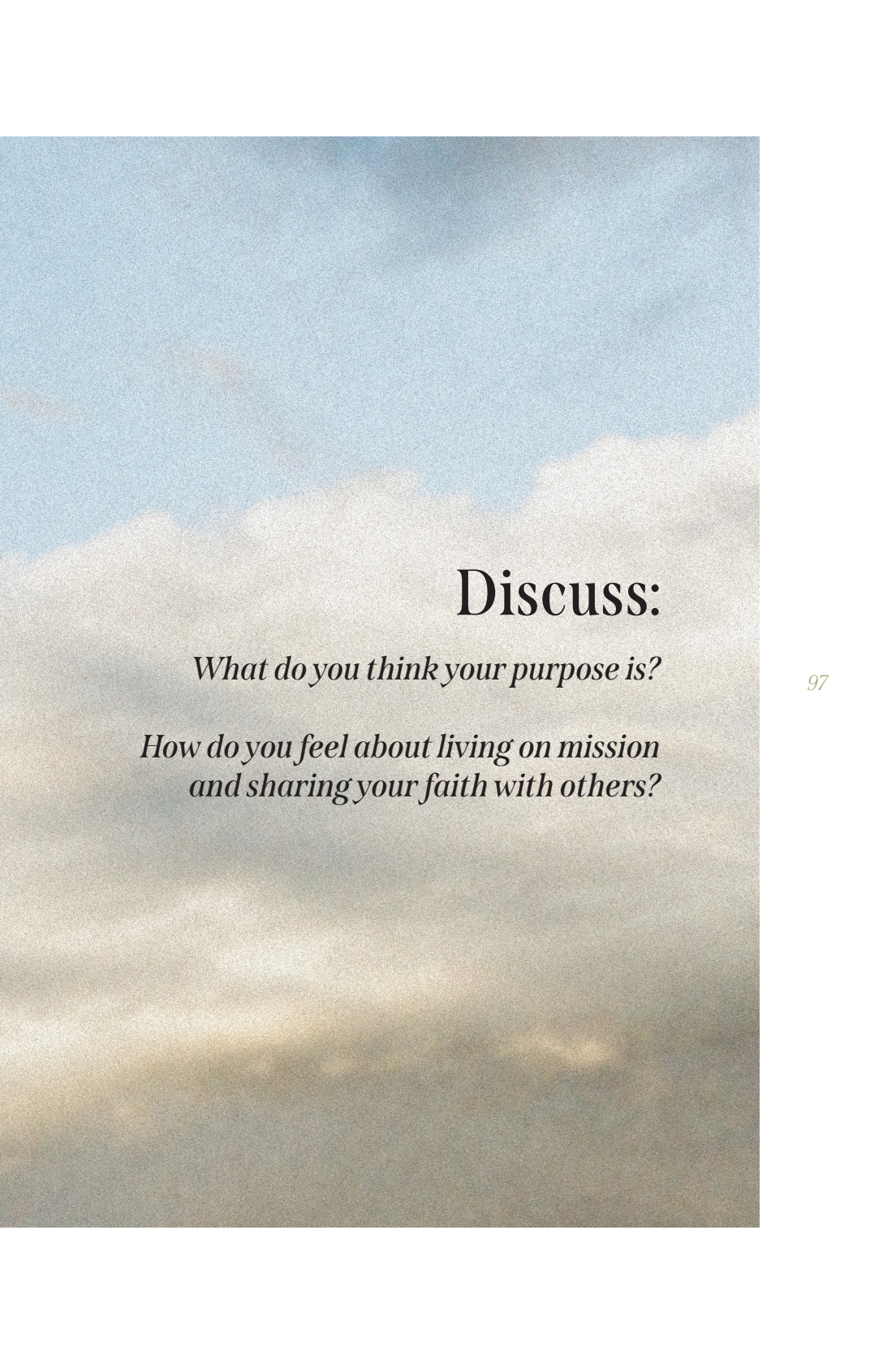


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Missional Living

What is my new purpose on earth?



Discuss:

What do you think your purpose is?

*How do you feel about living on mission
and sharing your faith with others?*

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

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¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.



Since we can no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view, we are always on mission. Always. This means there are people in your life waiting to hear more about Jesus. How do we get into those relationships and into those conversations? The Missional Living Wheel breaks down every relational and conversational barrier that typically stands in the way of people sharing the Good News.

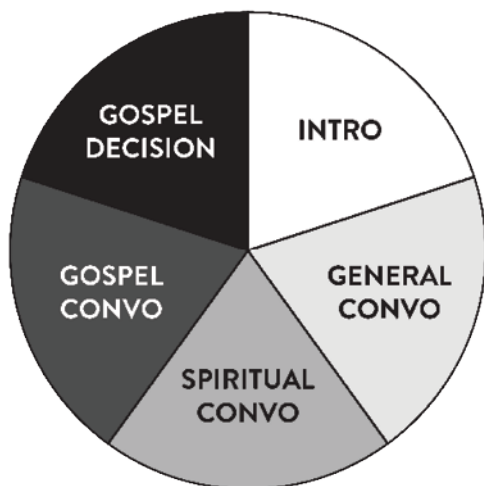
Before Jesus went back to heaven, he looked at his followers and said, “Go into all the world and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19-20). For his followers then and now, this is a clear command. This is what followers of Jesus do and there is no getting around it. We are called to tell people what He has done. We are called to look different because he has made us different. We can no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view, but we are tasked with seeing them as Jesus does – people who desperately need the ministry of reconciliation as much as we do.

Tim Chester, author of Total Church, writes:

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“We have a tendency to promote a kind of evangelism that is without proclamation. Acts of good service are done or we just invite people to our events or to experience church with us. Without words, these are pointless because they only point back to our good works. God is at the center of the gospel word. Oftentimes evangelism can place us in that position. The gospel that Jesus proclaimed was that a savior came to seek and save the lost, not just meet your needs and make you feel good.”

THE MISSIONAL LIVING WHEEL



STAGE 1: INTRO TO CONVERSATIONS

Stage one is getting out of the Christian bubble. Your neighbor, your local barista, the people at your gym, workplace, class, and neighborhood are within your sphere of influence. Before you can share the gospel with them, you have to introduce yourself and learn their name.

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Every day you choose to see people one of three ways:

1. Scenery: whooshing past people, barely acknowledging their presence.
2. Machinery: treating people like they are just there to perform a task for you. This could be your mechanic, your barista, your mailman, your professor.
3. Ministry: God's sons and daughters, desperate for the ministry of reconciliation to himself.

Have you been treating people in your life as scenery, machinery, or ministry?

Who is someone you need to break past the intro barrier with and finally introduce yourself to?

STAGE 2: GENERAL CONVERSATION

Stage 2 is about building relationships. God wants you to care for the people in your life who don't know Jesus. Have ears to hear where they are hurting and eyes to see how you and your Christian community can come around them and serve them tangibly. Introduce your Christian community to them. Find ways to hangout in a context different from the one in which you know each other (move beyond the classroom, workplace, coffee shop). Ask questions that uncover needs and listen for areas that you can see a need for a Savior. Remember the things they share with you and follow up often with questions. Really, this stage is about being a good friend in a world where trust and relationships have been trampled on.

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Who are you going to have General Conversations with?

Where is God asking you to step out and serve the needs of someone around you?

STAGE 3: SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Stage 3 is about the spiritual journey everyone is on. An atheist is on a spiritual journey – he is rejecting the idea of a God, and that is a spiritual thing. Someone who grew up in the church is on a spiritual journey, and we must not assume they have already arrived at Jesus as their destination. Ask what they believe about the world, ask why they believe that, ask every question you can think of. It is not weird to break this conversation barrier! Listen to what they believe, people love to talk about what they think about the world and why. Wait for the Spirit to open doors for you to share what you believe with them. Let us not be afraid of the awkward and miss out on being a part of God moving in their life. You may be one of the few people to ask them what they think about God, heaven, the meaning of life.

Are there people in your life who you know most everything about except what they think about spirituality?

Who is God asking you to have a spiritual conversation with?

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STAGE 4: GOSPEL CONVERSATION

Stage 4 is about boldness and proclaiming the truth. As we learn in the Gospel, we were dead in our sin and we have been brought to life in Jesus. At some point, this must be told. Your faith cannot just sit as one of your many hobbies or interests portrayed to your friends. We have been made alive and Jesus commands us to go and tell others. In one of the conversation stages up until this point, there will be a moment where you are asked a question back or where you are invited to speak. Trust God as you break past this barrier. Pray for those moments. Speak boldly and pray for receptive hearts.

Who is God asking you to have a Gospel Conversation with?

What are ways you can get into more gospel conversations?

STAGE 5: GOSPEL DECISION

Stage 5 is about decision. Everyone has to decide to accept the free gift of salvation. May we never talk about the life we have been given without immediately and often offering it to those we share with! After sharing the gospel, immediately ask what they think. Ask if this is something they want. They could decide immediately after you share the gospel, or it could take 40 years of sharing the gospel and your life with someone. Be faithful and obedient in whatever that process looks like. But offer it.

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Who do you know has heard the gospel, whether from you or somewhere else, but has not yet made a decision to follow Jesus?

How can you partner with God in bringing people in your life to a point of decision?

If someone says yes, then help them respond to God. Make sure they know what they are responding to and realize they are making a life changing decision. And then help them simply and honestly talk to God in prayer. As they pray, lead them to:

1. Confess to God that they are broken and have sinned.
2. Communicate that they believe that God has offered them salvation through Jesus.
3. Confirm that they are willing for God to be their God and submit to Him with their life.

If you are able to help lead someone to become a Christian, help them to quickly share their decision with other Christians that you and they both know. Also help them start journaling. Ask them to make their first entry about all the circumstances, thoughts, and feelings that surrounded their decision. Both of these actions help solidify their decision so that it doesn't just seem like a rash decision in a few days or weeks. This helps the seed of the gospel be firmly planted in the soil of their life. And finally, get them one of these booklets (A Grow Book) so they can begin learning more about how to follow Jesus and have a relationship with God that "perseveres and produces a crop."