* of the gospel or they've never heard it in terms they can understand!

- What do you do when someone is at the RECEPTIVE stage?**  
*They are aware of an unmet need or spiritual void in their life. (-5)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in a practical way.
2. Share \_\_\_\_\_ about the same need.
3. Tell them that you are \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
4. Ask open-ended questions. *“Tell me about the spiritual side of your life.”*
5. Assess if they are ready to skip to stage –2 or –1

*“Evangelism is helping people discover how God is already at work in their lives.” - Sam Williams*

**What makes people receptive?** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(either positive or negative)*

### HOLMES STRESS SCALE

<b>LIFE EVENT</b>	<b>STRESS LEVEL</b>
Death of a spouse	100 points
Divorce	73
Marriage/Separation	65
Jail term	63
Death of a close family member	63
Personal injury or major illness	53
Getting married	50
Fired from work	47
Marriage reconciliation	45
Retirement	45
Major change in health of family member	44
Pregnancy	40
Sex difficulties	39
Gaining a new family member	39
Major change at work	39
Major change in financial status	38
Death of a close friend	37
Son or daughter leaving home	29
Trouble with in-laws	29
Wife begins or stops work	26
Trouble with boss	23
Change in residence	20

□ **What do you do when someone is at the SEEKER stage?**

*They are looking for answers to questions or solutions to problems. (-4)*

1. Invite them to our weekend \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Invite them to a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Give them tapes or reading materials.
4. Open a dialog on spiritual issues with questions like:  
    *“Have you ever considered what Jesus said?”*  
    *“What do you need to know to take the next step?”*  
    *“How can I help you?”*

□ **What do you do when someone is at the CONSIDERATION stage?**

*They begin to notice the real differences between themselves and believers. (-3)*

1. Introduce them to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Invite them to a small group.
3. Discuss the different ways believers respond to life.

□ **What do you do when someone is at the UNDERSTANDING stage?**

*They need to understand why and how to become a Christian. (-2)*

1. Explain God’s plan of salvation!
2. Explain how you made your decision for Christ.
3. Help them see the \_\_\_\_\_.

☑ **What do you do when someone is READY to receive Christ? (-1)**


Offer to lead them in a prayer of commitment!

☑ **What do you do after they have RECEIVED CHRIST?**

1. Take them to Class 101!
2. Encourage and \_\_\_\_\_ their baptism!

3. Get them into a new believer's small group!

**FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM PLANNING CARD**  
**A Tool For Cultivating Eternal Friendships**  
*“Work at bringing others to Christ.” 2 Tim. 2:4c (NLT)*

 <b>FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM</b> <b>How to Cultivate an Eternal Relationship</b>																
<b>Name of Friend</b>	<b>Possible Activity</b>	Pray for them regularly	Build a relational bridge	Do something fun together	Do a favor for them	Share my testimony	Invite them to my home	Invite them to church	Bring them to church	Hear another's testimony	Give an evangelistic booklet	Present the gospel (The Bridge)	Get them involved in an evangelistic Bible Study	Take them to an evangelistic meeting or crusade**	They pray to receive Christ **	Start followup
		-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1							

## **HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP**

### **A plan for sharing your faith**

Good friendships are usually intentional, rather than accidental. Developing friendships with unbelievers often requires going the second mile, taking some risks, and moving outside your own comfort zone. And with our busy lifestyles, it takes *planning*. If you don't plan to cultivate friendships with unbelievers, you'll find that you never have the time to do so.

*"We should make our plans - counting on God to direct us." Pr. 16:9*

#### **STEP #1 : BECOME AWARE - of the unbelievers God has placed in your life.**

- ✓ Make a list of them by name.
- ✓ Realize that they are your responsibility.
- ✓ Assess each person's level of spiritual receptivity.
- ✓ Discover and write down what their interests and needs are.
- ✓ Look for areas of common ground that you can build on.
- ✓ Figure out what kind of testimony each would respond to.

#### **STEP #2: COMMIT TO PRAYER**

- ✓ Use your list to pray daily for your unsaved friends.
- ✓ Pray that God will draw them to himself. John 6:44
- ✓ Pray that God will remove their spiritual blindness. 2 Cor. 4:3-4
- ✓ Pray that the Holy Spirit will make their heart receptive. Jn.16:8-13
- ✓ Pray you'll get the opportunity to share a clear witness. Col.4 3-5
- ✓ Pray that God will give you wisdom in what to say. James 1:5
- ✓ Pray the Holy Spirit will use the words you say. 1 Thess. 1:5

#### **STEP #3: SHOW YOU CARE**

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect as people, not as "prospects".
- ✓ Be a genuine friend. Help them in practical ways.
- ✓ Be a good listener. It is a great way to show love.
- ✓ Make service your aim, not recruitment.
- ✓ Invite them into your home.
- ✓ Consciously focus your concern on meeting their needs.
- ✓ Go out of your way to love them until they ask you why.
- ✓ Accept people as they are without being judgmental.

#### **STEP #4: BE READY TO SHARE**

- ✓ Identify yourself as a positive, joyful follower of Christ.
- ✓ Share a testimony when the occasion naturally arises. (It will)
- ✓ Never force the Good News. Be patient. God is working!
- ✓ Use crisis situations to show why we all need God.
- ✓ Ask questions that lead to spiritual discussions.
- ✓ Give them appropriate message tapes or books to read.

- ✓ Concentrate on the essential. Don't get sidetracked by hang-ups.
- ✓ Invite them to a seeker service at church.
- ✓ Offer to lead in a prayer to commit after sharing the Good News.

### **NEXT STEPS FOR FISHING IN MY MISSION POND**

- Prepare a Friendship Evangelism Planning Card for reaching your unsaved friends.
- Read *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry & Mary*, Lee Strobel, (Zondervan)

Internet Links: Communication skills for evangelism:

<http://www.gospelcom.net/iv/students/library/commskills.html>

Using the Internet for evangelism:

<http://www.webauthors.org/guide/web-evangelism.html#content1>

## ***Becoming A World-Class Christian***

### **GOD'S GLOBAL PLAN**

God has always been interested in the *entire* world.

*“Jesus said, ‘Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.’”  
Mark 16:15 (NCV)*

*“And the Good News must first be made known in every nation before the end-time finally comes.”  
Mark 10:13 (LB)*

Many Christians mistakenly assume that the responsibility for taking the Good News to all parts of the world belongs only to missionaries and pastors. But the Bible clearly points out that it is every believer's responsibility to be a *world-class* Christian. Every member is a messenger!

**We are all called to be \_\_\_\_\_**

Now, with the Internet, digital communication technologies, and air transportation available to practically every corner of the planet, our responsibility has increased - but *the task has also gotten much easier!*

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**MISSION:** *The overall task of the church to fulfill its 5 purposes as given in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission – worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry.*

**EVANGELISM:** *Introducing people to Jesus Christ. Sharing the Good News.*

**MISSIONS:** *Fulfilling the 5 purposes of the church in a different culture than your own.*

### **WHAT ON EARTH IS GOD DOING?**

***The Status of Christianity in the World***

*“Look at the nations and be amazed! Watch and be astounded at what I will do! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.” Hab. 1:5 (NLT)*

**THE GOOD NEWS**

**THE CHURCH IS FAR BIGGER THAN YOU THINK**

- Christians in the world will pass the 2,000,000,000 mark this year, according to David Barrett, the leading researcher on the church around the world.

Examples: Last year...

In Brazil - the church is growing 17-20,000 new believers *a week!*

In China – the church is growing 20-30,000 new believers *a day!*

- The availability of the Bible in other language has increased dramatically.
  - 1800 – 67 languages
  - 1900 – 537 languages
  - 2000 – 2800 languages
- The Jesus Film has been seen by over 2 billion people and over 100 million have prayed to receive Christ!
- The number of mission agencies is increasing
  - In 1900 – 600 mission agencies
  - In 1998 – 4,650
  - In 2025 – 8,500 estimatedIn the future, the majority of missionaries will be from developing nations!
- The Church is cooperating in world mission partnerships as never before.

**THE WORLD SITUATION TODAY**

- With 6 billion people in the world, over 4 billion people are lost without Christ!
- There are still over 2,000 **unreached people groups** in the world. 1.7 billion people have *no known visible witness* for Christ! They are never going to hear about Christ unless someone goes to their culture to tell them.

The four words that best describe the unreached people in our world are:

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- Urbanization will increase dramatically during the next two decades
  - For the first time in history, more people live in cities than rural.
  - By 2015 there will be 21 cities over 10 million in size.
  - By 2025, over 25% of the world's population will live in squatter settlements connected to these huge cities.
  - Currently there are more than 100 million street children in mega-cities; they live and sleep on the street.
- Youth under 20 continue to increase
  - 2000 – 2.383 billion under 20
  - 2005 – 2.404 billion an increase of 21 million in 5 years
  - 2010 – 2.436 billion an increase of 32 million in 5 years

***The problem is not the harvest. It's the lack of \_\_\_\_\_***

*“Jesus said to his followers, ‘There are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them.’”* Matt. 9:37 (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; and before someone can go and tell them, that person must be sent."*  
Rom. 10:13-15 (NCV)

**EVERYDAY MISSIONS**  
**20 IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING A MISSION HEART**

1. Create a plan for inviting your neighbors to bridge events at the church (Christmas & Easter services, Summer's End, Need-Based Support Groups).
2. Host an "Open House" to get to know your neighbors. (Hand deliver the invitations so that you make face-to-face contact).
3. See the schools as a mission field. Volunteer as a chaperone for field trips, dances, grad night or PTA.
4. Establish a guestroom in your house to house missionaries & pastors.
5. Invite a friend to go to a movie with you, and then, over coffee, utilize the movie to discuss their outlook on life.
6. Leave a piece of evangelistic literature for a waiter or waitress along with a generous tip!
7. Memorize Luke 19:10 and create a list of the potential "lost" people you'd like to reach in your area.
8. Invite some people from other cultures into a discussion on the question, "What do you think a Christian is?"
9. Make a list of various ethnic and cultural groups you come across in Orange County.
10. Memorize I John 3:16-18.
11. Attend a local cultural or ethnically distinctive event in an effort to understand the cultures around your area.
12. Read Matthew 25 and try to identify one project per month that you can do for the types of people Jesus lists.
13. Read Six Dangerous Questions by Paul Borthwick.
14. Pray for the country on the label of your clothes.
15. Get an up-to-date map of the world and prominently post it to provoke prayer.
16. Pray for a week for the Muslim countries in North Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and Indonesia.
17. Pray for your children to be open to wherever God might call them in service around the world.
18. Start an email or pen pal connection to any of our long-term international missionaries sent from Infinite House of Praise's.
19. Listen to CNN or another world news report and pray through the countries mentioned.

## THE BIG QUESTION: AM I WILLING TO BE USED BY GOD?

*“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”* 2 Chron. 16:9 (NIV)

### WHAT IT TAKES TO BE ON - MISSION FOR GOD

We must make 5 major shifts in our thinking.

#### 1. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*“When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Acts 1:8 (NLT)

*“For the Holy Spirit, God's gift, does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them. If you will stir up this inner power, you will never be afraid to tell others about our Lord...”* 2 Tim. 1:7-8 (LB)

#### 2. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*“If you ask me, I will give you the nations; all the people on earth will be yours.”* Ps. 2:8 (NCV)

Watch the world news with “missionary eyes” then pray!

*“From one man God created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. His purpose in all of this was that the nations should seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him--though he is not far from any one of us.”* Acts 17:26-27 (NLT)

#### 3. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”* Luke 9:62 (LB)

*“No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.” 2 Tim. 2:4 (NASB)*

*“The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you.” Matt. 6:33 (NCV)*

*“Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.”  
Matt. 6:33 (Mes)*

**4. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live!” Mark 8:35 (LB)*

*“Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back... and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.” Heb. 12:1 (LB)*

**5. WE MUST SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Since God has shown us great mercy... offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him...” Rom. 12:1 (NCV)*

*“ ... Give yourselves completely to God – every part of you... you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes.” Rom. 6:13 (LB)*

*Jesus replied, “Let me assure you that no one has ever given up anything... for love of me and to tell others the Good News, who won't be given back, a hundred times over... All these will be his here on earth, and in the world to come he shall have eternal life.”  
Mark 10:29-30 (LB)*

# **Will anyone be in Heaven because of you?**

*“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”* Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

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## WHAT NOW?

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### Infinite House of Praise Growth Plan

#### HOMERUN !!

**100 Level:**

To lead people to Christ and **membership** at Infinite House of Praise

**200 Level:**

To equip people with the skills they need for **ministry**

**300 Level:**

To grow people in their spiritual **development**

**400 Level:**

To enlist people to the worldwide **mission** of Sharing Christ

*Format adopted from: Saddleback Valley Community Church  
Senior Pastor: Rick Warren*

