



Rev. Greg Finke | Author | Trainer for Mission, Discipleship & Multiplication | Executive Director
finkeonthemove@aol.com | www.dwelling114.org | Facebook, Twitter & Instagram @dwelling114_

A Simple Plan for Joining Jesus on His Mission

*“The mission of God is not part of what the Church does,
it’s the point of what the Church does.” --GF*

Today’s Agenda

- 9:00-10:30 | How to Join Jesus on His Mission
- 10:30-10:45 | Break
- 10:45-12:00 | How to Provide Support & Accountability

Two Goals for Today’s Training

- 1) For you to craft a simple plan for how you personally will join Jesus on His mission in your various “neighborhoods” and help your family and friends to do the same.
- 2) For your congregation to craft a simple plan for how it will provide ongoing support and accountability for people as they pursue such a lifestyle.

Your Invitation from Jesus

Jesus is on a mission. He was sent by His Father on a grand adventure to redeem and restore all things to His Kingdom. And He invites you to join Him. That’s why He says, “Come, follow Me.”

First Things First | “I Am Who God Says I Am”

Your true identity, value and purpose have been redeemed and restored by Jesus.

- **My True Identity:** I am a beloved child of the heavenly King. (1 John 3:1)
- **My True Value to Others:** I have the things of the Kingdom in abundance. (Luke 12:32)
- **My True Purpose:** Every day, I get to go out with Jesus, looking for people who need a little of what I already have in abundance and offer it to them. (John 4:35, Matthew 10:8)

Joining Jesus on His Mission is Simple and It Works

What Can I Anticipate Each Day?

- 1) Jesus is already pursuing His Father's mission.
- 2) Jesus does all the heavy lifting of redeeming and restoring my neighbors. All He asks me to do is the very simple work of noticing and loving my neighbors.
- 3) I don't go *for* Jesus. I go *with* Jesus. I'm not a Jesus-salesperson. I'm a Jesus-follower.

Together, we will gain experience, skill and confidence for joining Jesus on His mission by engaging Three Mission Assignments.

Assignment #1: Seek the Kingdom.

I will practice **seeking, recognizing and responding** to what Jesus is already doing in the lives of people around me.

Assignment #2: Love your neighbor.

I will follow a simple plan for **getting to know and spending unhurried time** with at least one neighbor who is living without the grace and truth of Jesus.

Assignment #3: Regularly spur each other on to love and good works.

I will commit to having regular **"Take-10 Conversations"** at home and in every congregational gathering so I receive the encouragement and accountability I need for joining Jesus on His mission.

Assignment #1 | Seek, Recognize and Respond

Jesus says, "Seek first the Kingdom of God." Matthew 6:33

What Can I Do Each Day?

"The 5 Mission Practices" position me to join Jesus on His mission every day:

- 1) **Seeking the Kingdom**
Look for the good the Father has prepared in advance for me to do.
(Matthew 6:33, John 4:35, Ephesians 2:8-10)
- 2) **Hearing from Jesus**
Reading the gospels, what is Jesus giving me to believe and do for the good of others?
(John 6:63, John 13:17)
- 3) **Talking with People**
What's their name? What's their story? What's Jesus up to in their life? (John 4:7)
- 4) **Doing Good**
How can I be a way something good happens in their day? When they experience love and service through me, they are experiencing the love and service of Jesus. I am the body of Christ.
(Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 10:8)
- 5) **Ministering through Prayer**
Pray for people daily and with people as God gives opportunity. (Philippians 4:6)
Use a neighborhood prayer map (see below) to help you be consistent with prayer.

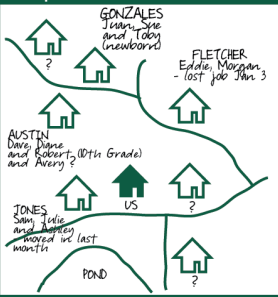
Fill in Your Neighborhood Prayer Map



Neighborhood Prayer Map

Instructions:

1. Draw a map of the streets and homes around yours.
2. If you know the occupants, write their names beside their home.
3. If you don't know the occupants, write "?"
4. As you get to know your neighbors better, write additional details you can include in prayer.

Example:



- www.blesseveryhome.com

Small Group Discussion

- 1) What is a key insight you have had during the presentation?
- 2) What seems challenging about putting Assignment #1 into practice?
- 3) What questions do you still have?

Assignment #2 | Invest in Friendship with Neighbors

Jesus says, "Love your neighbor." Matthew 22:39

My Neighborhoods = My Mission Fields

You do not have to wonder about where to join Jesus on His mission. You are already there. Your mission field is your neighborhood. However, most people spend time in more "neighborhoods" than simply where they live. A "neighborhood" is any place you have access to a network of relationships. **In the space below, make a list of the various "neighborhoods" where God has already placed you.**

What is My Plan for Spending Unhurried Time with My Neighbors?

To know and love my neighbors, I have to meet and spend unhurried time with my neighbors.

The plan:

- 1) Pray for my neighbors.
- 2) Meet my neighbors. (*Intentionally and spontaneously*)
- 3) Spend unhurried time with my neighbors so I can get to know them better.
- 4) As I get to know my neighbors, take note of those who seem to be living without the grace and truth of Jesus. Begin building a friendship with them.
 - Is knowing and loving our neighbors for introverts or extroverts?

The parable of the Lost Sheep | “Who’s Your One?”



Low-risk ways to meet neighbors and get to know them:

- 1) What are ways my neighbors have already socialized in the past?
- 2) What is something I enjoy doing that I can invite neighbors to do too?
- 3) What are ways I can spend more time in my front yard?
- 4) What are ways I could team up with my neighbors to have a gathering or do some good?
- 5) If I need to practice social distancing, how can I get to know my neighbors?

Small Group Discussion

Take a few moments to write down your personal plan for spending time with your neighbors. Then share your plan with your group:

- 1) This is what I will do to meet and get to know my neighbors...
(Think in terms of “low-risk baby steps.”)
- 2) This is who I will ask to help me...
- 3) These are my deadlines for taking action...

Assignment #3 | Have Regular “Take-10 Conversations”

“Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Hebrews 10:24

We All Need a Little Help

- 1) The name “Take-10 Conversation” refers to **taking ten minutes** to reflect and talk about how life on mission with Jesus is going. Families can have these conversations during meals and congregation participants can have them as they gather for church meetings, studies or rehearsals.
- 2) The idea for “Take-10 Conversations” comes from **Hebrews 10:24-25**, “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- 3) “Take-10 Conversations” provide the **encouragement, insights and accountability we need** to sustain a missional lifestyle every day.

Asking the Right Questions

Use the following questions during your “Take-10 Conversations.”

- 1) What’s your plan? *(for meeting neighbors)*
- 2) How’s it going?
- 3) Who’s your “One?”
- 4) What’s their name? What’s their story?
- 5) What’s your next step?

As You Settle into the “New Normal” of Living Missionally: Support each other by using “**The 5 Questions**” to help prompt stories and conversations of how life on mission with Jesus is going. The questions are based on “**The 5 Mission Practices**” which put us in position to join Jesus on His mission.

1) How did you see God at work in your life today?

What did He seem to be showing you? Who has He been bringing across your path? Who is He inviting you to notice and pay attention to?

2) What has God been teaching you in his Word?

As you read about Jesus in the gospels, what did He invite you to believe and do? What happened when you put it into practice for the good of others?

3) What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?

A conversation with anyone God brings across your path is important. But a conversation with someone living without the grace and truth of Jesus is especially important. What did you learn about the person’s story? What might be the next step with them?

4) What good can you do around here?

As you reflect on your observations and conversations with the people around you, how can you serve, bless, or encourage someone in the next few days?

5) How can we help you in prayer?

Prayer for and with each other is powerful and effective (James 5:16).

Small Group Discussion

Let’s do a sample “Take-10 Conversation.”

Best Practices for Leading “Take-10” Conversations

- 1) Ask each other about what actually happened during the day/past week. Ask, “As you interacted with people, what was one thing that made you happy or one thing that made you sad or mad?” After sharing the stories, ask, “What do you think Jesus was up to in the middle of that? What do you think He wanted you to do?”
- 2) Ask about missed opportunities. Often, we learn more from missed opportunities than we do from things going well. *“For followers of Jesus, failure isn’t failure. It’s training.” –GF*
- 3) Ask about the progress or challenges they are having as they invest in a friendship with someone living without the grace and truth of Jesus. What is going well? What is not? What is next?

Bonus: Deeper Conversations with Neighbors

Deeper conversations with your neighbors come from asking deeper questions and often lead to spiritual conversations. Everyone has an inner thought-life. What are your neighbors’ beliefs, opinions, questions, fears, hopes and regrets?

How to initiate deeper conversations:

- 1) **Over time, show your neighbor that you genuinely value them and are interested in them.**
Live your faith before you try to share your faith. *“Live a life of love,” Ephesians 5:2.*
- 2) **As you become more comfortable with each other, ask questions about deeper subjects.**

If you ask your neighbor what they think about the weather, the conversation will probably center on the weather. But if you ask them about something deeper, the conversation will probably center on that.

The goal is to get to know your neighbor better.

Be curious. Be interested.

For instance, ask them about their story. How did they end up moving here? What is their occupation? How do they like it? How did they become interested in it? Where did they grow up? What are their best memories? Are there painful ones? If they have a family, ask about what gives them hope about the future and what worries them. Ask what they think about subjects like God, religion, the role of forgiveness or how they wish the world would be. Ask them what they believe about things like the meaning of life, their purpose on earth, or what they think happens after a person dies.

3) Care about discovering not only *what* they believe but the story behind *why* they believe it.

There is always a story behind *why* people feel, think or believe the way they do. So, ask for the story: Why do you believe that? When did you start feeling that way? What's the story?

4) Understand where your fear comes from.

If you are afraid to ask your friend about their thoughts on deeper subjects, it may be because you believe you are somehow responsible for changing their mind, fixing their opinions or converting them to Jesus. You are not. Changing a person is the Holy Spirit's job not yours. At this point, your job is to love your neighbor enough to be interested in their story.

5) Look for ways to help them with some good news from God.

The more you know about your friend's story – their uncertainties, fears, hopes and regrets – the more specific you can be in helping them with some good news from God. Think in terms of offering them a cool cup of water. Which promises of God could bring your friend some relief?

6) When your friend is ready, share the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

How can you know if your friend is ready? Ask them. When your friend voices worry, fear, longing or confusion you can ask them a simple question: "Have you ever heard of something called 'the Good News of God'?" If your friend has not, ask them if they would like to hear it. On the other hand, if they say they are familiar with it, ask them, "What have you heard about it?" If what they have heard leaves out grace, forgiveness or hope, you can introduce them to it.

7) In the meantime, practice.

If you are afraid of sharing your faith with others, it's probably because you have never done it before. So, of course you are nervous. The safest way to overcome your fear is to start practicing with other Jesus-followers in your family and/or congregation. Give each other regular opportunities to sort out what you would say in a real-life conversation:

- **Practice sharing the good news of God.**

How would you walk someone through the Bible's story of our original identity and purpose at creation, the fall, God's abundant love and redemption through Jesus and our new identity and purpose going forward?

- **Practice sharing your story of why you personally trust Jesus.**

Your story = Your witness

- **Roll play the different ways a conversation could go. Have fun with it!**

***“It’s not what you know
that will change your neighborhood,
but what you do with what you know.” –GF***

Are You Ready? Let the Adventures with Jesus Begin!

Assignment #1: Seek the Kingdom.

I will practice **seeking, recognizing and responding** to what Jesus is already doing in the lives of people around me.

Assignment #2: Love your neighbor.

I will follow a simple plan for **getting to know and spending unhurried time** with at least one neighbor who is living without the grace and truth of Jesus.

Assignment #3: Regularly spur each other on to love and good works.

I will commit to having regular **“Take-10 Conversations”** at home and in every congregational gathering so I receive the encouragement and accountability I need for joining Jesus on His mission.

The Importance of Navigation Zoom Calls

Navigation Calls facilitate implementation of the training into the personal lives of the leaders and the collective experience of the congregation. **Participation of leaders on the calls is the single biggest predictor of how well the training for mission, discipleship and multiplication will be integrated into the congregation.**