



FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS

Participant Guide

*A Theological Approach to Mission
in The United Methodist Church*

With the technological advances during the 20th and 21st centuries, mission activity has increased. Faster and more efficient communication, more accessible and affordable travel coupled with a continued desire among Christians to “go into all the world” have brought faraway countries closer than ever before.

Much emphasis has been placed on doing the work of mission in the world. Unfortunately, not as much emphasis has been placed on developing a biblical/theological understanding of why we are doing the work of mission. The Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference Secretaries of Global Ministries has increasingly felt the need to provide a tool to educate and provide a solid foundation for mission in The United Methodist Church.

For All the Right Reasons is a cumulative effort by the Conference Mission Secretaries of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church designed to provide local congregations, districts and conferences with a teaching tool to help you understand the biblical/theological reasons for mission involvement.

The study provides and opportunity for you to answer these basic questions:

- Who are we and the people with whom we are ministering?
- Why do we do mission work?
- How do we do mission work effectively?

Hopefully, this study will broaden your understanding of mission with a theological basis upon which to build. Scripture, stories, reflections and other tools will challenge you to develop new approaches to mission work.

Session 1

INTRODUCTION

Session 1 invites you to explore motivations for mission involvement and their impact upon ministry.

OPENING WORSHIP

MISSION OR MISSIONS

Why are people involved in mission?

THE HOMECOMING

As you view the video clip or hear the story told, note how missions is portrayed both positively and negatively.

WHO

WHY

HOW

CLOSING

Leader: You are the light of the world.

Participants: **We carry the Light of Christ to all the world glorifying God in all that we do.**

Leader: Go in peace.

ALL: Amen.

Session 2

EXPLORING WHO WE

Session 2 explores who we are as human beings and our relationship to one another in the context of mission work.

OPENING

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Biblical Insight – Matthew 25:40

Who are the “least of these” in today’s world?

How do we relate to the “least of these?”

WHO ARE WE AS HUMAN BEINGS?

- ⇒ Created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27)

- ⇒ All in need of God’s grace (Romans 3:21-26)

- ⇒ Are equal in the sight of God

- ⇒ God’s grace is available to all

- ⇒ Love your Neighbor as Yourself (Mark 12:31)

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE “GIVER” AND “RECEIVER”

How might mission affect the receiver?

PATRONIZING OR PARTNERING?

GIVING AND RECEIVING FROM THE GOSPEL PERSPECTIVE

PREVIENT MISSION

CLOSING

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Session 3

EXPLORING WHY WE ARE INVOLVED IN MISSION

Session 3 explores motivations of persons involved in mission work and what they say theologically.

OPENING

REASONS FOR MISSION

BIBLICAL MANDATE

1. The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

2. The Greatest Commandments – Mark 12:28-34

MOTIVATIONS FOR MISSION

Self-Giving ↔ Self-Gratification

Encounter with God ↔ Mission Vacation

Anonymous Giver ↔ Santa Claus Syndrome

Cultural Appreciation ←→ Cultural Manipulation

Equality and Teachable Spirit ←→ Patriarchal Approach

Discernment and Flexibility ←→ Control

JESUS SAID...

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Session 4

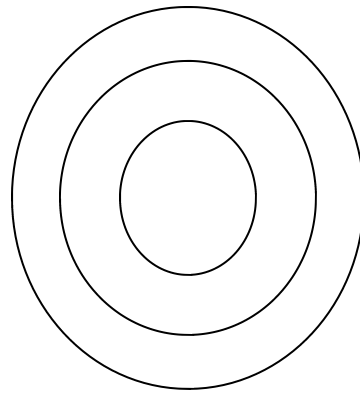
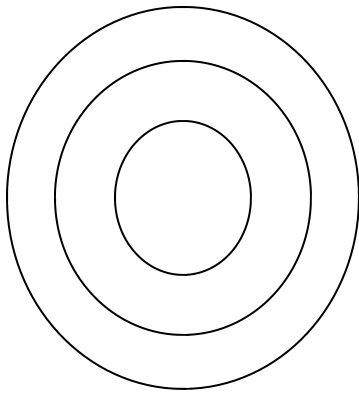
EXPLORING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR MISSION

Session 4 explores the theological foundations for carrying out the mission of the church.

OPENING

MISSION IS CENTRAL

SPUN OUT IN MISSION



MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

MISSION IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION

WRAP UP

CLOSING

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ALL: Amen.

Session 5

MOVING FROM WHY TO HOW

Session 5 explores how sound mission theology can impact the way we do mission work.

FROM BEING TO DOING

BEING

We are called to be...

Redeemed and Restored People of God

Romans 5:1-6 – We are justified by faith; Christ died for us.

I Peter 2:9 – You are a chosen people

Hebrews 8 – The New Covenant

Galatians 2:20 – Jesus loved and gave his life for us.

Others:

The Body of Christ

I Corinthians 12:4-27 – One Body with Many Members with Various Gifts

I Corinthians 10:16-17 – One Body in Christ (Eucharist)

Romans 12:4-8 – One Body with Many Gifts

Galatians 3:26-29 – No longer Jew or Greek... all belong to Christ

Others:

Obedient Servants

Matthew 25:14-30 – Talents

Luke 17: 7-10 – Duties of Faithful Servant

Mark 12: 41-44 – Widow’s Mite

I Peter 1:13-16 – Call to Obedient Living

Others:

Humble Servants

Micah 6:8 – Walk Humbly

Phil. 2:3-8 – Attitude of Humility

James 4:6-10 – God Exalts the Humble

Barnabas

Others:

Agents of Transformation

The Story of Jonah

Acts 3:1-10 – Peter, an instrument for healing a beggar

Paul

Others:

DOING

We are called to do...

Preach, Teach, Witness

Matt. 28:16-20 - Great Commission

Colossians 3:16-17 - Teach with Wisdom

II Timothy 4:1-5 - Persistence in Proclamation

Acts 1:8 - You Are Witnesses

Others:

Glorify God

Luke 4:8 - Worship Only the Lord Your God

Hebrews 12:28-29 - Give Thanks... Give God Acceptable Worship

Psalms 100 - Worship the Lord with Gladness

Others:

Feed and Care For Others; Serve

John 21:15-19 -Peter and Jesus – feed my sheep

Luke 10:30-37 -Good Samaritan

Luke 14:12-14 -Invite the least

Acts 6:1-3 - Appointed to serve

Matthew 25:31-46 - Feed, clothe...

Deuteronomy 24:19+ -Sharing with gleaners

Others:

Love

I John 4:7-21 -Love one another

Mark 12:31 -Love your neighbor as yourself

I Corinthians 13 -Love Is...

Luke 6:27-36 -Love for Enemies

I John 3:16 -Lay down our lives out of love

Others:

Reconcile; Forgive

Matt. 5:23-24 -Reconcile with Brother/Sister

Matt. 18:21-22 -Unlimited Forgiveness

II Cor. 5:15-21 -Ministry of Reconciliation

Others:

Do justice

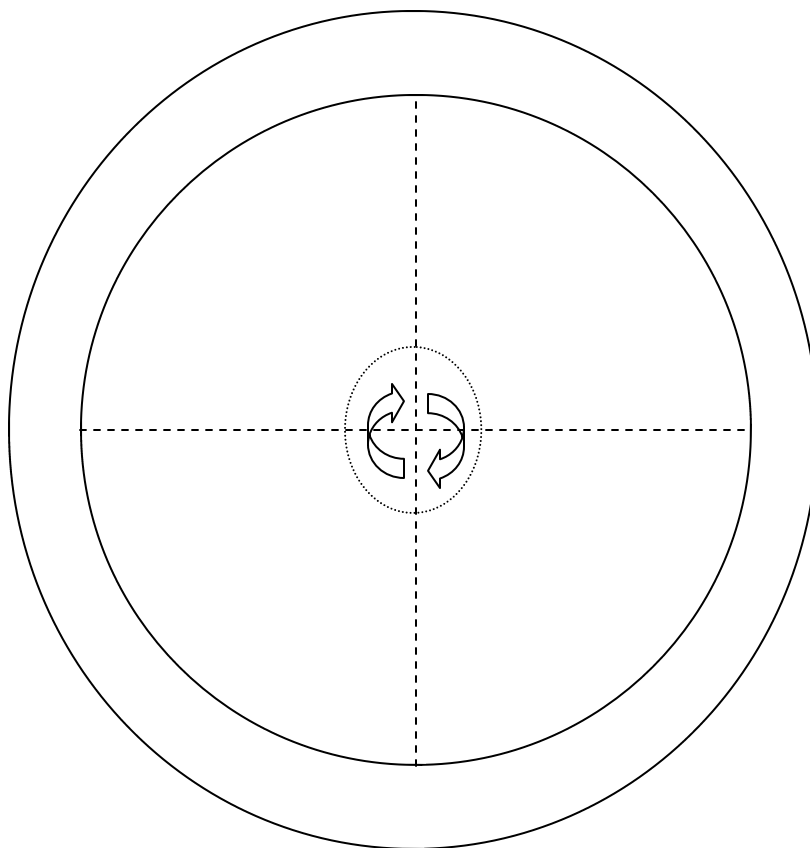
Luke 4:18-21 -Proclaim release to the captives...

Micah 6:6-8 -What does the Lord require?

James 1:27

Others:

THE MISSION WHEEL



CLOSING

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Session 6

OUR RESPONSE

Session 6 explores how we can respond in mission to God's call based upon sound theology with practical applications.

