

# Christian Discipleship Guide



*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

## 16. Evangelism and Missions

Christians, even new believers, have a responsibility to take the Gospel to the Lost World. In order for us to get saved, someone had to take the time and make the sacrifice to bring the Gospel to us. We need to take the same Gospel to the Lost World around us so that others may be saved.

We will now examine the Bible verses that we can use to lead someone else to Christ. And, we will also become acquainted with missions so that we can understand what our responsibility is and what we can do to further God's purposes in this world.

It is important for us to realize that we ourselves cannot save another person's soul, nor can we by our own power draw that person to the point of salvation. It is the work of God to do this. In Lesson 8 on "The Holy Spirit," we learned that the Holy Spirit must convict a person of their sin (John 16:8-9). The Father must draw them to the point of salvation (John 6:44). And, it took the sacrifice of the Son in order to pay the price for their sins (2 Corinthians 5:21).

While the supernatural act of salvation can be done by God, and God alone, it is the Christian that God uses as His tool to bring about that salvation. We are farmers that must sow the seed (Matthew 13:3-8), that is, spread the Gospel. We are preachers that must proclaim the Word (Acts 8:4; Romans 10:13-15). And, we are ambassadors that must reconcile man to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

The Lord Jesus Christ gave us a Great Commission to take the Gospel to all the world (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). In the power of the Holy Spirit, we must be witnesses "unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). We must speak the words of eternal life to others (Acts 5:20).

A proven biblical way to present the Gospel to the unsaved is sometimes called "The Romans Road" because each step in the presentation has a biblical basis from the Book of Romans:

1. Man must realize that he is a sinner (Romans 3:10, 23).
2. Man must understand that God died for him while he was still a sinner, not after he cleaned up his life (Romans 5:8).
3. Man must come to God with genuine, godly repentance (Romans 2:4; Acts 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:10).
4. Man must believe that he is justified by the blood of Christ (Romans 5:9; Colossians 1:14). Justified means that the blood of Christ covers a person's sins and places the person in a state before God as if that person had never sinned.
5. Man must see that the payment of Christ's blood saves us from the wrath of God, which is eternity in Hell (Romans 5:9; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14).
6. Man must, above all, understand that it is his faith in the blood of Christ without additional good works that saves him (Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). If Christ had never shed His blood, nothing anyone could do would be enough to earn him eternal salvation, that is, without Christ's blood, no amount of good works could get him to heaven.
7. Man must call upon the Lord to save him (Romans 10:9-13).

Now that we know some key Bible verses that we can use to lead someone else to Christ, let's learn about missions. Missions is ... the Lord burdening my heart for a young man who got saved and got burdened for his sister. His sister got saved and got a burden for her cousin who got saved ... and the chain continues on. Missions is nothing more than one nobody telling another nobody about Somebody who can save anybody. Missions is one beggar telling another

beggar where to find the food of eternal life. Missions is an unbroken chain of burdens for our lost friends, friend reaching friend for Christ. Missions is the heartbeat of God (John 3:16). Missions is a ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Missions is evangelism (Acts 1:8). Missions is discipleship (2 Timothy 2:2). Missions is church planting – believers reproducing believers, churches reproducing churches.

The Bible gives us several reasons for missions:

1. To obey the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21).
2. To follow the example of the disciples (Acts 13:1-5).
3. To show our love for the Lord. It is our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He has done for us that motivates us to tell others about Him (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).
4. To receive rewards for faithful service. The Apostle Paul said that it was necessary for him to preach the gospel and that he would receive a reward for doing so willingly (1 Corinthians 9:16-17). There is a great joy and a crown to be received for having a part in bringing others to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

Throughout the Bible, there have been many messengers who have been committed to missions:

- Adam was the first missionary. God told him to “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...” (Genesis 1:28).
- Noah was given the same mandate after the flood (Genesis 9:1).
- In Abraham, we see God beginning to unfold His plan of redemption. Abraham received a divine call and received the promise that “in thee (Abraham) shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3). God was saying, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). God was reaching down to man with a worldwide purpose. As a result, Abraham influenced the surrounding nations (Genesis 14). And, Abraham persisted in intercession for heathen peoples, even those in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18).
- The nation of Israel itself had a three-fold purpose in God’s plan of redemption. First, Israel was the recipient of God’s revelation to the world (Hebrews 1:1-3). Second, Israel was the channel through whom the Redeemer would come (Matthew 1:1; Genesis 49:10; Romans 1:3). Third, Israel was God’s witness in the midst of the nations (Isaiah 43:10; Isaiah 44:1-8).
- The prophet Jonah was called to be God’s missionary to the wicked Ninevites in the book call by his name.
- Obadiah, Nahum, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel were prophets also called to be missionaries in the Old Testament.
- The consummation of God’s redemption and the greatest missionary to ever live was God Himself in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:17; Luke 19:10; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:14).

The Apostle Paul teaches us several things about missionaries:

- They are called by the Holy Spirit through the local church (Acts 13).
- They have a home church to go out from and report to on a regular basis, that is, they are accountable to their church leaders.
- They start local churches wherever they go.
- Their message is primary: “According to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). They depend on the Word of God to ensure their message is God’s truth.
- They watch over and care for the local churches they established.
- They commit and give their lives to the missions, sometimes even through martyrdom.

Today, every Christian should be committed to missions, whether we become missionaries ourselves or support missionaries spiritually (by our prayers) or materially (with finances and

donations of food, clothing, etc.). God calls families like ours, from churches like ours, to be missionaries to the uttermost parts of the world. Not everyone is called to go to Africa, China or some other remote and isolated land. However, every Christian can and should be involved with and committed to missions; after all, it is the heartbeat of God.

God would have us be like Abraham – a blessing to those around us, influencing them for the cause of Christ.

God wants us – our time, our talents (abilities), our treasures (money), and our availability.

We can be a missionary right where we live. We will never be a missionary to China until we can be a missionary right where we are, reaching out to the souls of men, women and children with whom we come in contact every day. We can be involved and committed to missions by supporting other Christians are on foreign fields with our prayers and finances. There will be fruit that abounds to our eternal account (Philippians 4:16-17).

Missions is a direct outreach of the local church. Paul and Barnabas were sent out from the local church, and they reported back to that local church in Antioch, showing responsibility and accountability (Acts 13:1-5; Acts 14:25-27). It is the responsibility of the church to send and support. It is the responsibility of the missionary to go, show and report.

The goal of missions is church planting – we have the example of our Master’s plan to follow:

1. Evangelism: “Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God...” (Mark 1:14). We too need to proclaim the gospel to people who do not know it, using all available appropriate means.
2. Discipleship: Jesus took 12 men “that they should be with Him (for training) and that He might send them forth to preach” (Mark 3:14).
3. Partnership: Knowing the He would not always be with them (physically), Jesus’ next step was to put His disciples to work as partners with Him. Jesus sent His disciples out two by two. They did as He did, and they all rejoiced together (Mark 6:7; 12, 30).
4. Full responsibility: The time came when the Master put the responsibility for His ministry into the hands of His disciples. He continued to work with them through the Holy Spirit, but they became responsible for the work that He had begun (Mark 16:14-20).

The sending church (the local church, such as our church) must uphold the missionary and his work in prayer and support him financially that the work may continue. The church members must pray for the laborers (Matthew 9:37-38) and for Holy Ghost power (1 Thessalonians 1:5; Ephesians 6:18-19).

Jesus told the disciples when and where they were to spread the Gospel when He said, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

A Christian children’s song says:

*Be a missionary every day.*

*Tell the world that Jesus is the way.*

*In Africa, China or wherever you may stay,*

*Be a missionary, be a missionary be a missionary every day.*

## **Questions:**

1. What tool does God use to do His work of evangelism?
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2. What three things might a Christian be compared to in his effort to evangelize the world?

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3. How far are we to take the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

4. In what ways can we be involved and committed to missions?

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**Additional Scripture Verses:**

*Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8-9; Romans 10:9, 13; John 3:16-17; Matthew 9:37-38; Matthew 28:19-20.*