

WEEK 1:
KICKOFF WEEK

MISSION
CRITICAL

We are a **church** on mission
to raise up **WHO** disciple makers
SHARE THE GOSPEL
where we
live, work & play



MITCHELL BEREAN

MISSION CRITICAL: WEEK 1

Open in Prayer

Open each week with prayer. This campaign is focused on the idea of living with God's heart for His mission. This is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit, and must begin in prayer.

Watch the Video for Week 1 Together

Video is found on RightNow Media, YouTube and mitchellberean.com/mission

Small Group Discussion

In this campaign we will look at three key steps to the God's mission for His Church.

3 Steps to the Mission:

- Step 1 - A Church on Mission
- Step 2 - A Church Raising up Disciple-makers
- Step 3 - A Church Sharing the Gospel

Our mission statement as a church is as follows:

We are a church on mission
to raise up WHO disciple makers
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In this week's sermon we saw the heart of Christ for His mission in John Chapter 17. Jesus not only received a mission, but He fulfilled it perfectly. In the Scriptures we see Jesus referred to as the "2nd Adam." Have you ever noticed that Adam also had a mission? Adam was to name the animals, cultivate the land, be fruitful and multiply, and ultimately to have a relationship with God. God has always given man a mission, however no mission has ever been as critical as the mission given to the church through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Questions to Consider

Do you feel like your mission from God is clear to you?

Explain your mission from God and where that mission is to take place.

Do you feel as if your heart is passionate about being on mission?

A Passion for God's Mission

The Apostle Paul was a man on mission. The heart of Christ was replicated in him in the way he loved others. Paul's mission was not only to help the church grow or to reach the lost, but Paul also had a heart for those to whom he was closest. Look at these Scriptures to see how the heart of God can play out in our day-to-day lives.

Read Galatians 4:19 *Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.*

Paul is addressing a struggling church. They are not growing in the way they should, and as a result they have been derailed from God's mission. Paul compares his desire for the church to grow to a woman in labor. That is intense! Paul had a deep desire to encourage, pray for, disciple and comfort the church.

Do you have an intense passion, or even pain at times, to see the church grow and follow Christ?

If not, why do you think that is?

If you do, what has helped you develop that heart?

A Burden to Preach the Gospel

Read 1 Corinthians 9:16 *Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News!*

Paul explains his mission, which is to preach the Gospel. In fact Paul says, woe is me, or "[h]ow terrible for me if I didn't preach the Good News!" Paul had a burning desire for God's mission to reach the lost. In fact, he was burdened when he did not.

Do you feel a burden to preach the Gospel and reach the lost?

If not, why do you think that is?

If you do, what has helped you develop that heart?

A Conviction to Reach the Lost

Read Romans 9:1-5 *With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them. They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.*

In this Scripture Paul demonstrates the heart of God for "his people," the Israelites. Being an Israelite was extremely important in Paul's culture, and in many ways they all considered themselves family, the people of God. Paul had a deep heart for his family, or the nation of Israel, even though they hurt him and often tried to kill him. Paul explains that his heart burned so strong for Israel to be saved, that he himself would



be separated from Christ if that would save Israel. Although Paul could not sacrifice enough to ensure Israel's salvation, his missional heart is inspiring, even for the people closest to him who had hurt him the most.

Do you have a deep conviction to reach those closest to you? Perhaps those at home, family members, or your closest friends?

If not, why do you think that is?

If you do, what has helped you develop that heart?

Group Fellowship & Prayer

Discuss. As you pray and discuss this week's sermon and questions with one another, please try to be vulnerable.

Pray. Spend some time exchanging prayer requests and minister to one another's needs.

Hang out. Getting to know one another is a vital part of obtaining God's heart to strengthen the church and reach the lost.

Weekly Challenge

Be Intentional about Growth. Pick one aspect of your life that you would like to see your heart grow more like God's in regards to mission. (*i.e. A Passion for God's Mission, A Burden to Preach the Gospel, A Conviction to Reach the Lost*)

Pray for a Missional Heart. Ask God in prayer every day this week to help you become more sensitive, aware and burdened to make a difference in that area.

Pray Specifically for Someone. Select at least one person to be actively praying for. This person could be someone who is not saved or someone who is seeking to grow in their relationship with Christ. *If you pursue and persist in this challenge, you will see a shift in your heart for God that will continue throughout this week's challenge, the entire campaign and beyond.*

