

Missional Living Guide

A Guide to Help You Take Steps in Living on Mission

Let's be clear on who this is for... Every follower of Jesus.

Jesus has called each disciple of Jesus to make other disciples of Jesus. Every person that is part of the body of Christ is called to this. To get on this, we need to embrace "missional living."

Only Two Questions to Ask Yourself in Getting Started

- 1. Are you willing?**
- 2. What is currently stopping you from missional living?**

...Is it not knowing *how*?
...Is it not knowing *who*?
...Do you feel like you need to learn a lot more?
...Do you lack a passion for it?
...Something else??

What is "missional living?"

"Missional living is embracing your identity as an everyday witness by *investing* in relationships where you live, work, study or play, and *inviting* them to whenever and wherever the church gathers and to share their thoughts regarding Jesus through soul-searching questions."

Simple, right? Let's break it down...

"Missional living is embracing your identity as an everyday witness" There is a mission in the heart of God that is demonstrated in the life of Jesus. We imitate our God and this is who we are in Jesus. Missional living includes evangelism and discipleship. Missional living focuses on relationship.

"*investing in relationships where you live, work, study, or play*" It's about people. We need to enter their world, invest in getting to know them, listen to their story, and listen deeply to the heart issues of their soul.

"inviting them to wherever and whenever the church gathers" Many people would attend a worship service or other gathering if they were invited. Also, this starts to spark spiritual conversations which leads to the next thing...

"inviting them to share their thoughts about Jesus through soul-searching questions" We also want to enter into spiritual conversations with people about God. To do this we need to take a cue from Jesus by asking soul-searching questions and listening. Jesus often did this in the Gospel's. As we listen to them, we listen to the Holy Spirit guiding us in what questions to ask that will show them that Jesus is the one that can bring the life-change they need.

Sounds pretty cool, right? Can you imagine the exponential growth? Then, let's get started!

5 Steps to Get Started

We all like steps (at least most of us do!), but these steps are suggestions to get started. Modify as needed, and even if you follow these, it's not always a linear thing. Be open to the Lord and keep in step with His Spirit!

1. Talk with God about this question: How do I need to adjust my time and passion for missional living?

- Meditate on these passages and notice God's heart for mission demonstrated in Jesus:
 - Mark 1
 - Luke 7:36-50
 - Matthew 6:7-13
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - Acts 2
- Write down the names of those around you where you live work study and play that don't have faith in Jesus.

2. Take an inventory of hobbies and interests as potential opportunities where you can enter the world of another.

- What do you enjoy, an activity that you do, or an interest you have?
(Ideas: Books- start a book club, Restaurants- go out to eat, Sports- get a game going, Gym- get to know those at the gym, Coffee- start a coffee tasting event, Fishing- grab some people together to go fish, etc.)

- How can you enter the world of another through these things?

3. Invest in the relationship with those that you wrote down above.

- Identify 2 or 3 names from the list of names above and begin praying for them.
 - Pray to God and ask for Him to open doors to connect with them better.
 - Pray for them continually to draw closer to Jesus.
- Invest in the relationship with these people by entering their world in one of these ways:
 - If there is a **common interest** from your inventory list that you both like to do, do it together!
 - If there is a **need** that they have, try to assist in that need.
 - If there is a **hurt** that they are experiencing, come alongside them to listen.
 - Always ask them how you can pray for them.

4. Invite them to experience our church community at a Worship service, event, workshop, ministry or group.

- Invite them to a **Worship Gathering** and go out to eat afterwards.
- Invite them to **Alpha** and attend it alongside of them.
- Invite them to any of the **Workshops** on spiritual development, marriage, parenting, etc. that we hold throughout the year.
- Invite them to a **Support Group** if there is a special need.
- Invite them to **any other ministry gathering we have at FAC**. Check out www.myfac.org for the latest!

5. Invite them to reflect and listen to their thoughts regarding Jesus through soul-searching questions.

- Develop a list of questions and sayings to determine best approaches.

Evangelism conversations are kind of like Google Maps. There isn't one way to get there. However, it's helpful to know some of the routes to get there. So, it would be helpful to thoughtfully compile a list of questions and sayings in order to engage in meaningful exchanges with people. This is not to be used as a scripted outline. Rather, it is an exercise of preparation. Also, it is important to remember that even questions can lead someone to faith. Jesus did this many times with people in the Scriptures. **But remember! Some of these conversations are had after there has been a foundation of trust and investment in the relationship. You will need to feel them out to determine best approach. One size doesn't fit all.**

Here are a few samples of questions and sayings that have been tried and used with success to give you an idea:

- Ask to do something together and tell them the type of conversation you'd like to have with them Ex. "Do you like to _____? (use your inventory list from above for ideas)." If they say "yes," then say, "Great. How about we get together to do that, but I'd like to have a fun conversation about something. I want to talk about our souls." They'll probably raise an eyebrow and may ask what you mean. Just answer with a slightly cheeky answer and smile, "You know. It's the places you usually don't go inside and that we all kind of bury." Leave them with a bit of intrigue. You'll be surprised how open people will be.
- Ask a question about their soul: Ex. "How big of a role does _____ play in your life?" The question can change, but it's a topic related to the soul. For

instance, it could be asking how big of role does anger, fear, success, significance, failure, etc. play in their life. You are there to listen and ask clarifying questions.

- **Invite them to explain their views on God:** Ex. “*Talk to me about you and God, but don’t talk about Christian people or church.*” OR “*Since God is Father, talk to me about your own relationship with you dad or other male figure in your life.*”
- **Appeal to the desire to live a good life:** Ex. “*Living a life under the authority of Jesus is a good life. I bet you didn’t know that.*” See what they say! Remember, the goal is not about getting a gospel presentation out there. It’s about their life. Show that you care before anything you share.
- **Turn intellectual issues to the heart:** Ex. When someone says, “*I have intellectual issues.*” Then you say, “*Ok, I have been a Christian for awhile, give me your best shot.*” After they give their response, you say cheekily “*That’s all you got? You don’t have intellectual issues, yours is a heart issue. What’s that all about? Tell me about it.*”
- **Offer a quick expression of God’s heart behind the gospel.** After you have listened to them, you can share God’s heart behind the gospel. But it has to be short and share the essence of God’s love for them. Something like this. “*The Father of your soul says ‘I want you so much.’ The Son says ‘I will give my life for you to make this happen.’ The Spirit says ‘I will do everything in my power to bring you there to give you a way better life than you ever have.’ God is saying I want this for every person in their life. And He’s saying this to you. He’s saying it’s time for a change. If you want to make that change, I can help you.*” The details of the gospel and understanding will come later. In fact, we offer Alpha to take them further or a Christian Basics study to aid in this.
- **Ask questions based on the outcomes they would like to see in their life:** Ex. “*Will you trust _____ with God?*” So, some examples of this can be “*Will you trust the outcomes of your life to him? Will you trust your relationships with him? Will you trust your emotions or past with him? Etc.*” The idea behind this is to show them how following Jesus is one of trusting Him with specific areas of needs they are facing in their life.
- **A follow-up question with those you have met with is good to ask:** It’s important to follow up any evangelism conversation you have with someone with a simple question. Ex. “*How are you assimilating God into your life?*”

With these conversations, it is important to remember that you need to listen, be subtle, courageously direct, slightly cheeky to keep the conversation warm, and show that you care about them because eternity hangs in the balance.

- What questions or approaches will you use to have spiritual conversations?

A Story of These 5 Steps Coming Together:

The fact is, Mark likes to grill and Mark knows a handful of neighbors on my block who like to do that as well. Marks approach was to ask if they liked to grill and if they would like to come over for an hour or so and I can grill them one of my secret grilling steak recipes. Mark asked a few neighbors that he saw outside this question and invited them over on a Friday, but under one condition, that they talk about their soul. Some of them said, “*Ok. As long as there is steak!*” and a few asked, “*what do you mean?*” Mark casually said, “*You know. It's the places you usually won't go. I'll see you at 6pm!*” That's all he said in order to leave a little bit of intrigue!

When they came over and after they talked a bit casually while they ate the steak on his outdoor patio, Mark then asked them the question “*Ok. I said I'd have us talk about our soul. So here it is. How big of a role does anger play in your life?*” Mark could have asked on any inner life issue, but it's a topic related to the soul, and this one was something that Mark could see that guys were wrestling with. After this discussion went around a bit, Mark followed up the topic with them to talk about this: “*Since God is Father, talk to me about your own relationship with you dad or other male figure in your life.*” Again, Mark simply listened. After some time, and in order to wrap up the evening, Mark then said this, “*Look I'm going to give you a secret: real men love God. And the Father of your soul says 'I want you so much.' The Son says 'I will give my life for you to make this happen.' The Spirit says 'I will do everything in my power to bring you there to give you a way better life than you ever have.' God is saying I want this for every person in their life. And He's saying this to you. He's saying it's time for a change.*” Then, Mark said in a cheeky way with a smile, “*Now we just have to see if you're man enough to give your life to God.*” Some were interested. Some said they never heard this before. Some said they needed to think about it. That's ok. Mark got them to think, and God is the one that changes the heart. He wasn't being too pushy and they now know that Mark is someone they can talk to if they have questions about God and life.

Let's be clear on this... YOU CAN DO THIS!

God has given His Spirit to you for this mission and He has called each of to be as His witnesses. Eternity hangs in the balance with people around us. All it takes is passion, time, creativity, and asking the Spirit to give you boldness and faith. YOU CAN DO THIS!