

WELCOME TO DISCOVERING MY LIFE MISSION / JOINING THE TEAM

This class is the fourth of our basic purpose-driven classes.
Congratulations on making it all around the bases!

In CLASS 101 - You committed to being a **Member** of God's family.
In CLASS 201 - You committed to the habits for Spiritual **Maturity**.
In CLASS 301 - You committed to having a **Ministry** in our church.
In CLASS 401 - You will begin to discover your **Mission** in the world.

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS:

► I WAS CREATED TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE.

"The Lord has made everything for his own purpose..." Pr. 16:4 (LB)

► GOD PLANNED MY LIFE MISSION BEFORE I WAS BORN.

"God is our Maker, and in our union with Christ, he has created us for a life of good works, which he has already prepared for us to do." Eph. 2:10 (GN)

My Life Mission has both **universal elements** (what God calls every Christian to do) and **unique elements** (what God *custom-designed* me to do).

► FULFILLING MY MISSION BRINGS GLORY TO GOD.

JESUS: "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." John 17:4 (NIV)

► MY PRIMARY TASK IN LIFE IS TO FULFILL MY MISSION.

The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me--to tell people the Good News about God's grace." Acts 20:24 (NCV)

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

That I commit the rest of my life to being a messenger of God's Good News to other people, and using my time, talents, and treasure for his Kingdom, regardless of where it leads or what it costs .

*"We make it our goal to please him..." 2 Cor. 5:9 (NIV)
"...our goal is to measure up to God's plan for us..." 2 Cor. 10:13 (LB)*

SESSION 1

Discovering My Life Mission

To discover your mission in this world, you must first understand:

- God's overall purpose in creating human beings.
- Jesus' mission in coming to earth.

I. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR CREATING US

1. We were made to have a _____

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." Gen. 1:26 (NIV)

"Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us... His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us." Eph. 1:4-5 (LB)

2. We were made to _____

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Rom. 8:29 (NIV)

"God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son... We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him." Rom. 8:29 (Mes)

"Just as we are now like Adam, the man of the earth, so we will someday be like Christ..." 1 Cor. 15:49 (NLT)

"We know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is." 1 John 3:2b (NCV)

3. We were made to _____

"God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which He planned in advance for us to live our lives doing." Eph. 2:10 (NCV)

4. We were made to _____

"He has planted eternity in the human heart." Eccl. 3:11 (NIV)

"This is his purpose: that when the time is ripe, he will gather us all together to be with him in Christ forever." Eph. 1:10 (LB)

THIS LIFE IS _____ FOR LIFE IN ETERNITY!

II. JESUS' MISSION ON EARTH

The Problem: Our sin has broken our relationship with God.

Your iniquities have separated you from your God and your sins have hidden his face from you." Isa. 59:2 (NIV)

God's Solution: He took the initiative to bring us back to Himself.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (LB)

"God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself..." 2 Cor. 5:19a (LB)

WHAT WAS JESUS' LIFE MISSION?

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:10 (NIV)

"This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth." John 18:37b (NCV)

"I came to give life--life in all its fullness..." John 10:10 (NCV)

"I have come as a Light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in the darkness." John 12:46 (LB)

"I must tell the Good News about God's kingdom... This is what I was sent to do." Luke 4:43 (ICB)

III. WHY JESUS' MISSION MUST MATTER TO ME

TEN FACTS THAT MOTIVATE ME

1. IF I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS, _____ LIFE MISSION MUST INCLUDE _____ LIFE MISSION.

Jesus prayed to the Father: *"In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world." John 17:18 (Mes)*

2. JESUS _____ ME TO CONTINUE HIS MISSION.

The 5 Great Commissions of Jesus

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt. 28:19-20 (NIV)

"You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere." Mark 16:15 (LB)

"With my authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me." Luke 24:47 (NLT)

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21 (NIV)

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NIV)

3. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IS MY _____.

"... you must warn them so they may live. If you don't speak out to warn the wicked to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death." Ezekiel 3:18 (NCV)

"Telling the Good News is my duty - something I must do. And how terrible it will be for me if I do not tell the Good News." 1 Cor. 9:16 (NCV)

If I'm a Christian, my mission is not _____!

4. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IS A _____.

"And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him... This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors." 2 Cor. 5:18b (LB)

"I am proud of the Good News, because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes..." Rom. 1:16 (NCV)

5. I'M _____ FOR WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR ME.

"Remember that in the past you were without Christ... You had no hope, and you did not know God." Eph. 2:12 (NCV)

"For I have a great sense of obligation to people in our culture and to people in

other cultures..." Rom. 1:14 (NLT)

6. BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE _____ WITHOUT CHRIST.

"Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. But before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him; and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them."
Rom. 10:13-14 (NCV)

7. BECAUSE GOD WANTS _____ SAVED!

"God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."
1 Tim. 2:4 (NIV)

"God does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives." 2 Peter 2:9 (NCV)

8. I WILL BE _____ FOR ETERNITY.

"Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people." Col. 3:24 (ICB)

9. GOD'S _____ FOR HISTORY HINGES AROUND US COMPLETING OUR MISSION!

"The Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come." Matt. 24:14 (NCV)

"They asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' Jesus replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. BUT you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 1:6-8 (NIV)

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them and said 'Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'" Acts 1:9-11 (NIV)

10. I WILL _____ WHEN I SEE PEOPLE IN HEAVEN.

"I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart."
Luke 15:7a (ICB)

Knowing this, what should be my response?

"I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus - the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness." Acts 20:24 (NCV)

SESSION 2

Sharing The Message

"You are the ones chosen by God... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you."

1 Peter 2:9 (Mes)

"...He has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. Therefore, we are Christ's representatives." 2 Cor. 5:19b-20 (GWT)

- Part 1: **My Testimony** – My story of how I began a relationship with Jesus.
- Part 2: **The Good News** – Explaining how to accept Christ.

I. SHARING MY TESTIMONY

A personal testimony is the most persuasive form of communication.

The Bible is full of testimonies:

DAVID

"Come and listen, and I will tell you what God has done for me." Ps. 66:16 (NCV)

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony." John 4:39 (NIV)

THE MAN BORN BLIND

"I don't know whether he is good or bad, but I know this: I was blind, and now I see!" John 9:25 (LB)

PETER AND JOHN

"We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20 (NLT)

PAUL

On six different occasions (Acts 22-26) Paul used his personal testimony to share the Good News with unbelievers.

JESUS

"Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay." John 3:11 (Mes)

We are commanded to share our testimonies

"Let the whole world know what he has done for you." Ps. 105:1b (LB)

"Every day tell how he saves us. Tell the nations of his glory; tell all peoples the miracles he does." Ps. 96:2-3 (NCV)

THE VALUE OF YOUR TESTIMONY

1. It is unique! There are no others just like it.
2. It is personal and easy to understand.
3. You are the authority on it. It's difficult to argue with.
4. People love to hear personal stories and they remember them.
5. People can relate to it. It builds a relational bridge.
6. In our postmodern world, it may be your most effective witness.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

THE FOUR PARTS OF YOUR TESTIMONY

1. WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE I MET CHRIST.

*What common circumstances would an unbeliever identify with?
What were your attitudes that an unbeliever would identify with?
What was most important to you?*

*What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life?
(sports/fitness, success at work, marriage, sex, making money,
drugs/alcohol, having fun, entertainment, popularity, hobbies)*

2. HOW I REALIZED I NEEDED CHRIST.

*What significant steps led up to your conversion?
What needs, hurts, or problems made you dissatisfied
with the way you were living without God?
How did God get your attention? What motivated you?*

3. HOW I COMMITTED MY LIFE TO CHRIST.

*What specifically did you do? Where did it happen?
What did you say in your prayer? Be specific.*

4. THE DIFFERENCE IT HAS MADE IN MY LIFE.

*What benefits have you experienced or felt?
What problems have been resolved?
How has Jesus helped you change for the better?*

*How has it helped your relationships?
Give a current example.*

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY

- Pray and ask God to give you the right words.
- Write it out on paper. God honors preparation.

- Keep it short and to the point. Don't lose site of your goal.
- Be succinct. Avoid excessive, unnecessary details.
- Try to keep your testimony below 3 minutes.

- Refer to experiences most people have in common.
- Share a slice of your life (a story) that they will identify with.

- Be honest about your continuing struggles. Your life is not perfect.
- Don't imply that all of your problems ended at conversion.

- Spend the most time on part 4: the difference Christ has made.
- Emphasize WHY you received Christ (the benefits of doing it).
- Mention the benefit of being certain of your destiny when you die.

- Don't exaggerate or brag about pre-conversion sins.
- Don't make negative remarks about other religions or people.
- Don't mention any denomination.

- Don't quote a lot of Scripture. (A maximum of one verse)
- Don't answer questions they haven't asked.

- Give concrete examples of the changes in your life.
- The more specific you are, the more dynamic it will be.
- Avoid using dates, names, and ages. It doesn't matter to them.

- Be prepared. Practice it until it feels and sounds natural.
- Read it aloud and edit it to make it conversational.
- Let a friend read it and make suggestions.

- Speak casually and informally, in a matter-of-fact tone.
- Don't dramatize or embellish your story.
- Don't share mystical experiences. Share on *their* level, not *yours*.

- Don't talk down to people. Don't sound "preachy."
- Use "*I, me, and my*" not "*You*". It's about you – not them.
- Use humor - it reduces tension and relaxes people. Smile!

II. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

The universal part of your Life Message is the Gospel, the *Good News* of how we can be saved, forgiven, and begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The moment you trust in Christ, you are called and commissioned to be a messenger of the Good News to people who haven't heard or responded to it.

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

1. GOD BECAME A MAN - SO _____

*"It is the **Good News** about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line; and by being raised from the dead he proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself."* Rom. 1:3-4 (LB)

2. JESUS DIED FOR MY SINS - SO _____

*"It is this **Good News** that saves you if you firmly believe it... that Christ died for our sins. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said." 1 Cor. 15: 2-4 (NLT)*

"For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others." 2 Cor. 5:19 (LB)

3. JESUS DESTROYED DEATH - SO _____

*"Jesus destroyed death, and through the **Good News** he showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed." 2 Tim. 1:10 (NCV)*

4. SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT - SO _____

"People are made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus as a way to forgive sin through faith." Rom. 3:24-25 (ICB)

5. IT IS BASED ON FAITH - SO _____

Jesus said, "Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15 (NIV)

*"The **Good News** shows how God makes people right with himself - that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, 'Those who are right with God will live by trusting in him.'" Rom. 1:17 (NCV)*

III. COMMUNICATION TIPS: HOW TO SHARE EFFECTIVELY

1. RECOGNIZE _____ OF WITNESSING

Your “*SHAPE*” not only determines *your ministry in the church*
it influences *the style of your mission in the world!*

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| S piritual gifts | (1 Cor. 12, Rom. 8, Eph. 4) |
| H earth | (Matt. 12:34, Pr. 4:23, Ps. 37:4) |
| A bilities | (Ex. 31:3, 1 Cor. 12:5) |
| P ersonality | (1 Cor. 2:11 LB) |
| E xperiences | (2 Cor. 1:4, Rom. 8:28) |

Right brain witness (*emphasizes personal experience*) “*all your heart*”
Left brain witness (*emphasizes facts and scripture*) “*all your mind*” **Need both!**

SOME COMMON STYLES:

The Serving Style
The Intellectual Style
The Bringing Style
The Testimonial Style
The Literature Style
The Confrontational Style

Don't feel guilty about styles you don't naturally use.
Don't judge others who don't use your style!
Realize that Jesus never used the same approach twice!

2. _____ WHAT YOU MIGHT SAY

“*Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone.*” Col. 4:6 (GWT)

“*Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive.*” Pr. 16:23 (GN)

3. ASK GOD _____ IN CHOOSING THE RIGHT WORD

“*Pray for me that when I speak, God will give me words so that I can tell the secret of the Good News without fear.*” Eph. 6:19 (NCV)

4. SHOW _____

“*If I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or clanging bell.*” 1 Cor. 13:1 (GN)

People don't care how much we know, until they know how much we care!

5. BE _____ AND _____

"A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is." Pr. 16:21 (GN)

"Be tactful with those who are not Christians..." Col. 4:5 (JB)

"A word of encouragement does wonders!" Pr. 12:25 (LB)

6. NEVER USE ANY _____

"Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out." Col. 4:6 (Mes)

Don't expect unbelievers to act like believers _____

7. TELL _____ - GIVE EXAMPLES - People always relate to a story better.

"Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables." Matt. 13:34 (NLT)

8. _____ UP! *"The Son of man came enjoying life..." Luke 7:34 (Ph)*

9. BE _____. BE NATURAL. DON'T TRY TO SOUND "SPIRITUAL"

"When I came to you, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy but simply to tell you what God has guaranteed." 1 Cor. 2:1 (JB)

"Your speech should be unaffected and logical so that your opponents may feel ashamed at finding nothing in which to pick holes." Titus 2:8 (Ph)

10. BE _____ AND _____

"Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives." 1 Thess. 2:8 (NCV)

"We've spoken frankly to you, we've opened our hearts wide." 2 Cor. 6:11 (GN)

"Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ." Phil. 1:27a (NCV)

11. MEMORIZE A FEW _____ VERSES

“Concentrate... on being a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, and who knows how to use the Word of truth to the best advantage.” 2 Tim. 2:15 (Ph)

12. KEEP IT _____

*“I fear... (Satan) will corrupt you from the simplicity that is in Christ.”
2 Cor. 11:3 (KJV)*

13. REMEMBER, THE _____ IS USING YOUR WORDS

You are not trying to convince anyone on your own.

“For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.” 1 Thess. 1:5a (NLT)

HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP A plan for sharing your faith

Good friendships are usually intentional, rather than accidental. Developing friendships with unbelievers often requires going the second mile, taking some risks, and moving outside your own comfort zone. And with our busy lifestyles, it takes *planning*. If you don't plan to cultivate friendships with unbelievers, you'll find that you never have the time to do so.

“We should make our plans - counting on God to direct us.” Pr. 16:9

STEP #1: BECOME AWARE - of the unbelievers God has placed in your life.

- ✓ Make a list of them by name.
- ✓ Realize that they are your responsibility.
- ✓ Assess each person's level of spiritual receptivity.
- ✓ Discover and write down what their interests and needs are.
- ✓ Look for areas of common ground that you can build on.
- ✓ Figure out what kind of testimony each would respond to.

STEP #2: COMMIT TO PRAYER

- ✓ Use your list to pray daily for your unsaved friends.
- ✓ Pray that God will draw them to himself. John 6:44
- ✓ Pray that God will remove their spiritual blindness. 2 Cor. 4:3-4
- ✓ Pray that the Holy Spirit will make their heart receptive. Jn.16:8-13
- ✓ Pray you'll get the opportunity to share a clear witness. Col.4 3-5
- ✓ Pray that God will give you wisdom in what to say. James 1:5
- ✓ Pray the Holy Spirit will use the words you say. 1 Thess. 1:5

STEP #3: SHOW YOU CARE

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect as people, not as “prospects”.
- ✓ Be a genuine friend. Help them in practical ways.
- ✓ Be a good listener. It is a great way to show love.
- ✓ Make service your aim, not recruitment.
- ✓ Invite them into your home.
- ✓ Consciously focus your concern on meeting their needs.
- ✓ Go out of your way to love them until they ask you why.
- ✓ Accept people as they are without being judgmental.

STEP #4: BE READY TO SHARE

- ✓ Identify yourself as a positive, joyful follower of Christ.
- ✓ Share a testimony when the occasion naturally arises. (It will)
- ✓ Never force the Good News. Be patient. God is working!
- ✓ Use crisis situations to show why we all need God.
- ✓ Ask questions that lead to spiritual discussions.
- ✓ Give them appropriate message tapes or books to read.
- ✓ Concentrate on the essential. Don't get sidetracked by hang-ups.
- ✓ Invite them to a seeker service at church.
- ✓ Offer to lead in a prayer to commit after sharing the Good News.

GOD'S CHALLENGE TO US

*"Look at the nations and watch - and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."
Hab. 1:5 (NIV)*

"Your faith in God has become known throughout the world." 1 Thess. 1:8 (NIV)

"... God determined the times set for everyone and the exact places where they should live..." Acts 17:26 (NIV)

THE BIG QUESTION: AM I WILLING TO BE USED BY GOD?

"For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." 2 Chron. 16:9 (NIV)

JOINING THE TEAM/MINISTRY

Attend an orientation session in the ministry area of your choice to learn how to get involved.

Participate in a one-on-one conversation with one of our team members at your orientation session to make a personal connection to the team.

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

Administration / A-Team:

This Ministry uses the gift of administration to support Family Life Church of the Valley by using computer skills, data entry and attention to detail.

Music Ministry:

This Ministry facilitates a powerful worship experience through vocals, instruments and audio engineering.

Life Group Ministry:

We are trained to facilitate Life Group or small groups and equipped to build relationships while helping group members grow more spiritually and live like Jesus.

Evangelism and Outreach Ministry:

This Ministry facilitates in reaching out and serving our community in bringing the gospel and the love of Christ to the lost.

Men's Ministry:

This Ministry encourages and facilitates meaningful spiritual, mental, and emotional growth not only among the men of FLCV but also men outside of our church.

Women's Ministry:

This Ministry is about helping other women to come to Christ and grow in Christ. It's about encouraging women in every aspect of life to understand the gospel, respond to the gospel and apply the gospel to every aspect of life.

Prayer Ministry:

This Ministry facilitates in powerful prayer to bring comfort, encouragement, healing, and victory to others. Our Prayer Ministry team stands ready to pray with you any time by phone or through email, text messages or other means of communication.

Young Adult Ministry:

The Young Adult Ministry seeks to provide spiritual nourishment, inspiration and guidance to adults ages 18 to 35. The ministry, which includes those that are college students, single, and young married couples with or without children, encourages proper spiritual and moral principles to empower Christians to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Youth Ministry:

Youth Ministry is designed to help spiritually train and equip teens in a fun and Godly atmosphere to the Glory of God. Training young people to lead the cause of Christ, and apply Christianity to every area of life is what "youth ministry" is about.

Children's Ministry:

Children's Ministry is partnering with parents to guide kids towards a Heart for God. This Ministry typically works with children from infancy through fifth or sixth grade by way of activities, education and counseling.

Ushering/Greeter Ministry:

This Ministry plays a vital role in the hospitality and welcome ministry of FLCV. Together with church greeters, church ushers help the church member, visitor (guest) experience a wonderful worship service.