

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

YOUR MISSION FIELD

Have you ever thought of yourself as a missionary? Have you ever defined the place where you live or work as your mission field? This week we're going to focus on God's plan for all of us to be missionaries in our own marketplace, neighborhood, school or household. They are all a mission field. We don't have to go overseas. We can spread the good news of the gospel to the people right around us, just by loving them. Find out what your mission field is and then get excited about sharing God's good news to the people group that God has sent you to!

DAY 1

WHAT IS YOUR MISSION FIELD?

"GIVE YOUR HANDS TO HIM FOR HIS
WORK, YOUR FEET TO WALK HIS PATH,
AND YOUR EARS TO HEAR HIM SPEAK."
-PRISCILLA SHIRER

New International Version

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

DAY 1

PRAY: Dear Father, I want to obey this commandment to go out and make disciples of all nations. I want to share my faith with people, baptize them, and teach them about You. Don't let me forget that You are always with me, to the very end of the age! Thank You for Your promise to be with me, and to use me wherever I am. Lord, reveal my mission field to me, and let me find great joy as I serve and love people. Where do I start? Who shall I reach out to? And what shall I say? I need You to speak through me to the very end, in Jesus's name. Amen.

REFLECT: As we spend this week focusing on our mission field, have you thought about what it actually means to be a missionary? Do you have the old fashioned thought that we have to go to some miserable location on the other side of the world, and tell all the those people that they are going to hell if they don't believe in Jesus? Or can you think of it as using your gifts and talents in a specific place where God has called you, to lovingly serve and minister to people, sharing your faith and making disciples? Every day of our lives we should be making disciples by pouring into people's lives and investing in their spiritual journeys!

DAY 1

ACT: Take out a piece of paper and write down what you believe your mission field is. Is it your neighborhood, school, workplace, or somewhere else you need to move to in order to be in the place God wants to use you? As Christians we are all missionaries, and we should all be discipling people, sharing our faith, baptizing new believers, and knowing, with confidence, that God is with us always, to the very end of the age. Are you right where God wants you to be so you can start pouring into other people? Or should you make plans to move to where you know God wants you to be? He is always with you, so define your mission field today!

DAY 2

PRAY, SERVE, LOVE, GIVE, SACRIFICE

“PREACH THE GOSPEL AT ALL TIMES, AND
IF NECESSARY USE WORDS.”

-ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

New International Version

Colossians 1:25-27

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness--the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

DAY 2

PRAY: Dear God, as Your servant I want to present Your Word to the people around me. To many, You are still a mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations. I want to talk about You to people so that they can see, "the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ." Let me share Your hope and glory, so that I may present everyone Your joy, Your salvation, Your love, and "the hope of glory." Thank You my God! Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: It's easier to embrace the concept of being a missionary in a mission field if we get excited about the riches of God's mystery, which is Christ. It's not our job to change people, but only to let others know the hope that we have within us. If we are confident in our faith and excited about whom we love, then it will be very natural to talk about God. St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary use words." Do you love Jesus enough to want others to experience what you have? That's the key to being an effective missionary. If you truly want to share God's love, then wherever you are becomes your mission field!

DAY 2

ACT: God commissioned us to present His word, His truth, and His love to other people. Think of the ways you can present His word to the people around you. Here are some possibilities: Pray for people, by name, to embrace the love of Jesus. Serve people, give them gifts in love, sacrifice for them, be a listening ear, don't judge them, show compassion and care for them. Give generously and show unconditional love. Each of these ideas is how you can be eternally significant in your mission field. Go out today and prayerfully do or say something to someone in your mission field that shows you love them. Be an example of Jesus' love.

DAY 3

NO PERSON OR CITY IS HOPELESS

“EVERY CHRISTIAN IS EITHER A
MISSIONARY OR AN IMPOSTER.”

-CHARLES SPURGEON

New International Version

Jonah 3:2-3

“Go to the great city of Nineveh and
proclaim to it the message I give you.”
Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and
went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very
important city; a visit required three days.

DAY 3

PRAY: Lord, there are places that don't seem right for Christians to go to. And yet You call us to reach everyone across the globe. Please change my heart about what cities I don't like and help me embrace any place You have for me. Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, but when he finally obeyed You, the whole city was saved in the greatest revival in the history of the world! Please let us love people everywhere, regardless their lifestyle. Let us love the people in Hollywood and pray for them to know You. Stop me from running from what You have for me and let me pray for the people in Hollywood and any other place I don't understand. May I be used by You as Your loving missionary every day, to anyone in my path. Amen.

REFLECT: Are you one who doesn't like Hollywood? If not, have you thought about why? Think about the duplicity in sending missionaries around the world to all kinds of unknown or dangerous people groups, like cannibals, terrorists, etc. and yet not wanting to reach out to the people in Hollywood? God loves every single person on the planet and He wants each one to know Him and love Him. He cared about the people in Nineveh and He cares about the people in Hollywood! He cares about people everywhere. Can you believe that?

DAY 3

ACT: What cities, people groups, or areas do you not like? What places do you not want to live in? Would you pray right now for God's blessings on those people and those cities? Ask the Lord to help you to embrace the people in Hollywood or any other place you don't like. God's first commandment is to love Him and love other people. Would you pray to love the people in Hollywood and in places you've never even heard of? They need your love and your prayers. Be open to pray for people groups in mission fields all over the world, including Hollywood. For as the entertainment capitol, it is the world's most influential mission field!

DAY 4

FAMILY IS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY

"I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING THAT
WOULD WAKE UP CHICAGO BETTER THAN
FOR EVERY MAN AND WOMAN HERE WHO
LOVES HIM TO BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT HIM
TO THEIR FRIENDS, AND JUST TO TELL
THEM WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU. YOU
HAVE GOT A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. GO AND
TELL THEM OF HIM."

-D.L. MOODY

New International Version

Mark 5:19

Jesus... said, "Go home to your family and
tell them how much the Lord has done for
you, and how he has had mercy on you."

DAY 4

PRAY: Oh Jesus, I may want to see the people in my workplace become Christians, but am I loving the people in my own home? Have I shared my faith with my own family members or extended family? Have I told them how much You have done for me, and how You have shown so much mercy to me? Help me to start by being lovingly bold with my own family. Let me be vulnerable and tell them what You've done in me, through me, and with me! I can't put my light under a bushel in my own household. Help me to be transparent with my family, for my home should be my most important mission field. Thank You. Amen.

REFLECT: Have you thought about how God has specifically put you in your family. As messed up or dysfunctional as your family is, God put you there for a reason. Maybe it's to pray for them, or to be Jesus to them! Jesus wants us to love Him, then ourselves, then our family, and then our friends, acquaintances, co-workers, neighbors, and strangers. But let's start with our own family members. Sometimes that's the hardest mission field of all! Who do you need to pray for in your family? Is there anyone with whom you need to mend your relationship, or tell them how much you and Jesus love them? Reflect on how to proactively reach out more lovingly to your family with the unconditional love of Jesus.

DAY 4

ACT: Choose one family or extended family member and start praying for them, asking the Lord to show you how to share your faith with them, how to love them, support them and even sacrifice for them. After you feel you have broken through in that relationship then choose someone else, until you can say that you have been truthful about your faith, as well as loving, supportive, and brave, with every member of your family.

DAY 5

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

“EVERY DAY YOU ARE WITNESSING. WHAT ARE YOU WITNESSING TO? YOUR WITNESS IS THE TOTAL PACKAGE OF YOUR ATTITUDES, CHARACTER, AND ACTIONS. IT DOES NOT LIE.”

-WINKIE PRATNEY

New International Version

Esther 4:14

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?

DAY 5

PRAY: Dear Heavenly Father, I no longer want to remain silent. I want the people in my life to know You, and I don't want anyone to perish, so I must be bold and faithful for such a time as this. I believe You have called all of us to make an eternal difference, and just as You sent Esther into the King's palace to represent You, I believe that You have sent me into my mission field to represent You. Prepare me to love the people around me. Amen.

REFLECT: God created every one of us to do at least one big thing in our lives. Don't miss making an eternal difference in this world for it's no coincidence that you are here at this time and place. Author Phil Cooke wrote in his book "One Big Thing" that we were all born to do at least one big thing to make the world a better place. What is your one big thing? Ask God to reveal your eternal purpose, then go fulfill your "royal position for such a time as this!"

DAY 5

ACT: Commit to pray to God every day, to show you what He has for you, until you know what it is. Don't be silent or God will use someone else! Ask Him to use you in the lives of the people around you, to fulfill His perfect plan for you and not to miss anything that you can do to make our world a better place. You are a mighty Ambassador of the living God, sent to this very place as your mission field, and you have a mission to fulfill. Ask Him what that is and then, with great joy, do it! For tips on how to more naturally share your faith, or if you want to lead a 6 week Bible study on the topic, then be sure to get Karen and Jim Covell, and Victorya Rogers' book, "How To Talk About Jesus Without Freaking Out" or the newest edition, "The J Bomb" on amazon.com, or email us at info@hpnemail.org to receive a copy.

DAY 6

PUT DOWN ROOTS: LOVE & BUILD WHERE YOU ARE

"IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY CHRISTIAN TO
BE CHRIST TO HIS NEIGHBOR."

-MARTIN LUTHER

New International Version

Jeremiah 29:4-7

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters.... Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

DAY 6

PRAY: Lord in Heaven, sometimes I feel like You have put me in exile. Work is hard, I have many challenging obstacles. But, You have sent me to this city, in this neighborhood, and to my job for a specific reason. I want to see this place as my mission field, to build a house, plant a garden, put down roots, and call this my home. Help me to develop my friendships, share my faith, and seek the peace and prosperity of the city where You've carried me! And I must pray for it, because if it prospers, I too will prosper. Amen.

REFLECT: Reflect on how God's words tells us to put down roots where we are – even if we feel like we're in exile, or we're somewhere only temporarily. Don't wait until later. We can't have an impact on people if we don't settle in and get to know them, plant seeds and watch them grow. How are you settling into your community? Are you planting gardens, having a family and calling this place home? And most importantly, are you praying for the peace and prosperity of the city to which God has brought you? Do you love the people in your mission field and believe God brought you here for a purpose?

DAY 6

ACT: Make a mental checklist with the following questions: Do you consider where you live right now home? Are you building rich relationships in your neighborhood and workplace? Are you praying for the peace and prosperity of the city in which you're living? If any of these answers is NO, then you need to reevaluate for your life. Seek counsel on how you can love the place and the people where you are planted. Ask the Lord to change your heart and then take active steps to make an eternal difference right where you are.

DAY 7

THEY WILL KNOW YOU BY YOUR LOVE

“WHAT AN INCREDIBLE WITNESS IT IS TO A LOST AND FEARFUL SOCIETY WHEN THE CHRISTIAN ACTS LIKE A CHILD OF GOD, LIVING UNDER THE LOVING SOVEREIGNTY OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER.”

-HENRY BLACKABY

New International Version

John 13:34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

DAY 7

PRAY: Jesus, I want to Love other people with all my heart, soul, and mind. I want to be known as one who loves unconditionally. My greatest job as a missionary is to love You and other Christians and then love everyone else, but I need Your help to do that. I want to embrace Your commandment, for when I do, then non-believers will know that I am Your disciple. And I want to be so loving that others are attracted to You because they want what You've given me. Thank You for filling me up with Your love each day. I pray this in Your name. Amen.

REFLECT: John tells us that the best way to have others get to know Jesus is to love other Christians! Then we don't have to preach, share a gospel tract, or make pre-Christians pray the sinner's prayer. They will see our love for one another and that will lead them to Jesus, as they see that we are His disciples. It's actually easier than we think. You don't have to go knocking on doors and get your neighbors to pray "the sinners prayer". You just be a person of prayer and integrity, be excellent in all that you do, and love the Christians and everyone around you with all your heart. Then the Holy Spirit will take care of the rest.

DAY 7

ACT: Congratulations, you have finished the year! Now – Go out today and change the world. LOVE ONE ANOTHER with God's love. Do intentional acts of kindness in your mission field and watch how people will want to know why you are so loving. You will stand out as a loving person as you live in your neighborhood, workplace, and city with a purpose. Don't hesitate, don't be afraid, don't cower. Just radically love other people and you will be one of God's most effective "missionaries" and Ambassadors. They will know you are one of God's disciples if you love ALL people. HAPPY NEW YEAR!