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Mission and Faith

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE FAITHFULLY AND MAKE A LASTING KINGDOM IMPACT?

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The POINT >

Jesus established His kingdom and gave us the Holy Spirit to carry it forward.

> ACTS 1:1-11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to

Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Nearly half of teens (46%) say their parents are at least sometimes distracted by their phones when they're trying to talk to them.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

Jesus' kingdom has a mission, and believers have an important role in this mission.

Acts 1:1-11 records the powerful beginning of the church and connects the ministry of Jesus with our mission. After rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to His disciples over a period of forty days, teaching them about the kingdom of God and preparing them for what was to come. The disciples, still thinking in terms of earthly power, asked if Jesus would now restore the kingdom to Israel. But Jesus redirected their focus away from politics toward a spiritual life. He promised the Holy Spirit would come and give them power to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Then, in a miraculous and emotional moment, Jesus ascended into heaven before their eyes.

But Jesus didn't leave them or us without hope. He left them with a mission and a promise of His return. Acts 1:1-11 calls believers to embrace that same mission. In a world filled with distractions, uncertainty, and division, we are called to stay focused and committed to making Jesus known, empowered by the Holy Spirit. The early disciples' mission hasn't changed. It's now our mission, and it reaches into every nation, neighborhood, and heart until Jesus returns.

ACTS 1:1-3

1 How can you live as a citizen of Jesus' kingdom?

2 What does Jesus' resurrection prove about His authority and promises?



ACTS 1:8-11

6 Where is your “Jerusalem” (or your immediate circle of influence), and how are you actively sharing the gospel with those around you?

7 In what ways are you relying on the Holy Spirit for boldness and direction in your witness, rather than your own strength or comfort?

8 How does the promise of Jesus’ return motivate you to live with urgency and purpose?

ACTS 1:4-7

3 In what areas of your life do you need to wait on the Holy Spirit instead of rushing ahead?

4 How can you better rely on the Holy Spirit’s power in your daily walk with Christ?

5 Are your expectations for God’s kingdom aligned with His purpose and timing? Explain.

*We are not equipped for ministry without the Holy Spirit’s power.
#BSFLStudentsOurJourney*



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // JESUS

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Our student ministries are full of talented athletes, musicians, artists, and so on. As a result, they spend a lot of time and effort on these things. Yet will it matter for eternity? This is the question we must help students consider. Why are they on this earth—to hit home runs, or to make the name of Jesus famous? It's okay to be good at hitting home runs, but is there a greater purpose this can lead to? This session will help students understand that we, as believers, share a common mission.

>CHRIST

9 Do you regularly pray for God's help to speak truth and love to others?
Why or why not?

10 How open are you to being led beyond your comfort zone?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD



› COMMUNITY

11 Think about your home, workplace, school, or neighborhood. How can you be more intentional about witnessing to those closest to you?

12 What priorities need to shift in your life so that your time, resources, and relationships align more closely with God's mission?

› CULTURE

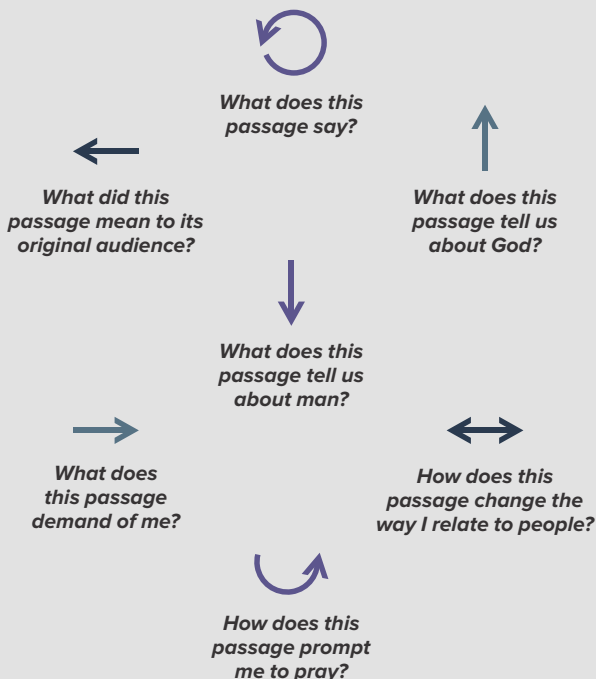
13 In a world focused on self, how can we shift our focus toward being Jesus' witnesses in our everyday lives, online, at school, and in our communities?

14 As culture constantly changes, how can we rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and clarity to live out and share the unchanging message of Jesus?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One **1 CHRONICLES 16:24**

We need to declare God's glory and His marvelous works among the nations. As believers, we are called to share the hope and faith we have in Jesus with those around us, proclaiming His goodness and salvation. This is not just a task for pastors or missionaries—it's a personal responsibility for every follower of Christ.

When we boldly share God's faithfulness, we help others see His power at work in our lives and in the world. Our testimony becomes a light that points others to the hope found only in Jesus. Living with this mission in mind strengthens our faith and fills us with joy as we are part of God's great plan.

➤ **How can you actively share God's goodness and salvation with someone?**

➤ **What are some practical ways to declare God's glory in your everyday life?**

Day Two

JEREMIAH 20:9



God's Word can ignite a powerful passion in a believer's heart. Even when facing opposition or discouragement, the message of God's truth burns within us like a fire we can't contain. This verse reminds us that God's call is stronger than fear or doubt, driving us to boldly share His Word with hope and courage.

Living out our faith means embracing the challenges that come with standing for truth. Like Jeremiah, we may face trials, but God's Spirit empowers us to keep going and proclaim His message faithfully. Our hope is secured in knowing that God's Word never fails and that He is with us through every struggle.

- **How can you let God's Word "burn" in your heart so you're motivated to share your faith?**
- **What challenges have you faced when standing up for your beliefs, and how did God help you overcome them?**

Day Three

ACTS 13:2-3

The early church sought God's direction through worship and prayer. When the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas to their mission, the church responded in obedience, sending them out to share the gospel. This reminds us that faith and hope grow when we seek God's guidance and trust His plan for our lives, even when it leads us into new and unfamiliar places.

Following God's call requires both personal surrender and the support of the church family. Just as the believers in Antioch prayed for and encouraged Paul and Barnabas, we are called to pray for each other as we serve. When we obey God's leading, we can live with the hope that He will equip us for the work ahead and use us for His glory.

- **How can you make worship and prayer a regular part of seeking God's direction in your life?**
- **Who can you encourage or support this week as he or she steps out in obedience to God's call?**

Day Four

REVELATION 7:9

This verse gives us a glimpse of the ultimate hope we have in Christ. We can look forward to a future where believers from every nation, tribe, people, and language stand together before the throne of God. This vision reminds us that the gospel is for all people and calls us to live with faith that God's mission will be fulfilled. Our lives should reflect this hope by embracing unity in Christ and sharing the good news with others, near and far.

Knowing that God's kingdom will one day be filled with people from every corner of the earth should inspire us to be faithful witnesses today. We are called to pray for the nations, support missions, and love our neighbors in a way that points them to Jesus. This hope strengthens our faith, reminding us that our labor in the Lord is never in vain and that His plan will be completed.

➤ **How does the vision of Revelation 7:9 encourage you to share the gospel with people from different backgrounds?**

➤ **What is one practical step you can take to support God's mission to reach the nations?**

Day Five

MATTHEW 28:19-20



This passage is the Great Commission, Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything He has commanded. This mission is for every believer, not just pastors and missionaries. Our faith in Christ gives us the courage to go, and our hope in His promise of eternal life compels us to share the gospel with others.

Jesus also promises, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (v. 20, CSB), assuring us that we never go alone. His presence gives us confidence to obey, even when sharing our faith feels intimidating. As we live out this calling, we can trust that God will use our obedience to bring people to salvation and grow His kingdom.

➤ **How can you take part in making disciples in your community?**

➤ **How does Jesus' promise to always be with you give you courage to share your faith?**