



# I am Sent

# to you

# Guidebook



sent ones network



# I am Sent

## Facilitators Guidebook

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# INTRODUCTION

The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters,  
but one who has insight draws them out.  
Prov.20:5 NIV

## 2 REASONS FOR WHY WE MUST SEND

When Jesus looked out upon the masses he, “had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”(Matt.9:36) Today, the harassed and helpless masses still remain. Fortunately, so does His compassion. It may be why you find yourself reading this. As a leader in your church or ministry, you've discovered your heart beats for the things closest to God's heart: His kingdom and the lost. Jesus wants us to know this about Him in no uncertain terms. It's why in Luke 15 He tells three stories back to back to back about a lost sheep, a lost coin and a wayward son. These are stories of a God who relentlessly searches, pursues and restores all of which is His. These are stories of a God who will stop at nothing until His work is complete.

You may have noticed that the passage in Matthew 9 doesn't stop with Him just having “compassion”. How did Jesus respond?

**“Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would send out more laborers into the harvest field.”(vs.38)**

He prayed and sent. Jesus knew that most people wouldn't or couldn't come to Him. He knew we would have to go get them. Therefore, we had to be sent. It was His love and compassion for the lost that compelled Him to send His followers. It was how He would advance His kingdom and add citizens to it. It is one of the reasons for why we must still send today.

But what if there was another reason for why He sent? What if the Great Commandment and Great Commission weren't just about the restoration of His kingdom and the lost? What if they were also meant to put us, His followers, in a position to experience the two things we want most? What are those? We want to experience deep intimacy with the Father and we want to know our lives have transcendent purpose and meaning. We long for those things because we were made for God...to be “One” with Him. We long for those things because we once had them in full but have since been lost. We contend that those two things can only be found, to the extent we desire in between the now and the not yet, when we join with Him in fulfilling the kingdom purposes He planned for us long ago.(Eph. 2:10) In other words, if we want to help our people live the abundant life (deep intimacy and

transcendent purpose) that Jesus came to bring, we must send.

It works like this. Jesus knew that living out the Great Commandment and Great Commission in a fallen world would put us in precarious positions. Positions that would bring us trouble. However, He also knew that our obedience in the midst of that, would give Him opportunity after opportunity to have Him show up...to reveal Himself to us. (John 14:21) It would give Him opportunity after opportunity to show up in powerful ways, working in us and through us. He knew those moments would leave us awestruck by His power, presence and peace. They would leave us captivated by the intimate fellowship we were made for.

We must never forget that we were made for God. We were made to partake in the intimate fellowship of our triune God. Whether we realize it or not, it's what we long for most. The problem is, we're often easily deceived by this world and find ourselves looking for comfort and security in things other than Him. Ultimately, they pale in comparison and always fail us. But yet, we still foolishly strive for them.

Here's the thing we need to understand and there's no getting around it. If we want that intimate fellowship with the Father and we want to experience the transcendent purposes He designed us for each of us, we must understand that they are found in a life of surrendering to His will. This is precisely why we can't be passive about sending. Our people won't know what they're missing until they've experienced it. By sending we're giving them the opportunity to experience the Lord in the way and to the depths He intended. Therefore, sending is one of the most loving things we can do for those we're called to lead.

## HOW TO SEND WELL

We live in a day and age where mentoring and discipleship have fallen by the wayside. For various reasons, we've failed to recognize the crucial role those play in the sanctification of the believer and their mission in the world.

The intent of this course is to help change that. It's our desire for our brothers and sisters in Christ to, within the context of discipleship, recognize their inherent value to the Lord and acknowledge the vital role they're to play in the mission of God. Specifically, we want each of them to lay hold of the truth that they are a "Poiema" in the Greek or Masterpiece that He created for grand and eternal purposes (Eph.2:10). We're mosaics made with great artistry and skill from pieces that include the story He's written for our lives, the strengths we possess, the spiritual gifts, skills and passions He has given us. We want them to embrace all that He created them to be in such a way that enables them to make disciples in the places and in the ways He intended for them. Doing so will bring Him glory and us deep satisfaction and intimacy with the Father. In short, this is a discipleship course designed to send someone well. Sending someone well means setting them up for success. We've discovered four common

denominators among people who walk intimately with the Father and bear fruit in the great commission. Given that a surrendered heart is the soil from which all these grow, here is a list.

## FOUR SENDING ESSENTIALS

1. **MISSIONAL FOCUS** The first thing someone needs to know is “What are the good works God designed for them for this phase of their life?” (Eph. 2:10) In other words, “What is their missional focus or the kingdom calling God has planned for them?” People who consistently bear fruit in the great commission have discovered where God would have them focus their time, talent and treasure advancing God’s kingdom and making disciples. If you’ve already taken this course you know a large portion of it is dedicated to this. It’s our prayer that the process for discovering this will leave them feeling developed and valued for how God made them and affirmed in the mission He has for them.
2. **MISSIONAL COMMUNITY** The second thing fruitful people have in common is a like-minded missional community. They’ve recognized that no one does well on mission alone. We all need the consistent encouragement, accountability and mix of gifts that a team brings to the table. It’s critical to ones long-term viability and effectiveness. This is why the course and follow up web tool provides some ideas and infrastructure to team them up with others.
3. **A PLAN** Sending well requires a level of intentionality. It requires a plan. A farmer would never expect to see crops grow year in and year out without a plan in place of when and how to plow, plant and water. Similarly, God’s kingdom just doesn’t advance on a whim. People need a simple, Spirit-led plan to work from. They need doable, achievable goals. The course provides a simple framework they can work through.
4. **TRAINING / COACHING** Finally, sending someone well means providing ongoing training and coaching. For instance, if someone feels led to minister to inner city high school kids or to those on Wall Street or among artists, they’re going to need to learn how to do that effectively in those contexts. There are nuances people need to be aware of and adapt to in order to make an impact. This means providing access to training and coaching, training and coaching from others who have been around the block a few times in the areas your people are called to minister in. Again, the web tool provides some infrastructure to make this happen.

Giving your people these four things will help set them up for success.

# FACILITATING THE GROUP

## GENERAL & PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness  
and the world's hunger meet.”

Fredrick Buechner

Over the duration of this course you will find yourself wearing many hats. You'll be your group's biggest cheerleader, their faithful comforter and greatest exhorter. It will stretch you. There will be moments when members will be tempted to step backward in fear. There will be times when their apathy or desire for security and comfort will get the best of them. They will resist you and they will resist what the Lord is calling them to. At these times, may you, like our good shepherd, lean into them with great compassion and courage, someone who won't let them settle for anything less than the life God intended and the one they long to live.

God is entrusting you with something sacred. We don't say that to heap undue pressure upon you but we do want you to feel the weight of that. We hope you feel it to the point where you realize you can't do this on your own. Then and only then are you ready to lead a group of others through this course. So lean on Him. Know that He is there for you just as much as He is there for those in your group.

Having said that, here are some general principles to follow and practical things you can do to guide your group through this course.

1. **Pray.** Helping someone discern who God created them to be and what their God-given kingdom calling is, is at foremost a spiritual endeavor. So, pray often for your group. Pray they would proactively seek out the Lord. He doesn't intend to hide their calling from them but He does want them to seek Him for it. He asks that we do it for this reason. As always with God, it's about the relationship. Remember, His great desire is to be in union with us. Their seeking will lead to greater intimacy and rock solid assurance of their calling. That depth will need to be there as they carry out their mission for it will be difficult. They'll have their flesh to deal with, things that are common to man and a very real enemy. So pray that they seek Him. Beyond that, pray for their courage, their purity and that their hearts would beat for the same things as the Lord's.
2. **Provide structure.** You're the information hub. You're the one who will make things go for the group. You'll need to send out emails reminding people of your meeting times, to complete assignments and to send in their assessments. (ie. Strengths Finder results, Personality, etc) Also, you'll have to make sure

everyone has access to the workbooks and other pertinent resources. You'll keep people informed, moving forward and help them catch up when necessary. That may mean scheduling a one on one make up session for those who miss before the group meets again. We give you guidance and reminders about this in the Session notes ahead.

3. **Promote open dialogue.** You'll be setting the tone for the group. You'll want to make sure everyone knows that your meetings are a place where they can and will be encouraged to process what they're discovering. Also, let them know that everything said is confidential and needs to remain in the group. Additionally, you'll need to make sure no one person monopolizes the conversation. Occasionally you'll have to cut people off by saying things like, *"For the sake of time we need to move on."* Or, *"Hold that thought, I want to make sure \_\_\_\_\_ has a chance to say something here. We can talk further after the session."* Finally, make sure to pull people in. Many will be internal processors and will be slow to speak. Make sure there's room for that. They may only speak if called upon.
4. **Facilitating > teaching.** We chose the "facilitator" title for you over "teacher" with this in mind. For you, this course is about putting each participant in a position to hear from the Lord. In other words, they're the ones doing the knocking and seeking; you're there to create or facilitate the environment in which that can happen. There will certainly be times when you'll be called upon to teach but those should be few and far between. Remember, we're going on the premise that God doesn't want to hide His kingdom purposes for your people. It's your job to help them discover just what those are. You do that by letting them process what they're discovering. You do it by asking open ended and/or clarifying questions. Questions like, **"What do you think the Lord is telling you by revealing that to you? How do you think you can best accomplish that? What are some ways to move past that obstacle?"** Involve the group by saying, **"What do the rest of you think?"** However, there will be times when it's necessary to put your teacher hat on. There will be some immature believers in the group or those who've gotten hold of some bad theology. Maybe they've just believed some lies. In those cases it'll be necessary to take them to the Word and help correct them. But, bottom line, let them process and talk about what God's saying to them.
5. **Affirm and Encourage.** If you don't know it already, you'll discover that very few of your people, if any, have had the privilege of having a mentor or have received much significant discipleship. They've lacked someone who could observe them and identify their giftedness, passions, strengths and ultimately, help them see their value to God and the kingdom. As a result, they'll need someone like you to encourage them.

For instance, many will believe they have nothing to offer the world. They will have a hard time believing God could use them for His glory and His purposes.

Others will come in with significant wounds that haven't been addressed in any meaningful or significant way. Those things will come up in this course. Depending on their severity, some of those wounds may need to be addressed by you or others outside of the group time. In the end, they'll need affirmation. They'll need someone to affirm who they are in Christ and affirmation in their calling. Initially, that will be you.

## FINDING A GROUP

It's been said, "without a leader, nothing happens." As you go about gathering an "I am Sent" discipleship group you will need to draw upon all your leadership abilities. Your abilities may look different and you may lead different than others but you have them. Here are three important leadership principles to follow:

1. **Dependence on the Lord.** Abiding in Christ will be your most important principle to follow. You will be dependent on Him to encourage you, strengthen you and to lead your sessions. Not only that, you'll be dependent on Him to lead you to the people He would like to take this course. That's not a passive thing. It will require a lot of seeking and listening. So put those spiritual antennas up and move out in faith with the knowledge that God has chosen to send His people.
  
2. **Initiative.** Practically speaking, putting together a group will require a healthy measure of initiative. That means having conversations, sending emails, "name-storming," advertising, etc. Also, be aware of this. In order to find a group of 4-6 participants, you'll need to personally invite 10-15 people. Here are some ideas to get you going.
  - **EXISTING GROUPS.** This course is best experienced when done in the company of people who already know each other. With that in mind, ask yourself what groups already exist? You could offer to lead them through the course as their next phase of development or focus of study. These could be
    - Existing small group Bible studies,
    - Church staff or leadership teams,
    - A group of Christian friends you get together with regularly or have some shared history or connection with.
  
  - **ADVERTISE.** Use your church's social media site(s) to advertise the starting of your group. Have the admin of those sites advertise for you. You can say something like,

- *“Did you know God has specific “good works” in mind for you? Good works that will draw you closer to Him and advance His kingdom. We’ll be starting a six week “I am Sent” discipleship course on Month, Day. For more information contact...”*
- You can also email some of the people you know directly. There are many samples of email invitations you can use found in the “Facilitators Forum” under the Help for Your Mission tab at SentOnesNetwork.org Here’s an example email:

Hi \_\_\_\_\_,

How are you? I'm writing because I want to invite you to join a group I'm putting together. It's a discipleship group that will meet for six weeks. Its purpose is to learn more about how God designed and gifted you with the intent of giving you insight into the specific kingdom work (Eph. 2:10) God wants you to engage in at this time of your life. It's my hope to help you find more of the abundant life we all desire and that Christ came to bring. It meets once a week for 90 minutes. There are some homework assignments but they aren't long and it's mostly reflective.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'd love to make this work for you any way I can.

- **PERSONAL INVITATIONS.** Research has shown that 80% of the people who join a group do so because of a personal invitation.
  - Who do you know that could benefit from this course?
  - Who do you know that is dissatisfied with their walk with the Lord or seem to lack purpose?
  - Is there someone you've talked to that is deeply troubled by something in the world? Who do you know that seems to complain a lot? Those are telltale signs of someone needing a mission.

Those are good candidates. Also, don't discount asking your good friends especially if this is your first time leading. Leading friends will help take some of the pressure off that you could possibly feel.

3. **Follow up.** Don't expect people to respond right away, or at all, to your invitations. It's just a fact of life that people are slow to commit or deviate from their routines. Don't take it personally. More than likely, it will take you persistently following up with them. Be tenacious knowing that God wants this life for them more than we ever could. Trust that He's moving in the hearts of those He wants there. Here are a few things you can say/do to help them commit.

- Give them a workbook and have them read the introduction.

- Tell them how this course will not only help them discover and fulfill the kingdom purposes God has for them but it will also help them become better communicators with their spouse, children, friends and co-workers. (This is due to understanding personality types better.)
- Tell them who else has committed.
- Have them invite a friend or their spouse to participate.
- Let them know it's just six weeks and that you'll meet for 90 minutes once a week.

## THINGS YOU'LL NEED TO BUY

So now we'll move into more of the practical/physical things you'll need. In order to facilitate a group you're going to need some supplies. Here's a list of the things you'll need:

- **Strengths Finder by Tom Rath.** (\*see note at end of this paragraph) We recommend purchasing a couple copies of the Strengths Finder book. (\$25 each) The book has some additional, valuable insight for you as a leader. Giving your participants some of that detail will give you added credibility. However, don't feel like you have to know all 34 Strengths inside and out. It's enough to occasionally add any pertinent details to the discussion you'll have about them. We recommend you purchase two copies so that you can loan them out. Recommend to your participants to purchase the book as it comes with a code to take the assessment. The cost is the same. Plus, the book offers further valuable insight on their Strengths as well as working with others who have different ones. You will use it in session 1.

\*(Note: There is also a free version of a "Strengths Finder" assessment called the "High 5 Test" (High5Test.com). We make the link to that assessment available to people in your group who are strapped for cash. In fact, many use this. The definitions for each of the "High5Test" Strengths are provided in this workbook in Session 1. It's sort of a "hybrid" of definitions for both the Strengths Finder and High5Test. )

- **The DISC Personality System Profile by People Keys.** This booklet will give you valuable insights into the four different personality types or temperaments and their blends. You will use it in session 2. It's about \$30. You don't have to buy it though if you search google for relative information. Just search for definitions of the 4 Basic Personality Types (Dominant, Influencer, Stable, Compliant) Also, we provide you with the basic definitions in Session 2. Buy here: <https://peoplekeys.com/shop/disc-profile-the-disc-personality-system/>

- **Easel Pads 27”x34”**. Each participant will require two sheets of these large pads. Save yourself some money and just buy the pad that you tape up on the wall with masking tape, not the sticky backed, post-it note kind. Masking tape works well in that it comes off the wall easily and actually leaves the paint behind! (note: Test the pad to be sure your markers won't bleed through and leave a mark on the wall!)
- **Masking tape**. As previously mentioned, you'll need it to post the large, easel pad sized paper on a wall.
- **Markers**. Buy a set of large tip markers so that people can see from a distance. It doesn't matter if they're an assortment of colors.

## One last thing...

The suggestions you'll see on the following pages for leading each Session are just that....suggestions. Please feel free to adjust, add, subtract wherever and whenever you best see fit. In other words, we don't want you to feel overwhelmed or encumbered by what you see ahead. We, more than most, understand we all lead in different ways so embrace that as you move forward. Again, all you're basically doing as the facilitator is asking questions that will help people either share or process what they've been learning. Other than the sessions on their mission statement where you'll have to push some people, the course essentially teaches itself.

# FACILITATING SESSION ONE

## THE SURRENDERED LIFE, STRENGTHS & STORY

### Before your group meets for session 1 make sure you do the following:

- Make sure everyone has their workbook at least two weeks in advance.
- Review and refresh your memory of the content they've just read through and completed in their workbook.
- Remind everyone to do the assignments for session 1 including taking the Strengths Finder assessment and sending you their top 5 strengths at least 3 days before you meet. Then....
- On one easel pad piece of paper, in order of the most common, write all the Strengths your group possesses. Next to each strength, write the initial(s) of the member who has it. You may even want to put a 1 and 2 next to the initial when that's their top two strengths. We do this for two reasons. One, it gives your group the opportunity to see who has what Strength and which ones they have in common. Additionally, this will help you move through the definitions of each Strength more quickly. Your easel pad of paper with a group of Chris, John, Rebecca, Katie, Erik and Greg should look something like this:

Our Group's Strengths	
Harmony/Peacekeeper	C <sup>1</sup> ,J,R,E <sup>2</sup>
Discipline/Time Keeper	R,J,G <sup>1</sup>
Belief/Believer	K,J,E
Connectedness	G,K,C
Input	R <sup>1</sup> ,K <sup>2</sup> ,E
Restorative/Problem Solver	G,J <sup>2</sup>
Competition/Winner	E,G <sup>2</sup>
Learner/Philomath	C <sup>2</sup>
Empathy/Empathizer	K
Developer/Coach	R
Achiever	C
Ideation/Brainstormer	R <sup>2</sup>
Individualization	G
Analytical/Analyst	J <sup>1</sup>
Focus/Focus Expert	K <sup>1</sup>
Context	C
Communication/Storyteller	E <sup>1</sup>

Or, if you prefer spreadsheets you can input all of your group's results in an .xls file. You can find a blank one at <https://sentonesnetwork.org/Help-for-your-mission/Facilitator-Forums>. Look under "Session 1".

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>High 5 &amp; Strengths Finder Scores Hybrid</b>						
2		Chris	John	Rebecca	Katie	Erik	Greg
3							
4	Achiever	4					
5	Analyst/Analytical		1			3	
6	Arranger						
7	Believer/Belief		5		5		
8	Brainstormer/Ideation			2			
9	Catalyst/Activator						
10	Chameleon/Adaptability						
11	Coach/Developer			5			
12	Commander/Command						
13	Connectedness	3			4		5
14	Context	5					
15	Deliberative						
16	Deliverer/Responsibility						
17	Empathizer/Empathy				3		
18	Fairness/Consistency						
19	Focus Expert/Focus				1		
20	Futuristic						
21	Inclusiveness						
22	Individualization						3
23	Input			1	2	4	
24	Maximizer						
25	Optimist/Positivity						
26	Peace Keeper/Harmony	1	3	3		2	
27	Philomath/Learner	2					
28	Problem Solver/Restorative		2				4
29	Relator						
30	Self-Believer/Self-Assurance						
31	Significance						
32	Storyteller/Communication					1	
33	Strategist/Strategic						
34	Thinker/Intellection						
35	Time Keeper/Discipline		4	4			1
36	Winner/Competition					5	2
37	Woo						
38							
39	Do you see any of your top 5 being utilized where you work, live or play?						
40	Your God-given, kingdom mission will call you to operate out of some or all of your strengths.						

We'll talk more about how to use these charts on the following pages.

### The “Big Ideas” for session 1:

- We can be deceived into thinking the life we want is achieved through security (financial, physical or otherwise) or comfort (our possessions). However, the Bible is clear that the life we were made for and truly desire is found in our faith's great dichotomy of picking up our cross and following Him. Therefore, success in this life starts with surrender. The surrendered life is God's pathway to what we want most...transcendent purpose and deep intimacy with Him. It's what God intended before the fall and what we still seek and will have again in full at the end of time.
- Knowing our Strengths and Story will help give us insight into where God would have us engage with Him in the great commandment and great commission. This is vital to the life we seek. Living those out in a fallen world, in the places and in the way He intended, put us in a position to see Him show up, working in us and through us. It puts us in a position to experience great intimacy and fellowship as we labor alongside Him in the harvest.

### Goals for this session:

- Your group should be clear on what to expect from the course. The main ones being, greater intimacy with the Father and the transcendent purpose we desire as they discover and engage in the mission He has uniquely for them.
- Your group should have a good, Biblical knowledge of what the surrendered life is all about, what that looks like practically and how it is foundational for them experiencing the abundant life.
- To discover and value their God given Strengths and how they will play a role in how they carry out the mission He has for them.
- To process how the Story God has written for their lives plays a large part in helping them discover and live out the kingdom purposes God has for them.

### Suggested Outline/Timeline/Questions for this session:

This is the most packed of all the sessions. In fact, due to the length of the devotional and the time we'd like you to spend on their strengths, you probably won't get to discuss their “Stories”. We kept “Stories” in this session's homework though because we think it's important to have them start pondering the story God has written for their lives from the very start. But even so, you'll have to keep this session moving quickly.

1. **Pray (1 minute)**
2. **Introduce self** and how/why you came to facilitate the “I am Sent” discipleship course. **(3 minutes)**

3. **Introduce themselves. (10-15 minutes)** Have them tell each other what they do and why they're taking the course and/or what they hope to get out of it. This will segue into number 4.
4. **Where we're going. (2 minutes)** Since many people tend to skip over the "Introduction" it's important that you give a brief summary of it. It gives the heart behind why Jesus sent and why we do so today. It also explains the methodology for how we go about it. You can read the "big ideas" section above or summarize your own. End by looking at the goals together. Touch on the following points.
  - **God and us share the same great desire of wanting to be in union with one another.** At its core, that is what this course is all about. The depths to which we're able to experience this union is greatly dependent on our level of surrender and our joining with Him in the kingdom purposes He designed for each of us. That is foundational and a vital part of the context for where the intimacy we seek takes place.
  - **Since joining Him in the kingdom purposes He designed for us (Eph.2:10) is vital to us experiencing greater intimacy with Him, it's important to know just what those purposes are.** Fortunately, it's not meant to be a guessing game. God wants to reveal them to us. However, we have to remember that with God, it's all about the relationship. He wants that union with us but, we have to seek Him for it. For, when we seek Him we find Him. When we find Him we understand again that **He** is the great reward (Gen. 15:1). Not only that, but clues to those purposes are often found in how He made us and in the story He's written for our lives. We'll see that God has been incredibly intentional with our lives and us. That's why we'll spend the first three sessions of the course seeking, discovering and unpacking those things. We will see His good, gracious and sovereign hand in the masterpiece He's created and is creating in us.
5. **Surrendered Life Devotional. (20 minutes)** (Note: There are a lot of notes for this devotional. Future sessions won't be this extensive. We just wanted to make sure the Surrendered Life, due to it's importance, was understood.) Have everyone turn to p. 19 (p.17 College edition) in their workbook and to Matthew 16:13 in their Bibles. Say, **"Before we go any further it's important we stop and reflect on an important question Jesus asked His disciples. It's important because it's foundational to whether or not we'll grow in intimacy with Him and be successful in our mission."**
  - Say, **"Not long before Jesus sent out the disciples to do the work of the ministry, He asked them a foundational question. It's a question all**

**followers of Christ must answer. In fact, we're called to answer it every day of our lives. As you work through this devotional I pray you'll wrestle with the same question and compelling motivations that caused Jesus's first followers to pick up their crosses and follow Him."**

### **Read Matthew 16:13-20**

- Ask, **What question does He ask the 72? "Who do others/you say that I am?"** (You may want to share the context is just before the 72 were to be sent out. We learn this in Luke 9&10. Things were about to get intense for them all.)
- Ask, **What answer was He looking for?**
- Answers: You are the Christ. The Son of God.

### **Why do you think Jesus asks it? Why was it important they got it right?**

Possible answers:

- "Do you understand who I am yet?" Maybe He was seeking Loyalties, Allegiance? Was it to see if they understood what they were signing up for?
- He wanted them to know just whom they were aligning themselves with. This was important because life for them was about to change dramatically and as we'll see in a moment, for better and...for worse.

### **Continue Reading.....Read 16:21-28**

**Ask, Why did Jesus rebuke Peter? What do you think was Peter's vision for what it would look like to follow Christ?**

- Peter got the first question right but was wrong about what it meant for his life. Although Peter didn't want to hear any talk of how his good friend might die he was also deciding for himself what following Christ would be like. Privilege, power, riches, etc... In Peter's mind he was about to rule with Jesus as Israel's conquering ruler.
- A Crucifixion certainly didn't fit his vision. Surrendering his own will and desires and picking up his own cross wasn't in his plan. You can almost see Peter saying to himself, "I'm not so sure what you're talking about sounds like much fun."

**Say, "If you've walked with Jesus long enough you've realized a difficult truth. Following Him doesn't mean freedom from pain, suffering and trials. It doesn't mean everything "goes your way." In fact, He promises us a cross of our own. It**

means risk, sacrifice, pain, alienation from friends & family, life change.

### **Cross or Crown?**

Say, **“Multiple crises of faith or what some call “cross or crown” moments await us. As a result we’ll have to ask ourselves repeatedly, “Will I go further? What am I willing to sacrifice? What am I willing to give up? Will I go where He wants me to go? Will I do what He wants me to do? Will I say what He wants me to say? Will I give what He wants me to give?” These are all tough and daily questions.**

The reality is, that when many of us come to these pivotal moments...we take ourselves out of the game. We don’t necessarily leave the team (our faith) but we settle for a seat on the sidelines.

But, when faced with this reality, many of his disciples did continue to follow Him anyway. Not without failure or fear or weakness, but ultimately, they did follow.” (Not all followed, John 6:67)

Say, **“So here’s the next question for us. Knowing what awaited them, what do you think was their motivation? What kept them going? It’s important we know for it must motivate us as well.”**

Answer: **Despite the pain, alienation, risk, sacrifice, etc that comes with obediently following Jesus as we live out the great commandment and the great commission, it’s the incomparable love and fellowship we experience when we’re faithfully engaged, laboring alongside Him that will push us onward.**

**As you read in the introduction, God’s great desire is to be in union with us.(John17:21) We’ve been invited into the sacred soul satisfying fellowship of our Triune God. It’s what we knew before sin entered the world and one day will be experienced in full once again. (Eph.5:25-32) And, whether we realize it or not, it’s our great desire to be one with Him as well. It is THE longing at THE core of our being. As a result, everything else, when compared to knowing Christ at a deeper, more intimate level, will ultimately pale for us.**

**Followers of Yahweh, of Jesus understood this. David in the Psalms proclaims “Your love is better than life.” (Ps.63:3.) Paul, in Philippians 3 declares, he has counted all else loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. He goes on to say, “I want to know Christ and the power of the resurrection and to share in the fellowship of His sufferings.” Paul having experienced this fellowship time and again considered this fellowship so great that He even welcomed the suffering that sometimes came with it!**

- Say, **“So how do we put ourselves in this position...to know Christ in this**

## soul satisfying way?

Answer: **The disciplines of the faith such as prayer, bible study, worship, the sacraments, all put us in a position, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, to experience greater intimacy with Him. But also...**

**It's through laboring alongside the Lord in the harvest fulfilling the kingdom purposes He designed for each of us long ago.(Eph.2:10) It's in those missional moments of faith, risk and sacrifice where we get to see Christ "show up". Where we get to see Him revealed in us and working through us. And, when He does show up, we want more. It's addicting. It's soul satisfying. It's what kept the disciples in the game and what will motivate us as well.**

- **John 14:21 tells us:**

**Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."**

**Therefore, when we're obedient and engaged in the kingdom works He has for us, we get to experience something special. If we're disengaged and sitting on the sidelines, we're missing out on the fullness or abundance of life God intended. Let's not allow the idols of our day (comfort, control, security, worldly success, etc) keep us from experiencing what we were designed to desire most...Jesus. "**

- Ask if there are any final thoughts/questions.

**\*If you have Church/Ministry leaders in your group may want to add this extra admonition to them:**

Back in the early 1900's there was a great missionary push. One of the larger movements of the time was the Student Volunteer Movement. This spawned groups on college campuses which emphasized missions. One such was called the Yale Band. D. Brewer Eddy, one of their student leaders remarked at a conference the great importance pastors play in the sending process. He said,

*"The importance of leadership must be emphasized. Let us put to usury that talent which sets others to work. You are the leaders. We six millions of young people in this land, are willing to follow you, if you will guide us. This is the responsibility of the pastor. The most definite impression, perhaps, of the Yale Band is this: that the praise or the responsibility and blame for present conditions in our missionary boards must be laid at the doors of the pastors...If you base your appeal on grounds of pastor's pride, or of individual church benevolence, or of denominational loyalty, our young people will return a reward commensurate with the grounds from which*

such an appeal is made. **But come to us with the deepest spiritual note you can sound, with a message from the very life of the Master we are learning to love more and more, and we six millions will follow you to the best of our ability.**" (p.8 *The Key to the Missionary Problem* by Andrew Murray.)

Our people are silently begging us to sound the deepest spiritual note within them. To set them free from their idols of comfort, security, control and worldly power and give them the only life that will satisfy their deepest longings. As leaders, it's our high calling to help our people grown in an ever-deepening union with the Father. It's the life they long for and the one God intended. They're looking to us to send them next door or across the globe. Let's send them all. Let's send them well.

## 6. Strengths. (40 minutes)

- Tell your people to take a couple minutes to review their strengths. (They should've written down a short description of each in their workbook.)

While they do that take out the chart you prepared ahead of time that lists all their strengths. Tape it (with your masking tape) to a wall where all can see it. (Or hand out the spreadsheet you chose instead to show all their Strengths/High5Test results)

- When they're done reviewing their Strengths tell them that **"This assessment was originally designed for the secular workplace but it's proven to be helpful in the sacred as well. Researchers at Gallup found that most organizations were spending a lot of time trying to develop people's weaknesses instead of allowing them to operate out of their Strengths. The former can be frustrating and demotivating especially if you're constantly trying to operate in a way that you're not naturally inclined. So, the idea is to know your Strengths and to be operating out of them 80% of the time.**

**For our purposes, it's good to know how God made you, in this case your Strengths, for they will help you determine where but also "how" God is calling you to labor alongside Him in the mission. After all, doesn't it make sense that God would want you to use the strengths He gave you?"**

- Explain what the chart you taped up represents and that you're going to read through each of their represented Strengths. Read through each Strength using the Strengths Finder book or use the abbreviated version Strengths Finder / High5Test definitions found at the end of this session's outline. Feel free to print out a copy for each participant.
- When you get to someone's 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Strength, as time allows, pause and ask if they believe it's accurate.

- Make sure you affirm each individual in their Strengths. Say things like, “I can see you using that to greatly advance God’s Kingdom.” Or “That’s a great strength to have. Can you see how that may be leveraged for God’s kingdom?” Or “That Strength(s) means you bring something significant to the table.” Or “That Strength will bring great value to your team.”
  - *(Regarding “Team”, you’ll want to at sometime in Session One or Two, talk about the 5 things mentioned in the Introduction under the “Sending Well” section. Other than the Surrendered Life, having a “Team” is perhaps the most critical. You can talk about it here or later that, “No one does well on mission alone and how and why you’ll need a Team.” Feel free to re-read that “Team” point from the Intro here or in Session 2).*
- Ask if there are any questions.

7. Story. *(If you have time feel free to start this part or wait until the next session. However, make sure you leave time to talk about the homework assignments.)*

- Be aware that for some sharing parts of their “Story” can be quite intimidating or painful. Some, depending on their personality will be much more guarded with what they share. Think about sharing a personal experience of your own that has something to do with what you’re passionate about doing today. It’ll help break the ice.

If somebody shares something difficult and it’s sort of hanging over the time, sympathize with them and consider stopping to pray. You can also remind them of the Dan Allender quote found in that section.

"Healing, in this life, is not the resolution of our past; it is the use of our past to draw us into deep relationship with God and his purposes for our lives." - **Dan Allender**

- As a facilitator, be sure to take notes on their responses. It’ll help you when you’re speaking into their mission statement. You’ll see things that may tie back to their Story. It’ll help you affirm them in their calling.
- Say, **“Pick one of the questions from the Story section (p.17,18) (p.15,16 in college edition) and tell us why it was transformational or significant in making you who you are today.”**

8. Assignments for Next Session. *(5 minutes)*

- The next session will cover two topics. Personality and Passions.

- Turn to the Assignments for Session Two in your workbook (p.22) (p.20 in college edition). Simply read through the instructions emphasizing Four things.
  1. Make sure when they take the personality assessment they answer all the questions from the context where they feel like they are their “truest self.”
  2. Make sure they send you their results at least three days before the next time you meet.
  3. Make sure they tear out and hand out the “Passions” sheet to their friend and/or spouse early in the week so that they have time to get it back to them.
  4. Make sure they start the Seeking God’s Will Bible Study at the beginning of the week.

**Frequently Asked Questions/Comments during session one (F.A.Qs.):**

- Your group will most likely want to know what your top 5 Strengths are so be prepared to tell them.
- Some will mention how they dislike assessments like Strengths, Personality, etc because it feels like someone is trying to “put me in a box”. That’s a valid feeling. It has been done. Re-assure them that the reason we do it is to better understand who we are so we can know how to best use what God has given us for His glory. After all, we can’t be all things to all people because we’re all unique. But, because of who He made us, we each have value and can play a significant part in the advancement of His kingdom. And finally, by seeing our uniqueness, we see more clearly what we lack. Therefore we can then see more clearly how we need each other and can then value what everyone brings to the table.

# “I am Sent”

## High5Test & Strengths Finder

### Hybrid Definitions

**1 Achiever** People strong in Achiever have a great deal of stamina and work hard. They take great satisfaction from being busy and productive. Everyday is viewed as an opportunity to achieve...anything. For you, rest is not an option until you've achieved your objectives. This strength pushes you through obstacles, setbacks and weariness.

**2 Analyst/Analytical** Analysts are energized by getting to look for simplicity and clarity through a large amount of data. You look for and find patterns and correlations. Analyst are frustrated when someone asks them to follow their heart rather than logic and proven facts. Data allows you to remain objective when others are too easily swayed. You're the person who prevents companies and organizations from wasting time and energy chasing fanciful dreams.

**3 Arranger** People strong in Arranger have the ability see seemingly disparate parts and put them together in such a way as to maximize productivity and order. This usually comes with the complimentary strength of flexibility. You're always adjusting and looking for the best way forward.

**4 Believer/Belief** Actions of Believers are driven by their core values. They give your life meaning and satisfaction. These beliefs give you guidance and mean more to you than money or success. You will not compromise or sacrifice your beliefs at the altar of success. Your work or mission must mesh with your values and if it doesn't, you will simply leave. Some people call you the person of purpose. Correspondingly, you choose people you spend time with and companies you work for with respect to the alignment to these values. It makes you very trustworthy and reliable in any environment.

**5 Brainstormer/Ideation** Brainstormers are excited when asked to come up with new no-limits ideas and to connect the seemingly un-connectable. You enjoy giving others new perspectives that are often outside the box. You value creativity and originality. Brainstormers get quickly bored by standard practices or closed minded people. When all else has failed and every rock has seemingly been turned over, you're just beginning.

**6 Catalyst/Activator** Your objective is to act and to initiate action. You cannot wait until the discussions are over, wondering when we can actually start doing something. Undoubtedly, sometimes the progress could be achieved in a meeting room, but deep down in your heart you know it's the action that leads to tangible

results. You don't wait until all your questions are answered. You make a decision, take action, look at the result and you learn on the go. This strength of transforming intangible ideas into tangible actions is invaluable in every team. It's all because you believe that you will be evaluated by what you get done, not what you say or what you think.

**7 Chameleon/Adaptability** Chameleons draw excitement from constantly changing environments, surprises, unexpected detours and working 'on the fly'. In fact, you thrive in those situations. You're drawn to pioneering efforts. You are bored to tears by predictability and routine. You are flexible. You understand that change and unforeseen challenges are inevitable. You welcome them.

**8 Coach/Developer** Coaches enjoy discovering the potential in other people and cultivating their growth. You find it hard to accept when this potential is being wasted. When you interact with others your motivation is for them to experience success. You are always looking for the best way to push them further down the road toward their full potential.

**9 Commander/Command** Commanders love to take charge. You have no reservations about imposing your views on others. You're candid. You don't back away from conflict for you believe it is the first step toward resolution. You push people to take risks. To face realities head on no matter how unpleasant they may be. People will often readily hand you the reigns for they know you won't back down.

**10 Connectedness** People with Connectedness see the hidden links between all things. They believe there are few coincidences and that almost every event has a reason or purpose. Everything and everyone is connected to something larger than itself and therefore we need each other. These connections must be sought out and utilized for we all are dependent on them in some way.

**11 Consistency** Those with the strength of Consistency are keenly aware of the need to treat all people the same. They treat everyone fairly by setting up clear, consistent rules/procedures and ensure they are followed. Justice, equity, fairness are regularly in your vocabulary. You're sensitive to the fact we all have worth and strive to ensure dignity and value are experienced by all.

**12 Context** People strong in Context understand how important knowledge of the past is to the current and desired future. They enjoy thinking about and analyzing the past in order to bring clarity and solutions to the present and for the future. Looking back gives you perspective. You see it's value. Without it, the present is unmanageable. Looking back enables you to inform others on how we got "here" and how to move forward.

**13 Deliberative** Those with Deliberative as their strength take serious care in making decisions and choices. You are this way because you know how quickly things can go awry. The world is an unstable, constantly changing place. You feel the weight of that and it keeps you vigilant. You're always assessing risk and planning accordingly. You weigh all options thoroughly. You are able to help others with their decisions with your "eyes wide open" perspective.

**14 Deliverer/Responsibility** Your objective is to take responsibility. If there is a person who is emotionally bound to follow through on all promises - then it's you. Your strong ethical principles do not let you simply write missteps off on excuses and rationalizations. You can't quite live with yourself if you don't follow through and won't rest until restitution is made. Your good name depends on it. It holds true no matter how small or large is the issue you are dealing with. That's why people love to have you on their team. When assigning new responsibilities, they look at you first. They are 100% sure that whatever arrives on your desk - will get done no matter what.

**15 Empathizer/Empathy** Empathizers have the ability to sense what others are feeling. You are able to grasp their perspective at a visceral level. You don't necessarily agree with them but you get where they are coming from. When they struggle for words you are able to express what they are feeling for them. You ensure they are heard. Those with this strength are frustrated when asked to disregard feelings and emotions and follow strict logic. Because of your empathy others will readily confide in you.

**16 Focus Expert/Focus** Focus Experts need a destination or an end goal. You ask yourself regularly, "Where am I headed and what will get me there?" You ask yourself every day if what you are doing brings you closer to your destination and lack of such a destination can create real confusion in your mind. Therefore, weekly, monthly, annual goals are your biggest friends. Goals also help you to filter out what is important and what is not. You thrive in situations where you can focus on one project taking it to the finish line. You're a valuable member to a team for you keep everyone on point. You are able to discern and filter out distractions that will keep you from your goals. As such, you are efficient.

**17 Futuristic** People with the Futuristic strength are visionaries. They enthusiastically think about the "what could be." That thought is what motivates your mind to dream. The possibilities inherent with the future excite you. Those with this strength are able to shake people and organizations from the status quo. They are able, when they choose their word pictures carefully, to describe a desired future reality that inspires others with what they see.

**18 Includer** The Includer strength means you notice others who are left out. You see the value in bringing in anyone and everyone. In your mind, the circle can't be too wide. In contrast, you avoid those people and groups that are not inclusive.

Judging others on anything other than character is abhorrent to you. You want everyone to feel the benefits of the group.

**19 Individualization** Individualization is a great strength to have if you're responsible for putting people in strategic positions. Because you see the uniqueness of each person it allows you to build effective teams. Seeing what each person brings to the table enables you to place them where they will be most productive and fulfilled. This strength also enables you to communicate effectively to different individuals and groups.

**20 Input** People with the Input strength are collectors. It could be tangible trinkets or ideas and information. You collect things that are of interest to you and you are someone with many. You store these things away so that if/when the need arises you'll be ready to provide.

**21 Maximizer** Maximizers are great at recognizing things or people with great ability or above average talent and then seek to take them to the next level. They don't like to coach or develop just anything or anyone, only those that are already ahead of the game. They are compelled to move others from good to great.

**22 Optimist/Positivity** Optimists enjoy doling out praise and are quick to point out what's right and good about people and/or the situations they find themselves in. They are quick with a smile and grateful for what they have. You find it hard to be around people who constantly pick out what's wrong in everything but still they won't get you down. Your optimism won't allow it. Others are drawn to your energy and enthusiasm because it's uplifting and even contagious.

**23 Peace Keeper/Harmony** Your objective is to solve conflicts and to establish harmony. Peace Keepers are masters at finding areas of agreement. You look for common ground steering clear from conversations and areas of conflict since nothing can be gained from it. You get frustrated by how much time and energy is wasted when people impose their views on others. Therefore, you always seek for common ground with others, even if it comes at a sacrifice of your own opinion for the sake of harmony and balance. You are one of those people with a strong sense of forgiveness. Harmony is your guiding value. Your talent helps to minimize rocking of the team boat and mitigate conflicts on board as you search for win-win solutions for everyone.

**24 Philomath/Learner** Philomaths are in love with learning, exploring many interests, following new paths and learning as many things as possible. Others are amazed by your random or obscure bits of knowledge. You are energized by simply moving forward from ignorance to competence but not necessarily mastery. You get antsy when you're not learning something new. Thanks to this strength, you learn very

fast and thrive in short projects and dynamically changing environments. You're the one people turn to when research is necessary.

**25 Problem Solver/Restorative** Problem Solvers love finding bugs, uncovering flaws, diagnosing problems and finding solutions to them. You find great satisfaction in taking something that's broken or ineffective and either restoring it to its former glory or making it run the way it was intended. They find it hard to keep going when problems or issues are swept under the rug and ignored. You love saving things from the ash heap. You're who people turn to when all is seemingly lost.

**26 Relator** This strength describes your perspective on relationships. You have a small inner circle of friends and prefer it that way. It's not that you don't like meeting new people it's that you prefer depth over quantity. You are comfortable with and encourage intimacy in your friendships. You encourage authenticity in your relationships by being vulnerable first. You're often the first person people open up to with real struggles.

**27 Self-Believer/Self-Assurance** Self-Believers are independent and self-sufficient people. They have great confidence in their strengths. They know they can "make it happen." They also trust their judgment. You believe your perspective is unique and distinct. Others don't see what you see so no one can tell you what to think. They can guide or suggest but ultimately you will make your own decision. This aura of certainty means you're not easily swayed. It keeps you on course despite the pressures and obstacles in your path. In situations where most wither, you thrive.

**28 Significance** This strength manifests itself in your drive. You want to know your life has purpose and meaning. That it will count in the eternal...that it is and will be significant. People with this strength want to be recognized, not in a narcissistic way but as a natural outcome of your accomplishments. People with this strength will never settle for the mediocre. Goals and achievement are the norm for you and keep you climbing higher and higher.

**29 Storyteller/Communication** Storytellers are masters of communication. They like to host, speak in public, write and to be listened to. You feel a need to bring ideas and concepts to life in a way that inspires the listener to act. Words and metaphors are important to you. Storytellers are drained by situations that do not allow them to express themselves through words. You're able to cast a compelling vision and paint a picture of a desired future reality. You can communicate hope.

**30 Strategist/Strategic** Strategists have the ability to see the big picture. While others see clutter, you see patterns and connections. This is instinctual for you. It enables you to find the best route through the maze of information to the desired outcome. Because of your 20,000 foot view, you can see or predict potential obstacles and are able to steer clear. Strategists often make good consultants.

Ultimately, where others stand paralyzed by the enormity of a task or problem, you clearly see the right path and therefore can wade in confidently.

**31 Thinker/Intellection** Thinkers gravitate toward inward mental activity. They enjoy and even need to spend time alone thinking. You often pose questions to yourself, processing through what you know and what you need to know. This can take you down many paths. This process can often lead others to think you're disconnected from the present when in reality you're processing a point or an idea that was just presented. Thinkers find it hard to work in teams where acting before thinking is the norm. You're often the last to speak shining light into a corner of an overlooked part of the problem. You make sure others think before they leap.

**32 Time Keeper/Discipline** Nothing excites the Time Keeper more than meeting the deadline. They enjoy setting up processes, timelines, and plans to ensure that deadline is met. Because of your dislike for chaos and surprises, you love to plan. You don't necessarily need to control everything and everyone, but there must be order and predictability in the world around you. If you set up plans, you make sure you follow them through thoroughly. Your need for structure becomes very useful in a team or a project since you can bring order and discipline to maintain progress and productivity.

**33 Winner/Competition** The Winner strength means you are acutely aware of where you stand in comparison to others. Meeting your goal feels unsatisfying if someone else outdistanced yours. You like and need other competitors in your life because of this strength. You often turn mundane tasks into games or challenges because the feeling of competition is essential for you. In fact, you feel unmotivated in environments with no defined measure of success. This strength pushes others you're around to achieve beyond their capabilities.

**34 Woo** Woo means "winning, others, over." You love meeting new people. You're the initiator. Your goal is to have people think positively about you and to build rapport. You're intimidated by no one. In fact, the more "important" the person is the more likely you are to venture in. You're never at a loss for words and few subjects are off limits. People are drawn to you because of your obvious desire to get to know them.

# FACILITATING SESSION TWO

## PERSONALITY & PASSIONS

Similar to Session One where you didn't get to their Stories, you probably won't get to their Passions in this session. Don't worry. You'll be able to get completely caught up in session three. Regardless, there are a few things you'll need to do prior to this next session.

### **Before your group meets for session 2 make sure you do the following:**

- Be sure to **email them early in the week** letting them know you're praying for them.
  - Remind them to take some time each day to seek the Lord offering suggestions on ways to do so such as taking prayer walks or listening to instrumental praise music during their lunch break. The bible study they're going through in their homework will help.
  - In that email remind them to hand out the Passions questions to their spouse/friends found on **p. 27**.(p.25 in college edition)

And, remind them to send you their Personality results/numbers at least three days before you meet. The basic assessment is in the appendix **p.82** (p.82) or they can use this one <https://www.mydiscprofile.com> which is more thorough.

- If they sent you their results from the online assessment make a copy for each of your members. (This is what they'll email you.) They may bring their own but it's important you provide one just in case.
- Familiarize yourself with the Four Basic Personality Types on p.33 in this guide. All you really need to know for our purposes is that everyone is a blend of these types to a greater or lesser extent. Each person's unique blend determines what their personality is like or how it responds to or in different situations. We'll explain more in the session outline on the following pages.
- Taking one sheet of the easel pad, create the following chart for each person in your group. (see next page) You're filling in what you've learned so far about them. Their top 5 Strengths, 5 key words from their Story (if you got to that last week) and their Personality "Title" which you can get from the online assessment if they chose that option. They should've sent you prior to this coming Session. In the case of the example on the next page, Rebecca's online assessment gave her the "**Advisor**" title.
- Review and refresh your memory of the content they've just read through

and completed in their workbook.

- Be sure to pray for yourself and the group. That you would facilitate well and the Lord would help you help them interpret what they're learning. Also pray they would seek, listen and surrender to the Lord.

Rebecca		
<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Story:</u>	<u>Personality:</u>
1. Input	1.	1. Advisor
2. Ideation	2.	2.
3. Harmony	3.	3.
4. Discipline	4.	4.
5. Developer	5.	5.
<u>Passions:</u>	<u>Spiritual Gifts:</u>	<u>Skills:</u>
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.

**The “Big Ideas” for session 2:**

- This session continues with the theme of helping your group understand they are a masterpiece with a purpose. We want them to see that their Personality and their Passions were given to them by God with divine purposes in mind.

**The Goals for session 2:**

- Understanding and valuing their personality as well as others.
- An understanding of what their passions are and how they could be leading them to the missional context God has for them for this phase of their life.

## Suggested Outline/Timeline/Questions for this session:

You probably didn't get to the Story questions in session one so you'll want to do that here at the beginning of this session. Don't rush through it as this time will help your group bond with one another and hopefully create some trust. Speaking of, let your group know that what is shared in the group time should stay in the group time. You want it to be a safe place for people to process what they're experiencing.

1. **Welcome and Pray (1 minute)**
2. **Devotional (15 minutes)** In order to help your people focus, we recommend starting each session with some time in the word. Do whatever you feel would be appropriate for your group for each session. Because the surrendered life is so important to engaging in and living out your mission we suggest doing another devotional along those lines for this session. Below is a suggested devotional.

Matthew 6: 19-34 (Sermon on the Mount)

Context: Jesus is in the middle of a long monologue regarding the foundational concepts of godly living, teaching the masses probably made up of mostly the "have nots" but also the rich and religious leaders.

- Have someone Read Matt. 6:19-34.
- **What's Jesus focusing on here?**
  - Money, Treasure, Worry.
- **What does He mean by, "store up treasures in heaven" and "if your eyes are bad your whole body will be filled with darkness"?**
  - Things that will last forever such as the souls of men and women.
  - Things that will advance His kingdom.
  - Lust and covetousness come about when we focus on the temporal.
- **Why is He talking about these things with them?**
  - They're a threat to the abundant life He wants for us. We can get distracted by them and cause to lose what we really want. They're a threat to the deep intimacy we long for with the Father and the mission He has for us. (Earthly treasures, comforts and security weren't meant to be ours in this lifetime and simply can't co-exist with the deep intimacy and purpose we long to have with the Father.)
- **What does He tell us to stay focused on or to put first? (vs.33)**
  - Faithfulness to God and seeking His kingdom first. When we surrender and put Him and His kingdom first, He promises to add everything else we need.
  - A lot of people do this in reverse. They say, let me get my career going, family established, etc, and then I'll engage. What often

happens though is, before you realize it, you get caught up in the trappings of the world. Instead we should be asking ourselves from the beginning, "What career, spousal, financial, etc decisions / choices will allow me to engage in my kingdom calling and therefore grow in greater oneness with God?"

- **Ask if there are any other thoughts or comments.**

3. **\*Story** (If you didn't get to "Stories" in session one you can do it now. The following is copied from session one.) (20 minutes)

- Be aware that someone sharing parts of their "Story" can be quite intimidating or painful. Some, depending on their personality will be much more guarded with what they share. Think about sharing a personal experience of your own that has something to do with what you're passionate about doing today. It'll help break the ice.

If somebody shares something difficult and it's sort of hanging over the time, sympathize with them and consider stopping to pray. You can also remind them of the Dan Allender quote found in that section.

"Healing, in this life, is not the resolution of our past; it is the use of our past to draw us into deep relationship with God and his purposes for our lives." - **Dan Allender**

- As a facilitator, be sure to take notes on their responses. It'll help you when you're speaking into their mission statement. You'll see things that may tie back to their Story. It'll help you affirm them in their calling.
- Say, "**Pick one of the questions from the Story section (p.17,18) (p.15,16 in college edition) and tell us why it was transformational or significant in making you who you are today.**"

4. **Personality.** (35 minutes) Hand out the packets you made for each person that includes the Four Basic Personality Types and their Personality Report.

Introduce this section by reading the following: (The four points are taken from People Keys Disc Personality System Profile Workbook.) **Similar to your Strengths, your personality may not give you clues to where God would have you focus on making disciples but it will inform your "how". Additionally, it's important to understand the different Personality types and traits for four reasons.**

- 1) **Helps you become a better communicator**

It can be difficult to understand people who are different than you. You can easily misinterpret actions or words and get frustrated. Once you understand different personality styles, you find the key to unlock better communication.

## 2) **Helps you resolve or prevent conflicts**

When you understand why someone did or said something, you will be less likely to react negatively. An awareness of another's underlying motivations can allow you to diffuse problems before they even start.

## 3) **Helps you appreciate the differences in others**

You know that all people are unique, but sometimes you get frustrated with those who don't quite fit your communication style. Learning about styles gives you the ability to appreciate the differences.

## 4) **Helps you gain credibility and positively influence others.**

By knowing how to blend or adapt with another's style, you can immediately gain credibility and influence.

These are all very important when ministering alongside and to others. *(You may make a comment here about how no one does well on mission alone. Jesus sent the disciples out two by two and later in teams for a reason. Something we all will need when we're engaged on mission in the place God has called us to. More on the importance of Teams in session 5)*

- Have your people look at the Personality Style Overview sheet found on [page 83](#) (83). Explain that each person is a blend of each of these. Read the description for the D, I, S, and C personality styles. *(If you want, feel free to read what the DISC measures. This is found on [pg. 84](#) (84) or at the end of this section.*
- Explain that their Personality Style determines how they will best function on mission. Every style is a valid way to relate, lead, solve problems, etc.
- **Important:** Now, have them look at their online Personality Report (assuming they did that one) and or the "words" from their highest ranked letter (DISC) on the worksheet [p.82](#) (82) and definitions from the Personality Style overview sheet [p.83](#) (83). Have them underline or circle key words or phrases from each of those sources. Now have them record those words/phrases on their chart on the wall under the remaining numbers for Personality.
- If you have time, for a quick and somewhat comical explanation on the four Personality styles show this video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yv\\_RMzmAlOQ#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yv_RMzmAlOQ#action=share)

or if the link is dead search “People are Predictably Different” on Youtube.

5. **Passions. (20 min.)** You probably won't get to everyone but start if you can. (Again, you will be caught up by end of next session.) Be sure to leave 5-8 minutes to go over assignments for the next session. Also, be sure to take notes on each person's passions. More times than not, our passions lead us to the missional context God has for us.

*(Note, similar to the Story section, the Passions section can be difficult for some. Many will share they don't have any. Usually it stems from not ever having any margin or encouragement in their lives to pursue any. Some will share how their lives, from their youth have been fairly utilitarian, full of mundane tasks where they were simply encouraged to just get by. In other words, you'll see more brokenness here. It's to be expected and part of discipleship. Speak to it with sympathy and encouragement letting them know God is still writing their story and has great things in mind for them.)*

Start this section by saying, **“There are things in each of our lives that stir up great emotion within us. Things that fill us with great joy or deep sorrow. Excitement or anger. For some reason, they tug at our hearts in ways we may not fully understand. Regardless, we need to pay attention to them for they could very well lead you to the next missional context God has for you.”**

- Have your group take turns sharing their Passions. To narrow it down, suggest they use **questions 1 or 5**. As a follow up, ask them about the questions they had a friend/spouse fill out. Ask if there were any surprises in those. (Again, be sure to take notes)
  - **Important:** After everyone has shared, have them look at their answers one more time and underline or circle key words or phrases. Have them record those on their chart on the wall.
6. **Assignments for next session.**  
Tell your group that the next session will cover the last two items on our journey to discover how God made them. Spiritual Gifts and Skills.
- Turn to the assignments for session three in your workbook (p.31)(p.29 in the college edition). Just read through those four things. They'll have three options for taking a Spiritual Gifts assessment (see p.32). One involves downloading an app to their phone and taking the assessment there. Another option is to do it online at a link that's given. The last option is to simply read through the Spiritual Gift descriptions that are in the workbook placing a check next to those they've witnessed regularly in themselves. (Note: We've listed all the Spiritual Gifts that are listed in the Bible. Some debate may arise as to whether some are still “active”

today. We encourage you to acknowledge there is some debate as to whether some are still active but to avoid disunity and conflict simply say, "We've included them all here simply because they're stated in the Bible."

- Pray for them as you dismiss.

## The Four Basic Personality Types



Dominant / Determined /  
Driver

**Basic Traits:** This is your "go-getter", active, task oriented personality type. Likes taking on problems. Willing to take risks. Sets goals. Self-motivated. Strong self-concept.

**Value to others:** Innovative. Driving force. Comfortable promoting change.

**Weaknesses:** Can be overly aggressive. Confrontational. Dislikes monotony. Over extends self.

**Dreads:** Being manipulated or taken advantage of.



Influencer / Inspiring /  
Impulsive

**Basic Traits:** This is your people oriented, eager, life of the party personality type. They are positive, enthusiastic, impulsive, influential and expressive with their emotions.

**Value to others:** Motivational. Creative. Good storyteller. Promotes peace. Good-humored.

**Weaknesses:** More concerned with being liked than seeing results. Wears emotions on their sleeve. Difficulty listening. Challenged with details.

**Dreads:** Being rejected by others.



Compliant / Correct /  
Cautious

**Basic Style:** This is your behind the scenes, task oriented, methodical, fact finder personality type.

**Value to others:** Brings calm and precision to the task at hand. Sets high standards. Promotes reality and perspective.

**Weaknesses:** Difficulty dealing with criticism. Can become paralyzed in their analytics. Keeps emotions to themselves.

**Dreads:** Being criticized, misunderstood.



Stable / Steady /  
Supportive

**Basic Style:** This is your friendly, thoughtful, people oriented, loyal personality.

**Value to others:** You can trust them. They are good listeners with a sympathetic demeanor. They are patient and helpful in reconciling conflict. Team player.

**Weaknesses:** Difficulty adapting to change. Avoids conflict and loyal to a fault. Difficulty determining priorities.

**Dreads:** Loss of stability, security.

## What DISC Measures



**Measures how a person solves problems and responds to challenges.**

Intensity:

The higher the D value, the more active and intense an individual will be in trying to overcome problems and obstacles. The lower the D value, the greater the tendency to gather data prior to making a decision.

When in an antagonistic environment: The high D responds aggressively and directly.

Emotion: The D factor measures the emotion of anger. Extremely high D's are quick to anger. Extremely low D's are slow to anger.



**Measures how a person attempts to influence or persuade others.**

Intensity:

The higher the I value the more verbal and persuasive the person will be in trying to influence others to their way of thinking. The lower the I value, the more the person will use data and facts.

When in an antagonistic environment: The high I responds actively and may try to negotiate an agreement or apologize quickly.

Emotion: The I factor measures the emotion of optimism. Extremely high I's are joyful and optimistic. Low I's tend to be more pessimistic.



**Measures how a person responds to the rules and regulations set by others.**

Intensity:

The higher the C value the more the person will comply to rules set by others. The lower the C value, the more an individual will challenge rules and seek independence.

When in an antagonistic environment: High C's will respond passively/aggressively and seek to justify their actions.

Emotion: The C factor measures caution. The higher the intensity of the C, the more an individual cautiously and analytically moves forward. The lower the C value, the more fearless the individual.



**Measures the pace at which a person responds to change.**

Intensity:

The higher the S value the more the person prefers to start and complete one project at a time. Also, the higher the S, the more resistant to change. The lower the S value, the faster the pace and greater is the desire for change.

When in an antagonistic environment: The high S will respond passively and seek to blend in to situations.

Emotion: The S factor measures emotional expression. The higher the S value, the more difficult it is to read an individual. The lower the S, the more expressive they are.

# FACILITATING SESSION THREE

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS & SKILLS

At the end of this Session you will be halfway through the course. As a result your group will have a much fuller picture of who God created them to be and how He designed them to live out the great commandment and the great commission. Additionally, if they've been seeking the Father on where He would have them focus, they should have greater clarity on a few possible options.

### **Before your group meets for session 3 make sure you do the following:**

- As usual, be sure to email them early in the week letting them know you're:
  - praying for them.
  - Continue to remind them to take some time each day to seek the Lord about their kingdom calling.
  - Also, feel free to encourage them from the word. Maybe send a short message about how others in the Bible felt when first called by God to do something. There's often fear or apprehension or self-doubt. See Moses (Ex.3:11... or Gideon in Judges 6 or Esther, chapter 4. The feelings they expressed are common to man so let them know they're in good company.
- In that same email you may want to attach a spreadsheet listing the first three results from their assessments. You'll get that information off the chart they've been filling out. You'll send them a completed spreadsheet after this session so they can more easily write their mission statement. There's a sample at the end of this section for what that may look like. If you're not familiar with using spreadsheets, no problem. Take a picture of their charts with your phone and attach them to the email.
- Review and refresh your memory of the content they've just read through and completed in their workbook.
- Manage your time wisely for this session as the "Assignments" section will take more time than usual. You'll be walking them through the instructions on how to write a good mission statement.

### **The "Big Ideas" for session 3:**

- This session continues with the theme of helping your group understand they are a masterpiece with a purpose, that God sees great value in them just because they are His but also because of what they can do for His kingdom.

We want them to see that their Spiritual Gifts and their Skills were given to them by their Father with divine purposes in mind.

### **The Goals for session 3:**

- Understanding and valuing how their Spiritual Gifts are theirs to be used for others.
- An understanding that God will be calling them to use at least some of their Skills to advance His kingdom and add citizens to it.
- Understand some of the key elements to a well-defined Mission Statement.

## Suggested Outline/Timeline/Questions for this session:

1. **Welcome and Pray (1 minute)** Let them know you're excited about this session because you're going to find out a lot about one another and how God has been working throughout our lives.
2. **Devotional (15 minutes)** Again, in order to help your people focus, we recommend starting each session with some time in the word. Do whatever you feel would be appropriate for your group for each session. The last couple of devotionals addressed the surrendered life. You may want to switch up the topic this time or at least focus more on the benefits of surrendering our lives to Him. Below is a suggested devotional dealing with God's desire to be in union with you.
  - Have one person read Isaiah 55:1-3 and then another person John 7:37-39.
  - Ask: **What do you observe about these two passages? What do they tell us about God?**
    - We're being given an invitation. We're being told where life is found. We're being told what will satisfy our thirsty, hungry souls.
    - This has always been God's invitation to us and Jesus is reminding us again of it here.
  - Big Idea: All of Christian thought and practice should moor itself to the reality of God's great desire to be in union with us. To dwell with us. Always has been and always will. Whether we realize it or not, it's our great desire too. Nothing else will completely satisfy.

The world, the flesh and the enemy can blind us to this desire or offer

substitutes that in the end can only leave us dissatisfied. (Someone once said that “Hungry souls will eventually eat. The only question is will they eat fast food (idols of comfort/security) or will it be from the banquet the Father offers?”)

- The apostle Paul understood this. Have someone read Philippians 3:7-11. Paul understood where life was found. It was in knowing Jesus. It was being in “fellowship” (NIV 1984) with Him even if it meant suffering came with it. It was worth it. (Also see John 14:21 where Jesus promises to reveal Himself to those who follow.)
- Being on mission will cost us something. Reputation, Security, Finances, Suffering. Taking up your cross and following Him, comes with a cost but it also comes with the matchless fellowship and love of our savior that can never be taken away.

3. **Passions.** (If you didn't do this in session two you can do it now. The following is copied from session two. If you've already completed skip down to number 4.)  
(20 minutes)

Be sure to take notes on each person's passions. More times than not, our passions lead us to the missional context God has for us. *(Note, similar to the Story section, the Passions section can be difficult for some. Many will share they don't have any. Usually it stems from not ever having any margin or encouragement in their lives to pursue any. Some will share how their lives, from their youth have been fairly utilitarian, full of mundane tasks where they were simply encouraged to just get by. In other words, you'll see more brokenness here. It's to be expected and part of discipleship. Speak to it with sympathy and encouragement letting them know God is still writing their story and has great things in mind for them.)*

Start this section by saying, **“There are things in each of our lives that stir up great emotion within us. Things that fill us with great joy or deep sorrow. Excitement or anger. For some reason, they tug at our hearts in ways we may not fully understand. Regardless, we need to pay attention to them for they could very well lead you to the next missional context God has for you.”**

- Have your group take turns sharing their Passions. To narrow it down, suggest they use question 1 or 5. As a follow up, ask them about the questions they had a friend/spouse fill out. Ask if there were any surprises in those. *(Again, be sure to take notes)*
- **Important:** After everyone has shared, have them look at their answers one more time and underline or circle key words or phrases. Have them record those on their chart on the wall.

4. **Spiritual Gifts. (15 minutes)** Start this section by saying, **“Fortunately, when it comes to fulfilling God’s purposes for our lives, He hasn’t left us to our own devices. He has given us, through the power of His Spirit, some gifts to help us with our mission. Hence the term, Spiritual Gifts. Romans 12, 1Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 list these gifts for us. These are gifts given to us to be used for others.”**
  - This time, instead of having each person share their gifts out loud, have them start by recording their Gifts on their chart.
  - Ask if anyone **“was surprised at what gifts they possessed? Were any difficult to understand?”** *(Some people may object to some of the gifts we listed saying they believe those gifts have ceased. Again, we listed them simply because they’re listed in the Bible. It’s not something we choose to express an opinion on and we recommend you don’t either as you’re sure to offend someone on one side or the other over a subject that is not a conviction level, need to part company over, issue. )*
  
5. **Skills. (15 minutes)** Start this section by saying, **“Each of us have skills that we’ve either come by naturally or have been intentionally developed over a lifetime. Similar to our passions, we need to take stock of them for they could be clues to where and how God would have you engage on mission.”**
  - Have your group take turns sharing their Skills. Suggest they share something that is maybe a hidden talent that would surprise the group.
  - **Important:** After everyone has shared, have them look at their answers and record those on their chart on the wall.
  
6. **Review their Charts. (10 minutes)** Everyone should now have a completed Chart on the wall. Start this section by saying, **“At the very beginning of this course we talked about how each of us are a Masterpiece with a purpose. What you see on the charts in front of you is a summary of a one of a kind masterpiece God has created and is still creating. (Philip.1:6) I hope when you look on this that you’re encouraged. That you see great worth in what God has done and great value in what you bring to the table for the advancement of His kingdom.”**
  - This can be a little tricky but try and take a minute for each person and **affirm them in some of the things you see there.** For instance, point out any connections or similarities you see between their Strengths, Spiritual Gifts and Personality. Maybe point out how some things in their Story may have led to some of their Passions. Tell them how you can see God using such and such gift, trait, strength, etc to possibly make disciples in some of the areas they listed as their passions or in areas relevant to the story He has written for their lives. Show them how these things could

work together.

7. **Assignments for next session.** (Turning a corner in the course. A Mission.) (15 minutes) Start this section by saying, “**Everything we’ve done and learned up to this point has been done with two purposes in mind. One, we wanted you to see the importance of living the surrendered life. How picking up our cross and following Him is the first step in experiencing the deep intimacy with the Lord we long for. Only then can we engage in the purposes God has for us. Speaking of, the second thing was to help you begin to discern where and how God would have you live out the great commandment and the great commission at this phase of your life. We did that by taking various assessments and by going through the Seeking God’s will Bible Study. What we’ve learned about ourselves has given us insight for where and how God is leading us to engage. We’ve focused on those two things because they’re foundational to being sent well. There are three other things you’ll need but we’ll talk about those next time.**

**We’re now turning a corner in this course. Session 4 will help you take what you’ve discovered about yourself through all these assessments and what you’ve heard God saying to you in the “Seeking God’s Will” Bible study and create a first draft mission statement.**

### **Why a mission statement?:**

**Mission Statements are helpful. They bring clarity to what God has called us to and just as important, what we’re not. There are so many things that tug at our hearts and rightly so. There are so many things in this world that break God’s heart and since we’re made in His image, it should break ours as well. However, you can only be effective if you focus on what He’s called you to do. Continually jumping from one ministry context to the next won’t allow you to gain the necessary expertise for that context, nor will it give you the consistency you’ll need to build relationships and make disciples for Jesus. And frankly, it’ll wear you out. He knows this. That’s why He calls certain people with certain skills, strengths, traits and stories to do certain things. So the question is, “Where has he called you to focus your time talent and treasure for this phase of your life?”**

**Let’s all turn to Chapter 4 in your workbook. In order to write a good mission statement it’s important that you read the introduction to the Session and do all the homework prior to writing your first draft. It’ll give you some necessary parameters and insight. Now, let’s turn to **p. 44** (p.42 college edition) in our workbooks because I want to point out some of the tips for writing a good one.”... (Read through those tips with them.)**

Make sure you ask if there are any questions. And, **very important, make sure they send you their first draft two days before you meet again.** This will give

you time to think through your feedback and ensure they show up with something on paper.

Pray for them and dismiss.

Sampling of "I am Sent" Profiles					
<b>Participants</b>	Grace	Daniel	Mary	Jack	Martha
<b>High5Test</b>	Learner	Connectedness	Optimist	Strategist	Coach
	Input	Ideation	Catalyst	Brainstormer	Believer
	Connectedness	Analytical	Believer	Philomath	Chameleon
	Context	Intellection	Coach	Deliverer	Strategist
<b>Story</b>					
	Alcoholic home	Anchored in God's	Family oriented	Stability	Redemptive relationships
	Scapegoat	truth& love	Divorce	Adaptable	True love in Christ
	Denial	Learning to empathize w/ others story	Ownership	Perseverance	Surrender
	Finding God	Exprncg redemption in relationships	Forgiven	Redemption	
	Recovery		Christ-centered		
<b>Passions</b>					
	Truth	Fighting injustice	Positivity	Speaking	Forgotten people
	Family	learning new ideas	Helping	Planning	loved ones
	Education	sharing new ideas	Serving	Music	meaningful converstns
	Persecuted Church	mentoring		Learning	Forgiveness
	Spiritual Growth	Long-run stories			
		Long term commtmt			
<b>Personality</b>					
	"Governor"	"Designer"	"Advisor"	"Precisionist"	"Persuader"
	Enthusiastic	Analytical/Methodic	Optimistic	Practical	freedom from rules
	Relational	Flexible	People oriented	Thinking things through	enthusiastic & talkative
	Lead or Follow	Self-Assured	Acceptance	Loyalty	leadership roles
	Communication	Problem solver	Compassionate	Stability	flattery, popularity
<b>Spiritual Gifts</b>					
	Exhortation	Faith	Giving	Knowledge	Discernment
	Knowledge	Knowledge	Service/Helper	Teaching	Apostleship
	Pastoring	Discernment	Faith	Hospitality	Mercy
	Giving	Giving	Mercy	Wisdom	Giving
		Serving	Exhortation	Giving	Wisdom
		Apostleship			
<b>Skills</b>					
	Communication	Problem solving	Helper	Teaching	Mentoring
	Cooking	Analyzing	Giving	Planning	Strategizing
	Physically strong and coordinated	Planning	Loving on others	Music	Leading
	Writing	Stewarding	Coaching	Organizing	
	Creativity/Arts			Speaking	
<b>Mission</b>					
	Using my gifts of communication and exhortation my mission is	My mission is to mentor men toward being anchored in the Gospel, committed to	My mission is to love well youth who are struggling with Down Syndrome. By	My mission is to teach and coach disadvantaged, minority youth, instilling	My mission is to mentor and lead my co-workers using discernment and

# FACILITATING SESSION FOUR

## MY MISSION

This session will be one of the most rewarding and challenging for you. It's rewarding because it's where you begin to see everything coming together for your people. You'll see how the Lord has been leading them to engage on mission. However, it can be challenging because there will be people who will have struggled getting something down on paper. The reasons for that will be numerous. Some will have so many ideas and passions that choosing just one place to focus will be hard for them. Others will come with very vague mission statements for fear that they might be held accountable to actually carrying it out. Others will simply suffer from paralysis through analysis and will want you to decide for them. You will have to "push" a little with all these folks all the while discerning just how hard and how far for each. We'll explain more about what that may look like in the session notes below.

### **Before your group meets for session 4 make sure you do the following:**

- As usual, be sure to email them early in the week letting them know you're praying for them.
  - Continue to remind them to take some time each day to seek the Lord about their unique kingdom calling.
  - Encourage them to write the first draft of their mission statement early in the week and send to you at least two days before you meet.
  - Additionally, encourage them from the word. Remind them that God has specific "good works" He prepared specifically for them long ago. (Eph. 2:10) Good works that will give them greater intimacy with the Father and the transcendent meaning they long for their lives to have. Good works that will advance His kingdom and set captives free.
  - Finally, if you've been filling out a spreadsheet for them that shows all their Strengths, Story, etc....send that to them as well. (Or again, send them a picture of their completed chart.) It's part of their assignment to review all their assessments but it'll help them when they begin to write their statement.
- Review and refresh your memory of the content in Session 4.
- **Important:** Re-familiarize yourself with the section in the Introduction sub-titled "Sending Well." People who are "sent well", who walk intimately with the Father and make a kingdom impact have **five things** in common. Know

what those five things are. At the end of the session you will re-introduce the rest of those as you talk about their next assignment which has to do with Planning. Their planning will be directly related to those five things.

- **Important:** Make sure you bring one new sheet of easel paper for every person in your group to this session. Put their name at the top of it. Half way down the paper draw a horizontal line. (see sample at end of section) They will write their first draft of their mission statement above that line. (They will write their second draft the following week below it.) Also bring their “profile” chart that has all their Strengths, Story, Passions, etc written on it. Be sure to arrive early enough to tape up that profile chart next to the new sheet you just made for them.
- Also, be sure to bring your markers and masking tape.
- Familiarize yourself with the sample strategic plan found at the end of this session’s outline. Your group has one at the back of their workbook in the Appendix on p.81 (81). You will refer to it when you go through their assignments for next session. (If you’re able to continue on in a coaching role, you will help them get out of the gate by helping them come up with a simple strategic plan and continue to develop it over time.)

#### **The “Big Ideas” for session 4:**

- No one ever feels ready or up to the task/mission God gives them. If they do they’re probably shooting too low or playing it too safe. Without faith it is impossible to please God. See Moses, Esther, Gideon, etc. (Heb. 11:6)
- If we hope to live the lives God intended and we desire, we’re going to need the five things that will set us up for success. For this session we’ll focus on number two, a God-given missional focus and introduce number 4.
  1. A Surrendered and abiding heart
  - 2. A God-given missional focus**
  3. A Team of others to be on mission with.
  - 4. A Plan to accomplish their mission.**
  5. Equipping and Guidance along the way.

#### **The Goals for session 4:**

- Completing a first draft of their mission statement that includes words or phrases that are true to who God created them to be / function and has a target audience they can focus on. (Having a target audience is vastly important. You have to labor somewhere. If you don’t have one how can you be effective? How will you know if you’re being faithful? If you don’t have a target audience it’s likely you won’t see a need for ongoing training, discipleship or the use of your spiritual gifts, skills, strengths, etc in any area. At best, you’re a mission-less soldier.)

- A basic introduction to the five things they'll need in order to successfully engage in their mission. (Their homework for session five will focus more on these.)

## Suggested Outline/Timeline/Questions for this session:

1. **Welcome and Pray (1 minute)** Let them know you're excited about this session because you're going to find out a lot about one another and how God has been working throughout our lives.
2. **Devotional (15 minutes)** Because many people have doubts or insecurities about God being able to use them we recommend a devotional about how God will be with them or about God's heart for the world. You could use something from Moses (Ex. 4, see below) or Gideon's calling (Judges 6) regarding the former or the three parables of Luke 15 about the latter.

Based on what you've discussed or where you believe your group is, feel free to use one of the following devotionals or one of your own instead.

- Moses: The calling of Moses takes place in Exodus 3 & 4. As most are familiar with story, feel free to focus on Chapter 4 where Moses resists God (starts in 3:11).
  - Have someone read Ex. 4:1-17
  - Ask, **“What do we know about Moses past? What do we know about it that qualified him or prepared him for approaching Pharaoh and leading millions of people through the desert?”**
    - Answers: God wrote his story in such a way that allowed him to grow up in pharaoh's house, knowing the people he'd negotiate with all the while learning the ways of the Egyptians. We know he was brave and a defender of his people. We know that he was a shepherd and used to protecting and providing for his sheep in the desert.
  - Ask, **“Regardless, did Moses have doubts and fears? What were they? What seemed to assuage his fears?”**
    - Answers: Fear of speaking. Low self-esteem. Lacked courage. But, God would be with him, guide him and provide everything and everyone he needed to complete the task He called him to. He just had to obey and walk by faith. (Ex. 33:15)
  - Ask, **Why does God call us to do things we're ill-equipped or not prepared for?**  
Big idea: No one ever feels ready or adequately equipped to take on

the missional purposes God has for their life. The reason is He wants us to grow in our dependence on Him. He wants us to discover His trustworthiness, love and power. It's all part of our sanctification; of becoming one with Him, the thing we were made for and deep down, desire most.

Or use this devotional:

- The Three Parables of Luke 15: In Luke 15 Jesus is eating with tax gatherers and sinners and it disgusts the religious leaders of the day. Their self-righteousness blinded them to the heart God has for everyone. Jesus wanted to teach them and us an important lesson about who God is and His love and pursuit of the lost. In order to make sure we don't miss it He does something He does nowhere else in scripture. He tells three parables back to back to back.
  - Have someone read Luke 15.
  - Ask, **What are the common themes running through each parable?**
    - Something is lost & found, Pursuit, Celebration.
  - Ask **What does Jesus want people to know about how God feels about the lost?**
    - Answers: That God passionately pursues the lost. That He'll do what it takes until He finds them. When He finds them He rejoices and throws a big party in heaven stretching from one end to the other.
  - Ask, **"If we follow a God like this and we're obedient to join with Him in the mission He has for us, what can we expect to see God do?"**
    - Answers: We can expect to bear fruit. We can expect to see God at work using us as He builds His kingdom. (Does it mean we'll see someone place their faith in Him? Maybe but not necessarily. We can expect to bear fruit though. To see His kingdom advance and at the very least see people taking steps closer to saving faith. )

### 3. **Mission Statements** (70 min. Leave 5 minutes to explain Assignments)

Introduce this section by saying how you're excited to see what God has been speaking to you about these last three to four weeks.

- Have everyone take a marker and write their first draft of their mission statement on the sheet of paper that has their name on it. Instruct them to write above the horizontal line. (Before everyone is done, read each mission statement silently to yourself noting which seem to have most of the elements you're looking for from p. 44. (p.42 college ed.) You should have a good idea already if they sent it to you ahead of time.

- When everyone is finished writing take a quick look at the clock and estimate how many minutes you'll be able to spend on each person's mission statement. We recommend starting with the best ones first as they'll require the least amount of time and they'll set the bar for the rest.
- Have everyone turn to p. 44 as it will serve as your guide for helping each other write a good mission statement. Let them know that you're going to "push" them a little bit because you want to set them up for success in the mission God has given them. You'll want it to have all the elements listed on p. 44 so that it:
  - Reflects who God created them to be and to operate. (1)
  - Gives them enough clarity and direction to move forward. (2&3)
  - Describes the outcome or end goal. (4)
- When you start critiquing someone's mission statement their two documents should be side by side and look something like this:

Sarah		
<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Story</u>	<u>Passions</u>
1. Input	1. Sleep disorder	1. Truth
2. Context	2. Gospel home	2. Theology
3. Belief	3. Fear of "man"	3. Military families
4. Responsibility	4. His promises	4. Unreached ppl.
5. Connectedness	5. Military	5. Single moms
<u>Personality</u>	<u>Spiritual Gifts</u>	<u>Skills</u>
1. "Precisionist"	1. Teaching	1. Teaching
2. Loyal	2. Knowledge	2. Analyzing
3. Sensitive	3. Prophecy	3. Organizing
4. Conscientious	4. Discernment	4. Listening
5.	5. Apostleship	5. Problem solving

**Sarah**

My mission is to minister to military moms pointing them to Jesus in word and deed.

---

- Start by reviewing that person's profile and then have them read their mission statement.
- Begin by stating what's positive about each person's statement. In the example above start with mentioning how she used the words "My mission" and how she has a target audience that fits with two of her passions, "Military Mom's". **Circle those things.**

- Have the group look at the list of tips (p.44) and ask them what they think it needs. (This will help everyone engage and think critically about their own.)
  - In this example it needs to reflect more of the “How” as it relates to how God made Sarah. In other words, instead of using the word “minister” you may use words from her Spiritual Gifts like “teach” or “help discern truth”. Write those suggestions staying above the horizontal line.
  - It could also use a “so that” statement that talks about the goal or end result. Again borrow from their profile. In this instance it may include something from her Story like “so that she can establish a gospel centered home.” (note: In the next session your people will put down some preliminary plans for how they might get started on their mission.)
  - Oh, and let them know brevity is best in a mission statement. 4-5 sentences at most. You should be able to memorize it and should be just long enough to peak someone’s interest. If they want to ask more as a result, great. You can fill in the blanks.
  - Finally, let the person you’re critiquing know that these are just suggestions meant to help them personalize it in such a way that values how God made them therefore making them more passionate about what He has called them to do. Have them give it some more thought and prayer and come back with a second draft for next week. **Ultimately, what’s important is that they “own” what they’ve come up with.**

What to do when you encounter resistance to naming a specific target audience:

- At the beginning of this session we mentioned that you may have to “push” a bit or “lean in” with someone who comes with a very vague mission statement. They’ll come with a mission statement that says something like, **“My mission is to glorify God and make disciples wherever He leads me.”** And, you may sense they’re digging in their heels with it. Believing the best, this person’s probably thinking they don’t want to say “no” to ministering to someone just because it doesn’t fit with their mission statement. We don’t want that either. There will be times when God does drop those opportunities in our laps and we need to be ready to give an account for the hope we have within us wherever we go and at anytime. (1Ptr. 3:15) The reality is we’re always contending for the gospel (Jude 1:3) on multiple fronts. All

we're saying is that to be effective in anything, in this case making disciples among the lost, requires focus, consistency and attaining a level of expertise. God's kingdom isn't immune to those principles. It advances when those principles are practiced. For example, people who reach inner city kids for Christ do so because He called them there and because they've labored there consistently and know how to do that well. People who make disciples among their co-workers do so because God called them there and they focus their prayers and leverage their influence and resources there. All we're trying to do is bring greater intentionality to the "good works" God prepared in advance specifically for them. (Eph. 2:10) God doesn't want us to be haphazard with His plan. You may have to explain that to those who resist focusing on a specific people group. So don't be afraid to lean in with them. Remember what's at stake. Your motivation for facilitating this course is to help them experience greater intimacy with the Lord and to live a life of transcendent purpose and meaning; two things they want deep down. They can't get there, to the extent they desire unless they're locking arms with the Lord in the kingdom purposes He designed for them.

- If they continue to resist it's probably due to fear or a lie they're believing. Maybe they just feel overwhelmed with life as it is and they see this as having to take on **yet another thing**. (Don't be surprised by tears in this session.) In that case, help them see that they don't have to add another thing but can simply be more intentional in one of the places where they already live, work or play. They just need to figure out how to minister intentionally and effectively in one of those contexts/places. Regardless, in those cases you'll want to talk about it after the session or set up a time to meet the following week.
- If you have other questions about how to handle specific situations check out the Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q) section in the Facilitator's forum or contact us at [Coaching@SentOnesNetwork.org](mailto:Coaching@SentOnesNetwork.org)

4. **Assignments for next session. (5 minutes.)** When you walk through the homework you should take a moment to talk about the five things people need in order to be sent well. Say, **"In the Introduction to this course you read that there are five things you'll need in order to be sent well. We define being sent well as someone who is growing in intimacy with the Father and is making a kingdom impact. The first and most foundational one is a Surrendered and abiding heart. The second thing is missional focus which we're talking about now. The other three things will be discussed and worked upon in the next session's assignment."** You can start by asking this question,

**“If God were to ask you to do something difficult in a difficult place what do you think you’d need in order to accomplish it?” The reality is He has done just that. He’s called us to make disciples in a fallen world.** Listen to their answers. They’ll probably hit on the next three things you’re going to talk about.

Have them turn to session five and briefly look at the remaining three things they’ll need...**Team, Coaching/Training and a Plan p.47-49** (45-48). Say, **“these remaining things are incredibly important if you hope to engage successfully on mission. This next session will help you begin to think through each of these crucial steps.”** For the next session they’ll answer the questions related to those three things giving as much detail as possible. The blank strategic plan diagram is also there so they can have it all on one sheet of paper along with deadlines and goals for each step. *(There’s a sample of a completed diagram they can refer to in the Appendix at the back of their workbook. P.81 (81))*

- o **Set up appointments with those who struggled with their first draft.**

Make sure you ask if there are any questions and then pray for them and dismiss.

*(Be sure to roll up both sheets of easel paper for each person and keep for next time. You’ll use them to finalize their mission statement in session Five.)*

\*This is included in the workbook in the appendix

## Sample Strategic Plan

First, write your updated mission here:

My mission is to use my gifts of discernment and teaching and skills in problem solving in order to help military mom's find hope in Jesus and establish gospel-centered homes.

VISION: (you'll write in your vision after the next session)

### 3. My Training/Coaching

- Be proactive in getting to know some of the wives at the base.
- Check out the CruMilitary.org site and their upcoming conferences in November.
- Find an elder military Christian mom to mentor me. Ask Mary if she knows someone. Next week.
- Get some training at church for how to share my "story" of my life in Christ in a clear and relevant way. Take evangelism class in Oct.

### 1. My Heart

- Start my Chronological read through the Bible plan next week.
- Fast Tuesdays for lunch asking the Lord to lead me and humble me as I venture out. Start this Tuesday.
- Ask Mary to hold me accountable to my reading plan and to pray with me and for me.

### 4 My Fund Raising

- Read The God Ask by Shadrach this month.
- Look at family budget and to see what we could sacrifice.
- Write a proposal and ensuing budget to fit the vision and tactics I have for this. Nov. and Dec.
- See if there are any foundations that may have an interest in supporting what I'm doing. January

### 2 My Team

- Contact Navigators and Cru Military ministry to see if they have an active ministry at the base. End of next week.
- Ask my Thursday morning bible study group to pray for me and encourage me regularly regarding this ministry and the women I'll be reaching. This Thursday!
- Talk with Mark and Jane about this asking if they might like to join with me. By end of this month. Sept.

### Current Realities:

- Mike's work schedule and kids after school activities will require I do most of this at night.
- Family finances are good and there's some margin for giving toward this.
- Mom's surgery could affect how much time I can spend on this next month.
- Not sure that the Chaplain at the base is a follower of Jesus.

# FACILITATING SESSION FIVE

## MY MISSION CONT. & METHODS

Session Five has two main objectives. You'll want to finalize everyone's mission statement and you'll want them to have a basic strategy for next steps. That's the ideal. However, for some in your group this may not be possible. If they struggled to get a mission statement down last session and you weren't able to meet with them between then and now, it would've been next to impossible for them to do any significant planning or thinking through methods. That's ok. Our timetable is not always the same as the Lord's. Discipleship gets messy at times. We need to be patient, prayerful and shepherd these folks the best we can in the power of the Spirit with where they are.

### **Before your group meets for session 5, be sure you do the following:**

- Try to set up appointments this week with anyone who had a difficult time getting their first draft down on paper. Work through any issues or sticking points.
- As usual, be sure to email them early in the week letting them know you're praying for them.
- Continue to remind them to take some time each day to seek the Lord about their kingdom calling. This needs to become habit forming as He will continue to reveal new details and ideas as they seek Him. Remind them that this deeper fellowship is what this is all about.
- Encourage them to start their lesson early in the week as they'll need time to think, pray and plan their next steps.
- Again, encourage them from the word. Remind them that God has promised to go with them and will guide them just as He did with others. In fact, when Jesus gave us the great commission He said He would be with us always. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- Review and refresh your memory of the content in Session 5.
- Re-familiarize yourself with the elements you're looking for in a good mission statement. [p.44](#) (p.42 college ed)
- **Important:** Make sure you bring their profile sheets and their first draft of their mission statement sheets. Post them just as you did last time side by side. Be sure to arrive early enough to do this.

- Also, be sure to bring your markers and masking tape.

### The “Big Ideas” for session 5:

- God’s kingdom advances through the intentional and faithful efforts of His people laboring alongside Him and one another in the mission fields He has called them to.
- If we hope to live the lives God intended and we desire, we’re going to need the five things that will set us up for success. For this session we’ll finish up number 2, missional focus, as well as the last three (Team, Plan & Equipping/Guidance).
  1. A Surrendered and abiding heart
  - 2. A God-given missional focus**
  3. A Team of others to be on mission with.
  4. A Plan to accomplish their mission.
  5. Equipping and Guidance/Coaching along the way.

### The Goals for session 5:

- Finalizing their mission statement that includes words or phrases that are true to who God created them to be or function and has a target audience they can focus on. (Having a target audience is vastly important. If they don’t have one how can they know if they’re being effective? How can they make disciples? If they don’t have a target audience how will you know how to coach, train or disciple them? If they don’t have one they won’t see their need for any equipping or coaching. In other words, they don’t know what they’ll need until they have their mission.)
- A basic strategic plan for their mission that clearly identifies their next steps for Team, Equipping and a surrendered life with goals and some deadlines for each. (They will need this to move forward and you will need a copy in order to coach them if so led.)

## Suggested Outline/Timeline/Questions for this session:

1. **Welcome and Pray (3 minutes)** Review where you’ve been and what you’ve covered in this course. Let them know you’re excited about what they discovered and talked about last session regarding their mission statements.
2. **Devotional (10 minutes)** This is the point in the course where many of your people will have started to “count the cost.” They’re realizing, “oh, this is serious. We’re talking about next steps and taking action.” Needless to say, some will come in with apprehensions. As a shepherd, this is the time to use the staff and the rod where appropriate. The staff for gathering and protecting and the rod to tap or nudge them in the way that is best for them. As an

encouragement to you, remember this. They can't live the abundant life, a life of ever-deepening intimacy with the Father if they're not on mission doing the things God dreamed up for them. And, if they're not growing in intimacy with Him, they're vulnerable to the temporal things of the world that will never satisfy and will only steal, kill and destroy. So move forward courageously having their best in mind.

- Last week we suggested two different devotionals. Whichever one you didn't use you can use now or feel free to use something else.

3. **Mission Statements Final Draft (50 minutes)** You should have their profile sheet of paper posted next to the sheet of their first draft Mission Statement. Now, have everyone write their second draft underneath the line where they wrote their first draft. Again, start with those in the group who seem to be furthest along with their mission statement. Have that person read their statement and then ask the questions below? Make improvements / adjustments as needed.

- **Does it start with “My mission is... or “God has called me to....”?**
- **Does it include key words or phrases that describe who God created them to be or how God made them to lead or minister?**
- **Does it have a clear target audience? A place where they can minister regularly?**
- **Does it have an “outcome” statement or describe an end result? In other words, does it have a “so that... or “in order to... statement?**
- **Finally, ask “Are you passionate about it?” Do you feel like this is what God is calling you to do at this phase of your life?”**

After each person is finished be sure to affirm and encourage them. Let them know that you believe this is what God is calling them to do at this phase of their life.

4. **A Team, A Plan & Ongoing Equipping/Guidance (20 minutes)** Remind your people that there are five things people need in order to be sent well. Say, **“Again the definition for being “sent well” is growing in intimacy with the Lord and making a kingdom impact. So far, we’ve talked about two of the things you’ll need on mission. The first being a Surrendered and Abiding Heart and the second being a God-given calling or missional focus. Ask, Does anyone remember what the final three necessary elements are:**

- **A Team**

- **A Plan &**
- **Training/Coaching**

**We need all five of these things if we hope to be successful in the mission God has given us.”** (Success is faithfully and effectively laboring in the context He’s called me to.”)

Have your group turn to **p. 48** (p. 46 college ed.) and have someone read the paragraph on “Team.” Then ask, “**Has anyone found a group inside or outside the church that share their missional calling?**” Let people answer and allow for others in the group to make suggestions. (You don’t have to ask everyone. For those who seem lost, be sure to make suggestions on where they can find out that information such as asking the church staff or doing a search online. They can also find virtual teams to start or join at [SentOnesNetwork.org/virtual-teams](http://SentOnesNetwork.org/virtual-teams) or at <https://www.facebook.com/SentOnesNetwork/groups/>)

- Re-emphasize how important it is that they don’t try and “go it alone.” They’ll need a team of others with the same or similar mission.
- Do the same exercise for “Training and Coaching.” Have someone read that paragraph on **p.49** (p.47 college ed.). Then ask, “**Did anyone come up with some questions they need to ask or discover some things they’ll need training and coaching in?**” **Evangelism Training? Fund Raising? Do you know where to find a coach? Where you can ask questions?**” Let people answer and share ideas with one another. Again, they can find resources at <https://sentonesnetwork.org/Help-for-your-mission>
- Finally, ask “**Did anyone fill out the Planning diagram on **p. 50?**” (p.48 college ed.)” If you haven’t already, ask, “**What did you come up with for Team specifically? Questions? Goals? Dates?**” Talk about how details, giving yourself deadlines and goals are incredibly important to moving forward. Those things are your friends and give you a better chance at succeeding.**
- (If you’re able) Tell them to send you a copy or photo of their Plan so you can follow up with them in a few weeks to see how they’re doing.

5. **Assignments for next session. (5 minutes.)** Writing your vision. Remind them that the next time you meet will be your last official time together but it doesn’t mean that’s the end. Let them know you plan on staying in touch, helping them in any way you can.

Say, “**The last thing we’ll have you do in this course is write your vision.**” (Have everyone turn to **p. 53** (p.51 college ed.) in their workbook.) **Let’s read the Importance of Vision together.** (Have someone read it.) Have them answer the questions on the next two pages for next week and put together a vision for what their desired future reality will look like. Tell them they will share it with the group during the Commissioning time.

- Pray and dismiss.
- Set up any necessary appointments to finalize mission statements or work through strategic planning or encourage them to finalize on their own.
- Make sure you record all the final mission statements and put them in the spreadsheet that you've been keeping for the group (assuming you did this). Send them their final profile sheet as an email.

# FACILITATING SESSION SIX

## VISION & COMMISSION

Session Six brings this course to a close. However, it's not the end. Our hope is that you will continue to "check-in" with your people from time to time. They'll need encouragement and coaching from you at least until they find a Team of their own. Encourage them to stay in touch with one another as well. You can facilitate that by creating a group on Facebook or sending out a monthly email. Ask questions about how it's going. Ask if there are any roadblocks they're up against or things you all can be praying for. This will help keep their mission on the forefront of their minds and create some basic accountability.

### **Before your group meets for session 6 make sure you do the following:**

- If you're doing this at or through a church you may want to consider having a pastor or other church leader help with the commissioning (see below). Encourage them to share something from the word and then pray for them during the time. This serves two purposes.
  - One, it helps solidify that what your people are setting out to do is significant. It's recognized by the Church and that they will be there for them.
  - Also, it's encouraging to church leaders to hear the mission and vision statements your group has come up with. This will encourage these leaders to be spokespersons and promoters of your course.
- As usual, be sure to email them early in the week letting them know you're praying for them. Be sure to do that!!
- Remind them to take some time each day to seek the Lord about their Vision. Ask them, **"What would it look like for His will to be done, for His kingdom to come as a result of your mission?"**
- Again, encourage them from the word. Have them meditate on John 15. What would it look like to "abide" in Christ daily?
- Review and refresh your memory of the content in Session 6. Make sure you also read the section titled **"Some Final Words"**. Be ready to speak from experience and/or give examples of what you've seen others do well or not do well regarding the subject matter.
- Make copies of the "Feedback" sheet for each person in your group found

at the end of this session's outline. This will help you as well as encourage you as you continue to facilitate these groups. (Also found in the Facilitators Forum under "Help for your Mission" at [SentOnesNetwork.org](http://SentOnesNetwork.org).)

- Think about the Vision you have for this "sending" ministry or something else you may be engaged in. In order to get the vision sharing time going, be prepared to share that with the group.
- **Important:** Make a copy for each member of their completed profile spreadsheet that includes their Final Mission Statement.
- To help create a celebratory mood consider asking your group to bring a dessert or favorite snack appropriate to the time of day.
- Also, if you feel it would help in creating a setting of significance, consider bringing a candle/matches to be lit during the commissioning and prayer time for one another.

#### **The "Big Ideas" for session 6:**

- Your people should feel affirmed in their kingdom calling. They should recognize that they have been set apart by God to do something significant with Him and for Him.
- Your people should have a realization of the risks and sacrifices involved in carrying out their mission but that the ever-deepening fellowship they experience with the Father and with their friends will make it all worth it.

#### **The Goals for session 6:**

- Coming up with and sharing a Vision Statement that will help inspire them to faithfully live out their mission.
- A Commissioning event that conveys authority upon your group members to be sent in the power of the Spirit to advance God's kingdom in word and deed.

## Suggested Outline/Timeline/Questions for this session:

1. **Welcome and Pray (5-10 minutes)** Welcome your members to their last official session of the I am Sent course. Remind them of your desire to stay in touch and help them succeed in any way you can.

If you were able to find a pastor or church leader to do the commissioning be sure to introduce them. Consider having each member introduce themselves and tell the pastor/church leader what their mission is. (They'll share their vision later.)

Pray for the time.

2. **Devotional (10 minutes)** For this devotional we suggest you read through the section titled "Some Final Words" found on [p. 57 & 58](#) (p.57,58 college ed.). You'll notice it has two sections. The first has to do with the enemy and independence. The second is about the danger of pride and finding our identity in anything other than Christ. Both are there to warn as well as exhort.
  - Simply read through section one "A battle against the enemy and independence" and then ask for any thoughts or comments. Do the same for section two, "Remember who you are." Remind them that is about God, His kingdom and giving them the life they long for. A life of deep intimacy with the Father and the transcendent purpose they want their lives to have.
3. **Strategic Plan (Emphasizing Team) (5 minutes)** If your members didn't have much on paper for their strategic plan last time, encourage them to send them to you this week. (They can scan, email or send you a photo)
  - Take a moment here to re-emphasize the importance of a Team. Remind them that no one does well on mission alone. Tell them to make this their first priority in the weeks ahead as it is the number one reason people fail to launch or stay on mission.
4. **Feedback Sheets. (10 minutes)** Tell the group you'd like to get some feedback about the course and how you led it. Pass out the Feedback sheets and give them 10 minutes to fill it out. Encourage them to be honest. Let them know you're not perfect and that you have thick skin. Tell them "this will help others who follow them and you!" (Make sure you collect them.)
5. **Final Profile Review. (5 minutes)** Hand out their Profile spreadsheet that now includes their final mission statement. Have them review it one last time. Remind them that God has been incredibly intentional with their lives. They've been given so much. Great gifts, and abilities. Stories that include both joy and suffering. Stories and Strengths that will serve them well in the mission He now has for them. Encourage them to embrace who He made them to be and know it is all with grand, God glorifying, kingdom purposes in mind.

6. **Vision. (20 minutes)** Open this section by saying, **“While your mission informs what you’ll do, your vision communicates what the end result will be. It paints a picture of what things will look like when God’s kingdom comes and His will is done.”**
- Ask if anyone would like to share their vision for how things will look in the future when their mission is complete. You may want to start with your own. (Remind them that we’re not guaranteed we’ll see our vision fulfilled in our lifetime. We, like Moses, may at best only get to see it from a distance. The joy for us might just be in the journey. Of getting to experience God showing up in our lives, working in us and through us.) Encourage people to give encouragement or affirmation to one another during this time.
  - When everyone is finished, transition to the Commissioning.
7. **Commissioning. (20-30 minutes)** Depending on the tone you want to set for this ceremony light a candle or do something symbolic or memorable that will help people one day think back to this moment.
- Open this time by asking the pastor or church leader to share from the Word or whatever it is they felt led to say. (They will also get to pray for the entire group at the very end.)
  - Depending on how much time you have or the number in your group you can go one of two ways with this. If you have a lot of time and not too many in the group feel free to gather around each person and lay hands on them. Ask a few people to pray for them and the mission God has given them.
  - If you don't have much time and there's a big group have the group circle up and hold hands. Have each person pray for the person on their left going around the circle.
  - When everyone is prayed for have the pastor / church leader pray for everyone one last time.

To end the time, tell everyone what a privilege it has been to guide them through this time of “sending”. Remind them you’ll be with them as they go but much more important and significant is that the Lord goes with them. If you want, end with the following benediction:

**Go now with God; be not tempted to stay in the safety of known places. Move from where you are to where God points. Go now with God; be not tempted to go only in your time, when it suits, when it is sure, for now is God's time. Go now with God; choose not to go alone. Go in the faith that there is no wilderness so vast, that God is not already there to show you the way."**

**- old Byzantine Benediction**

## “I am Sent” Course Feedback

1. What did you like about the course? What are one or two things that stood out as most helpful?
2. What are one or two things that you would change? What do you wish we spent more time on? Is there anything we missed that you would suggest we include in this process?
3. Do you feel you know where and how God would have you focus, living out the great commission and great commandment?
4. Was the Bible Study in the Appendix helpful?
5. What did you think of the Introduction to the course?
6. Other thoughts / comments:

Thanks!

# CONCLUDING REMARKS FOR FACILITATORS

We hope you've found this Facilitators guide to be helpful but again, feel free to alter how you teach the course to best fit who you are. With that said, we'd also love your feedback on the course and on this guide. We're always looking for better ways and ideas to send God's people. Email us at [Coaching@SentOnesNetwork.org](mailto:Coaching@SentOnesNetwork.org)

## RESOURCING

We want to encourage you to keep up with all the people you send in some form or fashion. A short email or occasional text or phone call can go a long way in helping someone get "unstuck" or motivate them to keep going. But also know that there's a growing forum at [SentOnesNetwork.org](http://SentOnesNetwork.org) that you can refer your people to. They can ask questions there or look for resources to help them with their mission. In other words, don't feel like you're their only resource for coaching and guidance.

## AN EXHORTATION

One last thing. If the people you've just sent are now marked by the enemy and are now more prone to pride, independence and finding their self-worth in what they accomplish in ministry, you are doubly so. As a "sender" you have the ability to advance God's kingdom like no other. So be careful. Be ever aware of your flesh, the world and the enemy. Drink deeply and regularly from the only One who can and will satisfy your deepest desires. And may the Lord bless you and all that you put your hand and mind to. It's an honor to labor alongside you!

# About Us

We're a growing network of church and ministry leaders who believe our number one priority is to shepherd our members toward an ever-deepening, intimate union with the Father. We understand a significant part of that can only be experienced in the midst of living out of the great commandment and personally engaging in the great commission. It's within the living out of those commandments where risk, faith and trust are deeply learned. Therefore, we believe one of the most loving things we can do for them and for the lost is to be intentional and effective in how we send them out to fulfill the kingdom work God designed for each of them long ago. It is vital to their sanctification. It is vital to our mission in the world.

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\*If this course has proven helpful to you we would love your support. You can make a tax deductible contribution at <http://sentonesnetwork.org/Give>

Thank you in advance for your support!





...gave us the ministry of reconciliation.  
2 Cor.5:18

make disciples.

Matt 28:18-20

our fellowship is with the Father  
and with His Son Jesus Christ. 1john1:3

zealous for good wor

Titus 2:14

I am Sent

Seek first his kingdom

Matt.6:33



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