

Mission in Action



Selected Scriptures: Matthew 5:13–16; Mark 16:15; Ephesians 2:8–10;
Luke 12:33–34; 2 Timothy 2:22; Romans 12:2; Matthew 28:18–20;
Jude 1:22; Colossians 4:5–6; Philippians 2:1–2

In this session the young people will build on the idea of being salt and light by exploring what mission looks like in real and practical ways. They will explore Scripture together and reflect on who God is calling them to be and how that affects the way they live day to day. The young people will be encouraged to notice where God is already at work in their community and to think about how they might join in with that work together. The session will also introduce the importance of planning, not as an end in itself but as part of living out God's mission together.

You will need:

- Paper and pens
- A large sheet of paper or flip-chart paper
- 'Mission in Action' Scripture handout



Beat



Say:

In Session One we explored mission as something that flows from who we are, not just what we do. Sometimes when we think about mission, we imagine big events or large-scale change. We can start to believe that making a difference only matters if it affects a lot of people, or if the results are visible. We're going to watch a short clip that invites us instead to think about what it looks like to live as salt and light in simple, ordinary ways.

Watch:

'The Starfish Story'

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-aVMdJ3Aok

Ask:

- What do you notice about the way the young boy responds to what he sees on the beach?
How could he have responded instead?

- Why do you think he chooses to act, even when he knows he cannot rescue every starfish?
- How does the man respond to the young boy's actions, and what does that add to the story?
- What do you think matters more in this story: the number of starfish saved, the choice to care, or both? Explain your thinking.

Bridge

Ask:

Which parts of your definition came from things you've heard before and which came from your own experience?

Amplify

Say:

Before we think about what mission in action means for us personally, we're going to explore Scripture.

Leader's notes:

Give each member of the group a 'Mission in Action' handout that lists the Scripture passages shown below. Divide the group into smaller teams to share and discuss the Scripture verses. Give each team a large sheet of paper and ask them to divide it into two columns.

Say:

Read through the Bible passages together and answer the two questions:

- Who is God calling us to be?
- How is God calling us to live?

Leader's notes:

Ask the group to add these two questions to the top of their columns.

Say:

As you read, pay close attention to the attitudes and values described, as well as the actions that flow from them. Let Scripture shape your understanding of what mission in action looks like. Write down your ideas on your sheet.

Handout Scripture Verses (from the *New Living Translation*)

¹³ **You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.**

¹⁴ You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

– Matthew 5:13-16

¹⁵ And then he told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.’

– Mark 16:15

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

– Ephesians 2:8-10

³³ Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. ³⁴ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

– Luke 12:33-34

²² Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

– 2 Timothy 2:22

² Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

– Romans 12:2

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’

– Matthew 28:18-20

²² And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering.

– Jude v22

⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

– Colossians 4:5-6

¹ Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

– Philippians 2:1-2

Leader's notes:

After the group has had time to read and discuss the Bible passages, bring everyone back together.

Ask:

- What words or phrases came up repeatedly as you read these passages together?
- What did you notice about the kind of people these verses describe?
- What did you notice about the way those people live in the world?

Say:

These verses don't tell us to go and do one specific thing. They help us to see the kind of life God is inviting us to live. It's a life where God's mission is evident in the way we live, the choices we make and the way we treat other people.



Bridge

Ask:

Out of all of the Scripture you've read today, which passage speaks to you the most? Explain why.



Sound Check

Say:

Mission usually shows up in everyday life, through ordinary choices and moments that might not feel dramatic. Sometimes it also means choosing to do something together on purpose, as a way of reflecting who we are as followers of Jesus.

Ask:

- What stands out to you in the following quote?
- How does it connect with what we have already noticed in Scripture today?

Read:

'The task of the church is simply to reflect God and in doing so demonstrate a faith that works. I believe that it is through our actions that our faith speaks and we reflect God faithfully. Rather than primarily talking about God we, the church, should be demonstrating God ... When we love people we (as God's representatives) are showing them that God loves them, and in faithfully fulfilling our role we are showing God that we love him.'

– Steve Chalke

Say:

Mission doesn't always begin with a big idea. It often begins with noticing what God is already doing. Last session we spent time looking at how our corps already lives out the five Mission Priorities. God is already at work in and through those ministries and relationships.

Today we're going to explore whether there is a way we might join in with that work, responding to what we see and hear around us.

Leader's notes:

Before moving straight into planning an activity, help the group pause and notice where God may already be at work around them. Remind them that God's mission is not limited to church programmes. God is most often at work wherever people are seeking hope, justice, healing, reconciliation, or a place to belong.

Invite the group to briefly name what they already see happening:

- within their corps or church
- in their local community
- among people or groups outside the church

Say:

The aim of this conversation is not to plan an event yet, but to help us notice and discern where God might be inviting us to respond together. Planning a mission activity is not about inventing something new, but about joining in with what God is already doing.

Leader's notes:

You may want to refer back to the work from Session One, where the group reflected on how their corps already lives out the five Mission Priorities, and ask whether this group could come alongside existing work rather than starting from scratch. Ask the group to create a list of potential mission activities they could develop.

Ideas to prompt discussion:

- Free car wash
- Offer to help people pack their bags at the supermarket
- Return trolleys to where they belong
- Give out free hot drinks to members of the public

- Offer to help at a local food bank
- Visit a local residential home
- Collect donations of sleeping bags / warm clothing etc and give them out to homeless people (always make sure you take the necessary safety precautions)
- Go on a litter pick
- Make cakes for people and attach a Bible verse or note explaining why they've been given it, and hand them out to people in your community

Say:

Not every good idea is the right idea. Part of living out mission well is learning to choose carefully, with attention to people, context and capacity.

As a group, choose one idea to explore further.

Leader's notes:

Use these questions to help the group think about their mission activity rather than diving into the planning. Avoid moving into logistics or task allocation at this stage.

Questions to Think About

- What made this idea stand out to us more than the others?
- Who are we actually thinking about when we choose this idea?
- Why do we think this matters right now, in this place?
- What does this idea say about the kind of people we want to be as followers of Jesus?
- Which mission priority does this connect with most, and why do we think that is?

There will be an opportunity in Session Three to follow up on the planning for the activity and spend time making the final arrangements. **Keep hold of the notes from today's session.**

Say:

Before we move into our time of Selah, we're going to choose a Bible verse that helps express why we've chosen this mission idea. This isn't about finding a perfect verse or overthinking it. It's about choosing a piece of Scripture that captures the heart of what we're hoping to do.

Leader's notes:

Share the verse together and note it down the next session.



Ask:

If you had to explain to someone outside the group what your idea is and why you chose it, what would you say?





Selah

Leader's notes:

Gather the group together around a large sheet of paper. As a group, invite them to name the people, places and communities that may be impacted by the idea they have been exploring. Write these down as they are shared.

Say:

Before we go any further, let's pause and pray for the people, places and communities who may be impacted by this mission idea.

Leader's notes:

Spend time together in prayer for everything the young people are planning and preparing. You may want to invite short, simple prayers from the group, or lead the prayer yourself if that feels more appropriate. Invite the group to choose a Scripture verse that they feel best represents their mission idea. They may want to return to one of the passages from the Amplify activity.

If it feels helpful, you may want to play the following song quietly during this time of prayer and reflection.

Watch:

Katy Nichole – 'In Jesus' Name (God of Possible)' (Piano Version)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VukxLI6HLE

To close the time of prayer, read aloud the Scripture verse the group has chosen for their mission idea.



Coda

Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?

What is the one thing you will take away from this session about living out your faith in practical ways?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.

Scripture Verses

¹³ You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

—Matthew 5:13–16

¹⁵ And then he told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.’

— Mark 16:15

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

¹⁰ For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

— Ephesians 2:8–10

³³ Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. ³⁴ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

— Luke 12:33–34

²² Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

— 2 Timothy 2:22

² Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

— Romans 12:2

²² And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering.

— Jude v22

⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

— Colossians 4:5-6

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'

— Matthew 28:18-20

¹ Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

— Philippians 2:1-2

'The task of the church is simply to reflect God and in doing so demonstrate a faith that works. I believe that it is through our actions that our faith speaks and we reflect God faithfully. Rather than primarily talking about God we, the church, should be demonstrating God ... When we love people we (as God's representatives) are showing them that God loves them, and in faithfully fulfilling our role we are showing God that we love him.'

— Steve Chalke