

# Mission Mobilizer

## Introduction

The grace of God has appeared in Jesus Christ! In Christ and his finished work, resurrection and ascension, we see very clearly that God's love is for us, even while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). The great thing about this grace of God is not only that we have received personal reconciliation with God. Not only have we received eternal salvation in Jesus Christ and escape from the wrath that is justly deserved by our sin. In Christ, we have also been invited to participate with God on his mission to redeem those who he is calling to himself.

This ministry we've received is multifaceted. We've been given spiritual gifts to use for the good of the people and the glory of God. We have also been given seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years of opportunities to be intentional and reach out to the people around us.

For a long time, I heard the call to evangelize merely in the realm of what I "should" do and what I "ought" to do. I heard that so much and sadly I didn't stop to really think of how I wanted to do it. Now, though, as a response to the gracious Gospel -the Great News that God is loving and has made a way for my forgiveness and reconciliation through Christ- I actually want to tell people about this God I love and serve. Beyond that, I want to live in such a way that the forgiveness and joy I experience in Christ can be passed on to others as well! Now, the *should* of evangelism has turned into the joy of living out my response to the Gospel. Now, the task of "reaching the world" that once seemed so lofty and daunting has changed in my heart. This tool aims to help those of us whose eyes have been opened to Jesus- so that we can see and faithfully step into all the opportunities we have to help others see and know Jesus Christ [Acts 17:26]) It's not rocket science, it's just a tool to help us each identify our sphere of influence and be faithful with it. ***Since developing this tool, I've had the privilege of sharing it and the vision behind it with dozens of people. Many have been thrilled about it and asked for a copy so they could work on it themselves and/or share it with other people they know! How could you be more intentional with your seconds, minutes, hours and life of opportunities that God has placed before you? I hope this tool helps you to do it!***

The Lord said in Acts 17:26 (through the apostle Paul) that:

"...He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27](#) that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet

he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for 'In him we live and move and have our being'" (Acts 17:26-28 ESV)

Wow! God, in his sovereignty, has determined allotted periods and the boundaries of the dwelling place of people? In other words, the Lord has set the seasons and places in which people live to draw people to himself! That's pretty amazing!

Well, if God saw fit to set the times and places in which people will live, perhaps we can join what He has already done intentionally, with our own intentionality. What if we started to take seriously this idea that God has us living in a certain time and location, doing a certain job, visiting a certain grocery store, with this group of friends and this mechanic, this mailman and this \_\_\_\_\_ so that the people in our lives will hear the Gospel?

We're not all called to be preachers. We are all called to make disciples. What if disciple-making didn't have to start with planning an event or trip overseas? What if disciple-making starts with prayer and intentionally looking at our own lives to see who we can be faithful to pray for, and ask God for divine appointments where we can share the reason for the hope we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15)? I think this is a great reality with a lot of truth to it. I think that we can start a habit today that could dramatically raise the level of faithfulness in our lives. No one needs a vague sense of guilt for what we're not doing. Rather, we need to form habits that point us to joyful dependence on the Lord and help us to be faithful in our lives, today.

That's what the Mission Mobilizer is all about. This tool is designed simply to help each follower of Christ -each family, each student, each employee, each individual- to identify the vast spectrum of people that the Lord has placed in our lives at some level. Most of us don't realize how many people cross our path every day (and thus, how many repeated opportunities we could have). What if we began to see with eyes of prayer and anticipation of God-given, genuine opportunity to love the people around us; especially those with whom we interact repeatedly.

### **Righteous Patterns**

I have the hope that my family will develop a habit of annual or bi-annual review of our spectrum of people. We can add, subtract or change the people on the chart. Then, we can pray earnestly for those people and begin to be lovingly intentional in reaching out to these people for the sake of love in the name of Christ and always prepared with the hope of the Gospel. If I do this, I can impart to my children a righteous habit that they too can adopt where they are intentional to lovingly pray for, serve and reach out to those around them with the joy and hope found in Jesus Christ. As they do this, they can grow in faithfulness

to see every moment as an opportunity to serve Christ fully and not wait for special trips and service opportunities to be faithful.

### **Step 1 - Grab a Friend**

The Christian life is best lived in community. In community, together, we are able to encourage one another and sharpen one another spiritually as well as challenge one another to grow in Christ. If you possibly can, work through the Mission Mobilizer with at least one other person. Jesus calls His people to make disciples. If you're already faithfully making disciples outside your home, schedule a time with your protégés and do this together. If you are making disciples inside your home, have a family meeting where everyone fills out their own copy of the Mission Mobilizer. Working parents, stay-at-home parents and children; we all have a surprising number of people in our lives with whom we can be faithful and seek opportunities to love, pray for, and seek to point to Jesus Christ. So, as you begin this journey of increased faithfulness where God has placed you, grab a friend to do it with.

### **Step 2 - Get a Good Overview**

The first step in using the Mission Mobilizer is to look at the whole chart. Starting in the center, follow one of the lines out as it branches out. Let yourself get familiar with the flow of the chart.

**Observe** - the chart moves out from the center from general to more specific

**Observe** - the chart moves out from the center from identifying roles and groups of people, to specific people (and sometimes) to specific ways to consider reaching out to those people.

### **Step 3 - Adapt the Categories**

This tool was designed in general terms. Still, to be most useful, it should be tailored to fit the lives of the people who use it.

**Inspect** - Inspect each line, from general to specific. How does the particular category relate to your life?

**Modify** - Maybe you're not on a sports team, but do you participate in any group activities (athletic, book-clubs, card-playing, or video game clubs) where you consistently interact with a specific group of people? Are there leaders of the clubs? Teammates? If so, write the appropriate groups and titles over the groups/titles that don't fit your life.

### **Step 4 - Get Specific**

This tool is for you to identify the people in your life with whom you consistently interact at some level. For most of these roles/people, you know the names of the people and can easily write them in. Other times, you just know basic characteristics of the person. This Step involves taking time to fill in the specific roles & names of individuals for each line.

**Identify** - Write the name of the person/people who fit the descriptions given in the Mission Mobilizer. Pray as you do this; and ask the Lord for guidance. Sometimes, when there multiple people for a given role (like: suite mates), you can write down multiple names. Other times, you should just prayerfully pick the person a) for whom you are most burdened b) with whom you are most likely to connect (like: Wal-Mart employees)

### **Step 5 - Pray**

Everything we do -from things as forgettable as breathing to the most vital, earth-shaking actions like running the country, fighting in wars or sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with someone- everything needs God's strength and blessing to do it. John 15:5 records Jesus as saying that apart from Him, we can do nothing. Likewise, in Colossians 3, we're told to do everything we do -in word or in deed- in the name of Jesus Christ. To do life well, we need the strength and direction that God provides. Prayer is a personal way to invite God's participation. Not only does prayer accomplish the task of inviting the Lord, but it also displays our inability to help ourselves and displays our confidence in the Lord to care, hear and act on our behalf. Pray for the people in your life; because we can, because we should, because we must. Pray.

**Pray for Humility** - We could spend all of our time (any time is too much time) comparing ourselves to the people around us for whom we want to exhibit love and with whom we hope to share the Good News. However, comparisons don't accomplish the goals God has for our lives. He wants us to live, love and minister with a constant awareness of our own brokenness and need for Him. Pray for humility.

**Pray for Blessing** - Blessing is such a general term because in many ways, it is a general concept until it's applied. It might "bless" the grocery store clerk to get a raise. Or, it might "bless" a different clerk to receive a warm greeting and an offer to pray for them. There is one blessing that we all need; forgiveness of our sins, reconciliation with the God of the Universe through Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But when we pray for others, we follow Christ when we love them, as we want to be loved, caring for the whole spectrum of people's needs. If we do nothing else, praying intentionally for the people around us is a

significant ministry before God.

**Pray for Eyes to See & Boldness To Take Opportunities** - Life gets busy. Much of the reason that most of us don't take the opportunities we have is that we don't see them as opportunities. When the Fed-Ex guy says "Well, I've had better days" to your question: "How are you?" tune in. Maybe your loving response will be used by God! Maybe a simple offer to pray could lead to a prayer on his/her behalf or at least demonstrate that there are still people who look to God for help with their problems. We don't know how much or how little our faithfulness will impact God's work in the lives of people around us. So, pray for eyes to see opportunities for what they are. Pray for boldness to take the opportunities God presents. When you ask the Lord for boldness, you're in good company with the apostle Paul who said: "[pray] for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak." (Ephesians 6:19-20)

### **Step 6 - GO! GO! GO!**

You've read about it. You've adapted it for your life. You've prayed and asked the Lord for blessing and to help you be faithful. Now, it's time to go and live out the call of God to love the people around us, be a blessing, be a minister of reconciliation who brings the Good News of the salvation and joyful relationship found in Jesus Christ.

**Go Be** - Don't get hung up on doing things all the time. If you're living in an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, He is changing you. Be yourself around people and be intentional to let them see you. God will use that.

**Go Do** - The things that you will do in order to glorify Jesus Christ -if they arise from authentic love for God and a Spirit-filled life- these things are many and varied but they are useful.

-Open your mouth to be kind to others.

-Pray for people; right there, right then.

-Invite someone to share dinner, coffee or dessert with the whole purpose being to clearly articulate the reason you continue to love and follow Jesus.

-It's not always time to preach; it's always time to be honest! Share honestly about your own experience of God's grace in your life

-Be a good listener: don't see people as targets or opportunities, but as hearts, souls, minds and lives

-Sometimes, it's time to preach, even in average, day-to-day interactions. Paul didn't always set up a preaching event. Sometimes, the Apostles and other faithful Christians throughout time have created and taken opportunities to clearly preach the Gospel in what would be considered by many to be "not the time to preach." Actually, some people would only have preaching take place in a church on Sunday morning. That's not what Christ did; nor is it what the Holy Spirit has inspired his people to do throughout time. The Scriptures call us to "preach the Word, in season [when it feels like it's time to preach] and out of season [even when it doesn't]." (2 Timothy 4:2)

-Serve people by doing things they don't love doing (take out their trash, pick up their dishes, bring them a card/note, etc.). Such service should not be confused with evangelism (which literally means sharing the Good News), but it is consistent with Christ's love to serve others.

-Be consistent: revisit needs you've prayed-for / found out / previously discussed

-Be consistent: follow up your evangelism with earnest inquiries with people. Like a child that is eager to see if the seeds are growing that he/she planted, ask God for diligence and eagerness to see if the seed that you've planted has taken root. (Luke 8:11)

-Know & share your story of God's grace at work in you.

-Know and communicate the Gospel in a clear way.

-Follow-Up with people: "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:16-18) It's so easy to speak lofty words and make commitments to love people, pray for people, serve people and remember people. The diligent man, woman, boy and girl will be faithful to follow-up with people because Jesus Christ has stayed faithful to us.

## **Step 7 - Review & Reassess**

Life goes on. People relocate. New people arrive, change is the constant. More reliable than change, though, is God and his call to be faithful. Set a reminder for yourself to revisit the Mission Mobilizer and make necessary changes to reflect who you interact with as time moves ahead.

**Review/Reassess:**

-Job Category (are you still working there? still have the same boss/co-workers, staff, service-providers, vendors etc.?)

-Family Category (are the kids in the same classes, same sports, same peer groups, same teammates/coaches/community activities?)

-Geographic Community (have you relocated? Have new neighbors moved in? New UPS/Fed-Ex delivery people? New mail carrier?)

-etc.

**Conclusion**

There's nothing earth-shattering about this tool. What's special is how God can use any person who is committed and faithful to live completely for him! Our time passes easily; spending our time and opportunities to love people for the glory of Jesus Christ is what goes before us for eternity. Let's be people who use our lives for Christ's sake! My prayer is that this tool will help each of us to do so personally and reproduce families and faithful disciple-makers who will do the same!

Community Church













