



**Ridge Group Lesson “Life on Mission—Session 1” – September 21, 2014**

**Getting Started**

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the title of this study, Life on Mission?

If you had to choose, are you a big city or small town person and why?

**Digging Deeper**

Read [Luke 15:11-32](#)

In each of these three parables, something is lost, and then found. What conclusions can we draw about people who are “lost” and how God feels about them?

How does the story change the way you see people who are rebelling or wandering away from God?

If you met the prodigal son today – a promiscuous young man who was squandering his inheritance on partying – what would you think of him? How is this different from how the father sees him?

**Bringing It Home**

Think about your life. Where has God given you influence? (your school, neighborhood, workplace, etc.) In other words, where are you already connected with other people?

Think about people you know who don’t follow Jesus. How would you describe them? When you think about building a friendship with them, what’s your gut reaction?

Lee Strobel shared Jesus’ metaphor about being salt and light, and said that Jesus tells us to, “live lives that are salty, that make people thirst for God.” How can the way you live your life make people thirst for God?

Read Matthew 9:37-38. The need is obvious and immediate. How does this inspire you to live a life on mission?

Spend some time praying together as a group.



**Ridge Group Lesson “Life on Mission—Session 2” – September 28, 2014**

**Getting Started**

The teaching in this video takes place in a health club, a great place to connect with people. Where’s your favorite place to hang with friends?

Tell about a time when you were welcomed to a gathering or meal as a newcomer. What happened and how did it make you feel?

**Digging Deeper**

Read Matthew 9:1-13

Matthew invited all his friends over for a life-changing party. Who showed up and what did they experience?

Why do you think Jesus was so “at home” with these sinners?

What was Jesus expecting us in response to His words that night: “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matthew 9:13).

**Bringing It Home**

What was your most intense take-away from the stories and teaching we just heard? Why is it important that we hang out with people who are not followers of Jesus?

What are some of your non-church activities where you could connect with people who aren’t Christians? What can you do to initiate relationships with others?

What barriers get in the way of you inviting your neighbors into your home for a simple meal and conversation?

Tim Harlow intentionally works out at a health club so that he can connect with people who are far from God. What places would you consider visiting in order to connect with people who need to meet Jesus?

Spend some time praying together as a group.



**Ridge Group Lesson "Life on Mission—Session 3" – October 5, 2014**

**Getting Started**

Moving from one house to another can be a really stressful time in our lives: a time when we really need other to help us out. How many times have you moved in your life?

**Digging Deeper**

Read [John 13:1-17](#)

What did Jesus say with His actions in these verses? What was the main point of His words?

Why do you think Jesus was presented with the opportunity to wash the disciples' feet?

In what way does Peter's response in verses 6-10 parallel how many of us respond to sacrificial service?

**Bringing It Home**

Most of us hate interruptions, but it is often life's interruptions that provide us with opportunities to serve others. How do you typically respond to interruptions or inconveniences?

In the story of the Good Samaritan, the Samaritan was inconvenienced and had to go out of his way to help the man in the story. Has there been a time when you were willing to step out of your comfort zone to meet a pressing need?

What are some ways that you've experienced God's love and kindness through the acts of another person?

In order to introduce people to Jesus, we have to genuinely love them – we need to make them not just friends but family. What steps are you taking (or do you want to take) to love people in this way?

Read [Philippians 2:5](#). Our goal is to look like Jesus. What does that mean to you?

Spend some time praying together as a group.



**Ridge Group Lesson "Life on Mission—Session 4" – October 12, 2014**

### **Getting Started**

Who is the first person you call or text when you want to share good news? Why?

What's the weirdest thing someone has shared with you lately?

### **Digging Deeper**

Read Acts 25:23-26:32

How much of Paul's story was before Christ and how much was after Christ?

Why is it important, as in this case, to realize that you may not ever find out the results of telling your own story?

As you think about Paul's setting and his story, what other conclusions do you draw that affect your view of God's prompting in your life?

### **Bringing It Home**

Who explained the Good News of Jesus to you? How did they do it? What was your initial response?

What do you think keeps people from talking about Jesus or sharing the Gospel?

Read 1 Peter 3:15. Have you ever been asked to give a reason for the hope people see in you?

In John (9:25), the blind man was asked a question that he didn't know how to answer, he simply said, "I don't know." How does it relieve your fears to hear that "I don't know" is an acceptable way to answer a question about God?

Spend some time praying together as a group.



**Ridge Group Lesson “Life on Mission—Session 5” – October 19, 2014**

### **Getting Started**

What was the reason behind the last time you sent or received flowers?

Do you have a green thumb? Share with the group any gardening success (or failures) you have experienced.

### **Digging Deeper**

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

What do these verses tell us about the role of community in our spiritual growth?

Who spurs you on to love and good deeds? If you don't have someone in your life who does that, is there someone in your life you can ask to help you in this area?

Read Galatians 5:22-23

From the list of the fruits of the Spirit, identify the one that you wish was true in your life. What can you do this week to grow in this area?

How will this empower you to help others grow?

### **Bringing It Home**

Has there been a spiritual mentor in your life? If so, how has that helped you to grow?

Kyle Idleman talked about the words of Jesus in John 15, where He compared branches (us) to being connected to the vine (Himself). Kyle offered, “A simple challenge to Christians; be the branch.” What do you think that means? How can you “be the branch”?

In here testimony, Katherine talked about discipling in her life. She said, “You really only need to be one step ahead of them.” What does that mean to you?

What spiritual disciplines or practices help to connect you with the Holy Spirit and train you for godliness?

Spend some time praying together as a group.



**Ridge Group Lesson “Life on Mission—Session 6” – October 26, 2014**

### **Getting Started**

This session is going to focus on prayer. Have you ever prayed about the outcome of a sporting event? Discuss.

When you were growing up, how did you pray (if you prayed at all)? How has your understanding of prayer changed over the years?

### **Digging Deeper**

Read [Luke 15:1-7](#)

How does Luke describe the setting in which Jesus told this and other parables in chapter 15? Why does the audience matter in this case?

How does this parable reveal the importance of being in tune, or in sync, with how God views people what are lost in the world?

How would you make a case for prayer from this parable?

### **Bringing It Home**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How can you begin to make prayer a habit or automatic reaction to times of both difficulty and joy?

Have you ever been mad at God for not saying yes to one of your prayers, only to realize later that God’s plan was far better than what you wanted?

Do you ever find yourself drifting away from communication with God? How does that impact your ability to live a life on mission?

In what ways has your prayer life been challenged by this session’s teaching?

Spend some time praying together as a group.