



Jesus Film Project®
A Cru Ministry

Life on a Mission

A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Our special mission

Have you ever seen a movie about a special agent? Usually, that agent has top skills and training, and they go on a mission, an important assignment or job to do.

When we choose to follow Jesus, we get an important mission too.

Before Jesus ended His time here on Earth and went back to the Father in Heaven, He gave His followers a mission. He told them:

“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world.”

— Matthew 28:19-20, *International Children’s Bible*

By following Jesus, we accept His special mission: to share the good news of Jesus with everyone, everywhere, and teach others what it looks like to follow Him.

A missionary is somebody who goes and tells people about Jesus and helps them to grow in their faith. Many missionaries leave their hometowns and travel to other cities or countries to share about Jesus. But you can be a missionary too—and you don’t even need to leave home.

We made this guide for you and your family to learn what it means to live out Jesus’ mission, called the Great Commission, no matter where you live. For the next five days, we encourage you to gather your family together and go through each section of this guide—one section per day. You can meet after dinner or at bedtime, or even set aside a special time each day to talk about living on mission. We hope that each day you and your family can talk about what it means to live out our mission as Christians, and how you can start right where you are.

What Is Missional Living?

It all starts here

“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world.”

— Matthew 28:19-20, ICB

Imagine this: Jesus had just come back to life after being crucified. Many people had seen Him and they wondered what He would do next.

One day, He gathered his followers and gave them a critical mission: to go and tell others about Him, baptize them, help them become His followers (called disciples), and teach them how to live the way He taught. Then, right in front of their eyes, Jesus went up to Heaven to be with His Father.

What would you have done if you had seen and heard Jesus that day?

Jesus’ followers accepted His mission right away. They traveled to different places, shared the good news about Jesus (called the gospel), and helped others believe in Him. As more people became Christians, they also accepted the mission. Soon, there were churches in different cities and countries. The number of Christians was growing fast.

But that was a long time ago. Do we still need to make disciples today? Yes! Jesus gave this mission to all of his followers, including you and me. If we follow Jesus, then it’s our job, our mission, to share the gospel with others, and help others follow Him well, just like the first disciples did.

Questions

- What is a disciple?
- What did Jesus mean when He said to, “make followers of all people in the world”?
- How do you know if someone is a follower of Jesus?

Mission in action

Do you know someone who doesn’t follow Jesus yet? Say a prayer for that person, and think about how you might share the good news of Jesus with them. Include them in your prayers for the rest of the week. You can record your answer in the Mission Log on page eight.

What Is the Mission Field?

Here, there and everywhere

Often, special agents have to travel to carry out their missions. They call this going out on the field. When Jesus gave His followers their mission, he also told them where they needed to go.

“But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.”

— Acts 1:8, ICB

Yesterday we learned about the mission Jesus gave to all His followers. Today’s verse reminds us that His message was meant to be shared everywhere—places like Judea, Samaria and all around the world.

Some Christians, called missionaries, travel to faraway places to tell people about Jesus. These places are often called the “mission field.” A mission field is anywhere Christians are making followers of Jesus. That means the mission field isn’t just far away—it’s wherever you are. You don’t have to travel across the world to share God’s love. You can be a missionary right now. Your school, neighborhood and even your home can be your mission field.

Here are three ways you can live on mission right where you are:

- Pray for people you know who don’t follow Jesus.
- Find ways to serve (help) those people like Jesus did, showing them His love by caring for them.
- Invite them to come to church with you so they can learn more about Jesus.

Questions

- Where did Jesus tell His followers to witness about Him?
- What is a mission field? Where is your mission field?
- Name one thing you can do to live on mission today.

Mission in action

Make a plan! How can you show the love of Jesus to the person you prayed for yesterday?

How Do I Reach My Mission Field?

Loving our neighbors

Now that we know where our mission field is, how do we complete our mission there? Think about the people in your mission field: your classmates, your coworkers and the people in your community. Even though you may not live near everyone on that list, the Bible calls these people—those in our mission field—our neighbors.

The Bible also tells us that part of our mission as Christians is to love our neighbors. One day, a man asked Jesus about this.

“But the man wanted to show that the way he was living was right. So he said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”

— Luke 10:29, ICB

Jesus answered him by telling a story.

One day, a Jewish man was hurt and left on the road after being robbed. Two people walked by him without helping him. Then, a third man, a Samaritan, who usually wouldn’t get along with Jewish people, stopped to help. He cared for the injured man and made sure he was safe. The Samaritan man showed love and kindness, even though his people did not get along with the Jewish people. Through his actions, he was a loving neighbor to the Jewish man.

Jesus told this story to encourage his disciples to be a neighbor to everyone equally, even those they didn’t like or considered their enemies. When we care for others, like sitting with someone who’s lonely, helping a friend, or sharing what we have with those in need, we’re loving our neighbors the way Jesus taught. Being a good neighbor means showing His love to others and caring for them, no matter who they are. This is how we start to live on mission!

Questions

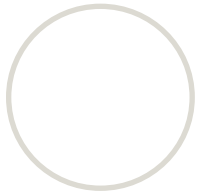
- Who are your neighbors? (Remember, your neighbors are not just the people who live around you.)
- In what way was the Samaritan man a neighbor to the Jewish man?
- How can you be a neighbor to someone right now?
- Scan the code below with your mobile device to watch a short video. How did the little girl in the video show love to her neighbor?

Mission in action

Think of somebody you can be a neighbor to. Write down their name and how you will show love to them this week.



How Do I Make Followers of Jesus?



Pass it on

Who told you about Jesus? Did you hear about Him in church, from your parents, or from somebody you know? Today we are going to talk about the most important part of living on a mission: sharing the good news of Jesus, called the gospel, with others.

When God created the world, He made everyone and everything good. Sadly, people messed up and chose to sin, or go against what God wanted. This caused people to become separated from God, their loving Creator. But the good news is that God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin. He did this so that we could have a relationship with Him and be with Him forever. **This good news gives us hope, and it's for everyone who believes in Jesus and chooses to follow Him.**

“But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them.”

— Romans 10:14, ICB

Telling someone about Jesus is an important step in helping them follow Him. For some people, sharing this good news feels exciting; for others, it can feel a little scary. But no matter how you feel, God is always with you and will help you.

A simple way to share the gospel is by telling your own story—how you met Jesus and what following Him means in your life. Another way you can share Jesus with someone is by inviting them to church. There are also lots of tools to help you start a conversation about Jesus with others—you can find some helpful tools at the end of this book.

Just remember, your job is to share—only God can change someone's heart and inspire them to believe in Him. That part is up to Him!

Questions

- How did you start following Jesus?
- What's the first step in helping someone become a follower of Jesus?
- Name two ways you can share Jesus with someone else.

Mission in action

Time to practice! Choose someone you trust and practice sharing with them how you met Jesus and what following Him means to you.

What's Next?

Ready, set, go!

“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world.”

— Matthew 28:19-20, ICB

We've learned a lot this week about what it means to live on mission as a follower of Jesus. Now it's time to put it all together and take the next step in completing that mission!

Here are three things you can do to help fulfill your mission, the Great Commission, right now.

1. Pray for those who are in your mission field.

Ask God to help you love and care for the people in your mission field. If they have needs, pray for God to meet those needs and look for ways you can help them.

2. Serve the people in your mission field.

Look for ways you can be a neighbor to somebody in your mission field, like the Samaritan in the story we read earlier this week. You can even serve together, showing love by meeting needs and helping others as a family. This can look like volunteering in your community or helping out a friend or loved one. Look for ways to serve your neighbors or community through local charities or your church.

3. Share Jesus with someone else.

Choose a person in your mission field and share Jesus with him or her. You can share your story with them, invite them to church or use a tool to start a conversation about Jesus with them!

Questions

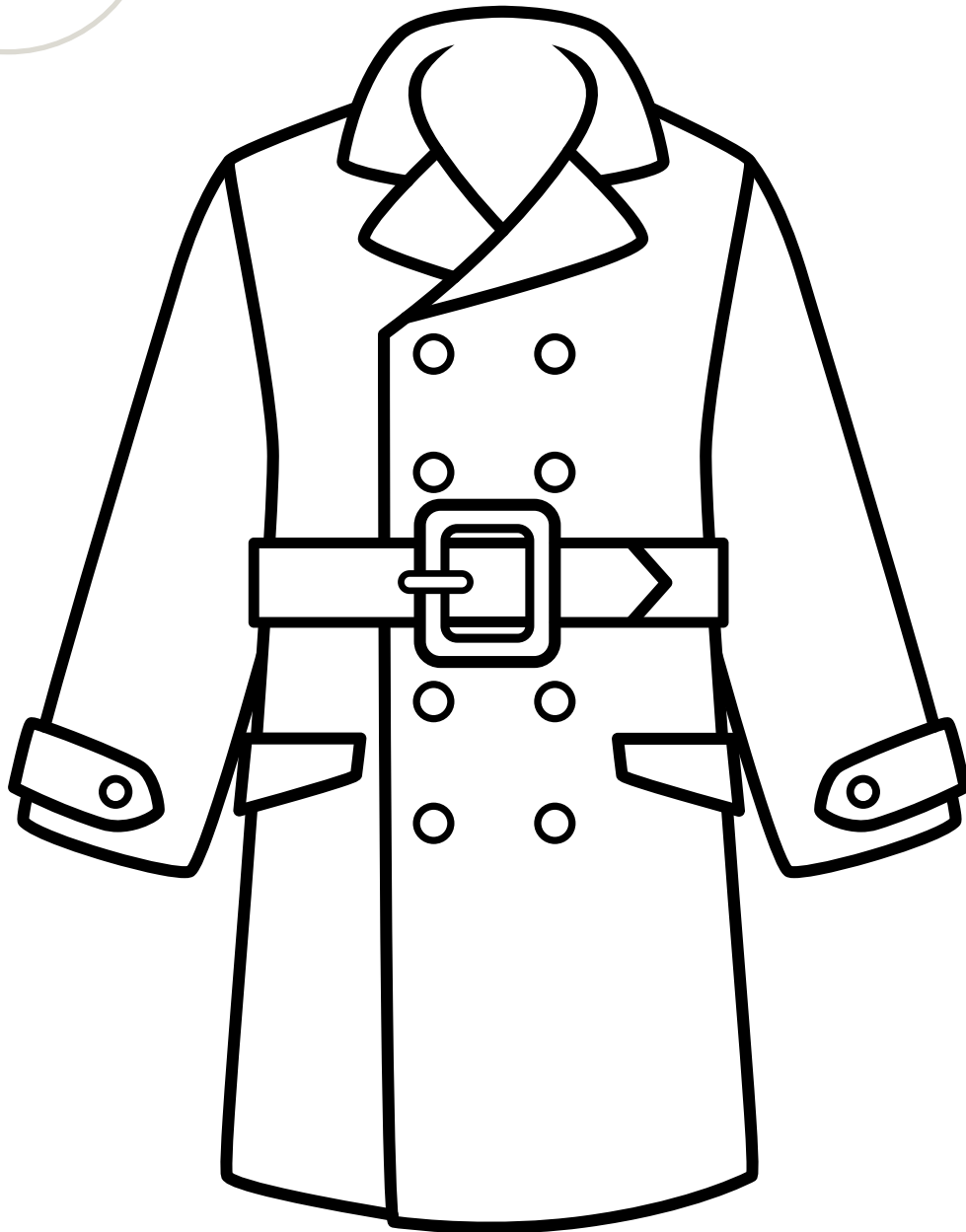
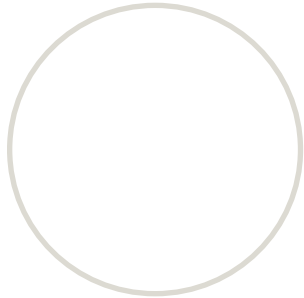
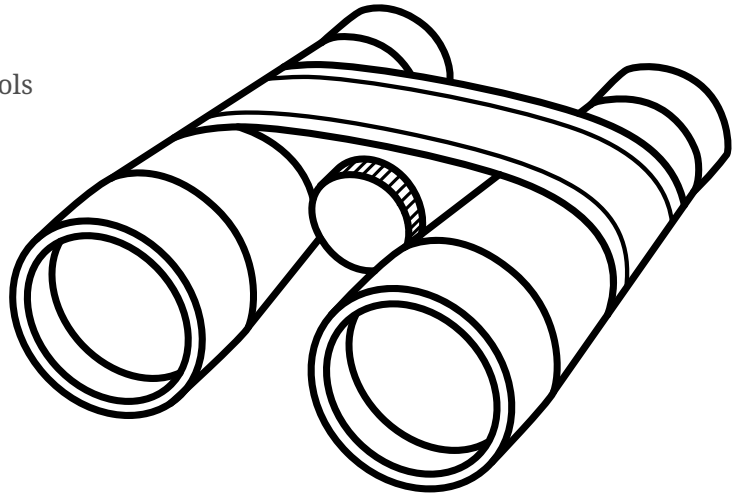
- Who can you pray for today? How will you pray for them?
- How can you serve your neighbors this week?
- How will you share the gospel with someone in your mission field?

Mission in action

It's time to show the love of Jesus! Find a practical way to show someone the love of Jesus. If no one comes to mind, you can look up opportunities to volunteer in your community and sign up to serve as a family.

Coloring Page

As you color these special agent tools, think about tools you can use to help you on your mission.



Mission Log

Each day, you have a chance to put your mission into action. Use this log to keep track of your daily mission goals.



DAY 1

This week, I am going to pray for _____.



DAY 2

I will show the love of Jesus to _____ this week by _____.



DAY 3

Here are some ways I can be a neighbor to others: _____

Today I will be a neighbor to _____ by _____.



DAY 4

I will practice sharing Jesus with _____.



DAY 5

This is how I will show Jesus' love this week: _____.

MISSION NOTES



Mission Tool Kit

Just like special agents use tools to help them on their missions, there are lots of tools we can use to help us fulfill our mission as Christians. Below you'll find just some of these tools.

Jesus Film Project App

Videos are a great way to start gospel conversations with someone else. And the Jesus Film Project app has lots to choose from. Many of these are available in multiple languages so you can share your faith even with someone who speaks a different language than you.

Jesus Film Project Prayer Guides

Prayer is another part of living on mission. You can download these prayer guides and pray for people around the world who are still waiting to hear about Jesus.

Volunteer with Unto®

Unto is a ministry that shows the love of Jesus to people living in the toughest places on earth by relieving suffering, restoring dignity and revealing hope. You can help in this mission by visiting unto.com/serve-from-home and finding ways to volunteer wherever you are.

Family Mission Trip

Have you ever thought about going on a family mission trip? This article from FamilyLife®, one of our partner ministries, provides great information and even contains a link to upcoming family-friendly missions opportunities.