

These Things We Believe Study
Mt. Zion Church Bible Study

Taken from

A Remedy for Itching Ears written by

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Lesson 9: Mission, Evangelism, Stewardship
(Chapter 11)



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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning

Introduction: This concluding chapter sets the marching orders for Christians. The first eight chapters grounded us in a framework for our beliefs. The final four chapters provide guidance for putting our beliefs into practice. The balance between the two sections suggests the true picture of discipleship. Followers of Christ are learners (hearers) and doers of the word (James 1: 22-25). Each disciple carries the responsibilities of practicing what they have learned in order to impact the world in which they live. In this chapter, students will discover that we live the life of a disciple rather than do discipleship “things” when we have time or as an aside behavior.

READ

James 1: 22-25

Acts 2: 44-47

Acts 21:8

Ephesians

2 Timothy 4:5

I. Missions

In Acts 2, the church was described as a place where:

“⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

The work of the church can be summarized as missionary work. In simple terms, missions is the work we do to fulfill our calling as followers of Christ. The term “mission” is Latin and means to send. Jesus was sent to save the world and we too are sent out to further the work of Jesus. If you think about it, we are all missionaries. We represent Christ in our work in the world and spread the Good News (Gospel) that our sins can be forgiven through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Since God has “called the church and all Christians to be involved in the ministry of meeting human needs so that people can see and experience the love of God through Jesus Christ,” we must assess our activity in accomplish said task.

Please answer the following question with 0= Never, 1=Rarely (once a month), 2=Regularly (once or twice a week), 3=Daily.

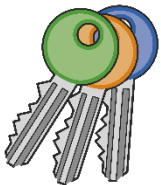
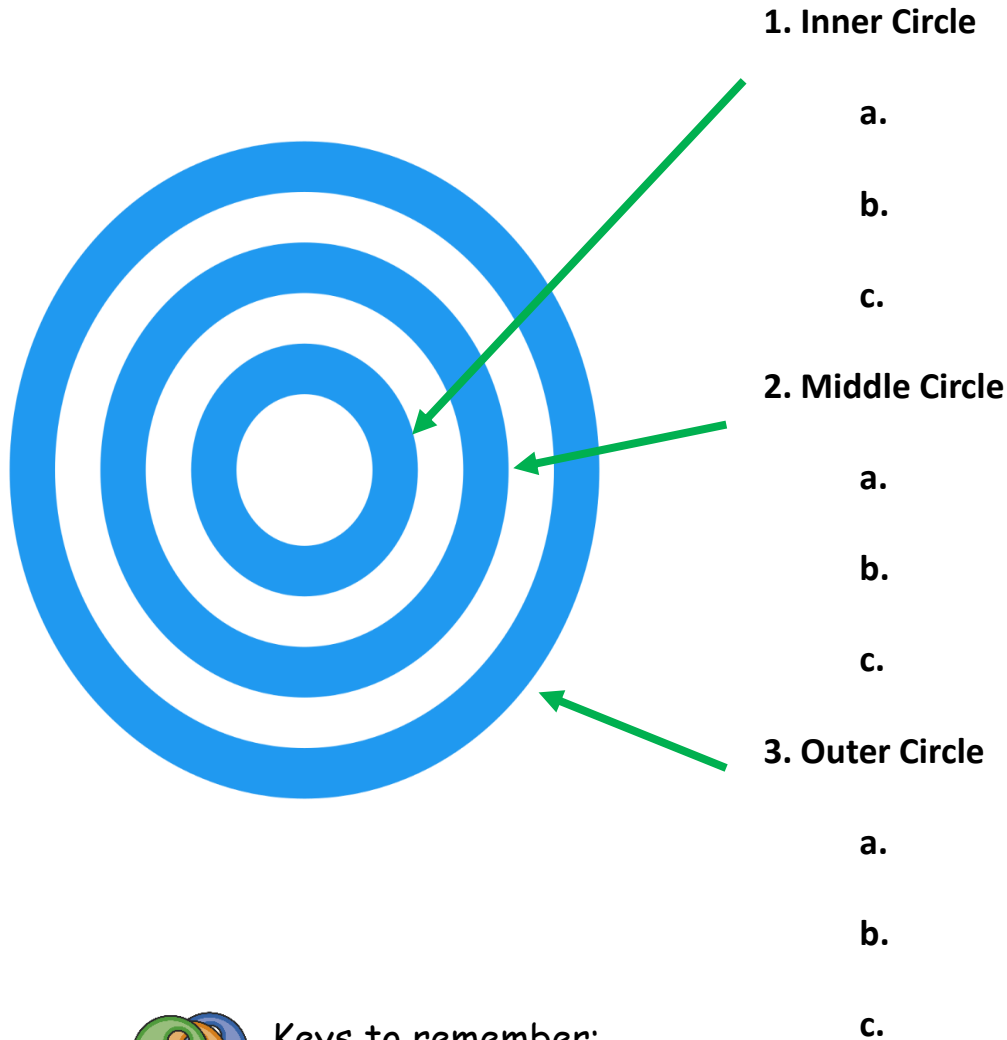
Action	Rating
I let people know I am a Christian	
I help people	
I pray for people	
I reach out to people who are in need	
I think about those who are suffering in my city	
I ask others to help those in need	
I give to causes that help people	

Missions can be seen in the work of the disciples. Jesus sent out the 12 (Matthew 10), the 72 (Luke 10), Peter healing (Acts 3), or many other examples in the New Testament with the intent that the Word about salvation would be shared as people were healed. The key is that meeting people’s physical and spiritual needs go hand in hand.

Often, when one considers a missionary, they limit their understanding to someone who goes to a distant country to help others. While there is definitely a need for the gospel to spread to the “ends of the earth” we must always remember our natural “Jerusalem” warrants our attention as well.

My Missions Circles

The following activity will help you and I to determine where we can begin our work of missions. The inner circle are those most easily reached. The second circle represents those in your neighborhood and city. The outer circle represents those who may be distant from you physically or by relationship. Who are those in your missions circles? Inner = easiest to serve, Middle= somewhat easy to serve, Outer=hardest to serve. List names if you can. How will you now serve these people/groups in the way Jesus intends?



Keys to remember:

- 1. We are all missionaries
- 2. Missions is at home and abroad

II. Evangelism

Three passages in the New Testament give us clarity as to what evangelism means. In each, Acts 21:8, Ephesians 4: 11, and 2 Timothy 4: 5 the word used translates into proclaimer of the Gospel. The context which the word was used in each instance was for someone whose vocation was to share the gospel. Of all the words in the Bible, none has been more daunting to followers of Christ. Yet, evangelism in the most basic sense means to share glad tidings or good news. Thus, an evangelist is one who brings good news. You and I bring more than good news; we bring life changing news!



➤ Challenges to Evangelism

- Many people fear the idea of evangelism because they think they do not know enough. This presents two issues.
 - 1. All Christians must continue to study God's word so that at just the right time the Holy Spirit can help us to recall all that we have learned (John 14: 26).
 - This allows us to speak intelligently about God's word and to have an answer for the questions people ask.

WHO KNOWS YOUR
STORY BETTER THAN
YOU?

▪ 2. STOP LYING AND TELL YOUR STORY!

- Yes, I typed it. Only you know the extent of God's work on your life. Yet, we diminish the magnitude of what has occurred when we fear the looks and questions of people who hear our story.

Let's practice! Take the next two minutes and write down a quick portion of your story of accepting Christ. Then share it with a friend or the group. Remember to include the portion of why it makes a difference in your everyday life.

Conclusion: Our book ends with the idea of stewardship. While the focus of the section relates to our use of time, talent, and treasure, we must remember that everything we have is God's. Most importantly, we are God's. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture (Psalms 100: 3). As such our mouths belong to Him and the amazing message of Jesus' sacrifice for us must come forth. When we do not share the message of Jesus, we are "robbing" not only God, but we are "robbing" people of a chance to have the salvation that Jesus offers. Tithes, offerings, our time, our talent, our total self are the sacrifice that we owe God. It is His and we are admonished in Romans 12: 2 to present ourselves to Him.

As we grow in our knowledge of the practicality of being a Christian, the day to day of living out our salvation, we will find that we become willing instruments to be used by The Master, to His glory.

Closing Prayer: Lord, thank you for this study. We ask that you help us to live out our new learning and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others in confidence! Amen.