

Respond to the call to serve: *My mission*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- If you haven't already, please review and reference the Mission and Vision course on NDI (about 10 min to complete) <http://ndi.nac-usa.org/nac-usa-development-institute/courses/19-cmv-101-vision-and-mission>

I wonder...

- Why does our church have a mission statement?
- Why should the mission statement be important to me?
- How could the mission statement influence my actions?

I believe...

- In any organization, a vision statement tells me where we are going, and a mission statement tells me how to get there.
- I believe in the mission of our church, and as a member, I want to invest and contribute to it with my time, possessions, and gifts.
- I believe I should live my life in a way that reflects the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God to those around me.

Materials:

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- IGNITE Bible

References:

- Bible: Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 2:10

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

This week we'll be discussing our church's mission statement. What part of the mission statement stands out to you? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions were about our church's mission statement, why it's important to us, and how it can influence our actions. How does your family live out aspects of the mission statement? How does your congregation live out aspects of the mission statement? Consider talking about these things with your student. You may want to take the discussion further and ask the same questions, but instead, using Jesus' Great Commission as the subject of the questions. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- A vision statement defines where you want to be, and it is the most ideal outcome or ending one can imagine.
- A mission statement is a plan of action that you use to work towards your vision statement.
- The students' vision and mission statements should not be longer than a sentence or two.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Give the students 5 minutes to silently brainstorm a personal vision statement for the next year of their life.
 - Make sure to share the definitions of a vision and mission statement in the facilitator notes.
- Once the students have determined their vision, give them another 5 minutes to write down a personal mission statement.
 - This could be actions they can do or qualities they can work to develop to help them reach their vision.
- When the students are done, have them share their vision and mission statements if they feel comfortable.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- Why does our church have a mission statement?
- Why should the mission statement be important to me?
- How could the mission statement influence my actions?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- **Our Vision** is to create a church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and

Read the church's vision and mission statements with the students.

Student Question #1 Why does our church have a mission statement?

- The students should reflect on the hook activity to help them answer this question.
- Some possible answers are:

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| <p>thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Mission is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others. • Matthew 28:18-20: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The church's mission statement helps lead us to the church's vision statement. The mission tells us how to get there. ○ The mission helps filter our actions, so that the vision is truly a guide for our lives. ○ Our mission is unifying – every New Apostolic Christian is guided by the same aspects that lead us to the same vision for the future. ○ Our mission helps us stay aligned to Jesus and His commands. <p>Discuss with the students that our mission statement is closely tied to the Great Commission that Jesus gave to the disciples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus provided His disciples with a detailed plan of how they were to continue the work He started. Our mission statement provides the same thing for us. ➤ Have a student read the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 aloud. ➤ Ask the students: What similarities do you see between the Great Commission and our church's mission statement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" → "Reaching out to all people" ○ "Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" → "To baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit" ○ "Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" → "Teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ" <p>Exercise: Have the students break off into pairs or small groups, and write each phrase of the church's mission statement in their own words. This will help make the mission easier to understand and remember.</p> |
| | <p><u>Student Question #2</u> Why should the mission statement be important to me?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our actions need to align to the mission of the church so that we stay focused on the vision. ➤ All who believe in Jesus Christ choose to live a life that is set apart. This means we should act and speak differently. ➤ Each one of us has a personal role in the mission – we are personally called to help carry out each aspect of the mission. ➤ Each one of us has spiritual gifts that God has equipped us with to carry out the mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do you think you don't have the right skills to provide soul care? Do you think you're too shy to reach out to all people with Jesus' gospel? Don't let what you think you lack hold you back from living out the mission. ○ God has uniquely gifted you to complete works that He has created for you to do (Ephesians 2:10). ○ Try to figure out how your spiritual gifts, your time, and your possessions can help you live out the mission of the church. ➤ Living out the mission by using your spiritual gifts helps you edify the Body of Christ. |

- **1 Corinthians 10:31:**
 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Student Question #3 How could the mission statement influence my actions?

(You may want to consider breaking the mission statement up into individual statements and answering the question this way.)

- The mission statement is a call to action, not passivity.
- Everything we do and say should bring glory to God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- Those around us should be able to see our works of love and hear our words of kindness.
- We can continue to identify and develop our spiritual gifts.
- We want to strive to enliven gospel teaching.
 - In our church, this mainly happens in the divine service. What spiritual gifts do you have that might contribute to the divine service experience? How does your preparation for a divine service help to enliven the gospel in your own heart and mind?
 - Always seek opportunities to share your experience of the gospel with others. Talk about what He does, not what we do.
 - We are expected to be open-hearted and willing to share what we know about Jesus with everyone we meet.
 - We can enliven gospel teaching by continuing the conversation about the sermon in small groups or conversations with others.
- We can encourage others by being present and staying close to them.
 - We can listen to them, care for them, pray with them, and spend time with them. All these things cultivate love.
- We can each work towards achieving a victory everyday over self-centeredness.
- We can worship God in our personal lives and when gathered with others.
- We can work together with others.
 - By working together, we become more unified with each other and in our goals.
- We can help cultivate a warm fellowship so that everyone can feel God's love.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with linking our mission statement to our desire to respond to the call to serve.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder...." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe...." statement or an "I Believe....." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God in belief and obedience.

I wonder...

- Why does our church have a mission statement?
- Why should the mission statement be important to me?
- How could the mission statement influence my actions?

I believe...

- In any organization, a vision statement tells me where we are going, and a mission statement tells me how to get there.
- I believe in the mission of our church, and as a member, I want to invest and contribute to it with my time, possessions, and gifts.
- I believe I should live my life in a way that reflects the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God to those around me.

Point to Ponder....

- Why is having a mission statement important? What might happen if our church (or any organization) didn't have a mission statement?

A Call to Action....

Memorize the church's mission statement, so that you can more easily filter your words and actions through it and determine what contributes to the mission and vision of the church.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Respond to the call to serve: *My mission*

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| <p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why does our church have a mission statement? ➤ Why should the mission statement be important to me? ➤ How could the mission statement influence my actions? | <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In any organization, a vision statement tells me where we are going, and a mission statement tells me how to get there. ➤ I believe in the mission of our church, and as a member, I want to invest and contribute to it with my time, possessions, and gifts. ➤ I believe I should live my life in a way that reflects the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God to those around me. |
| <p>References: Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 2:10</p> | |

Our Mission is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.

1. Why does our church have a mission statement?

2. Write each phrase of the mission statement in your own words.

3. Why should the mission statement be important to me?

4. How could the mission statement influence my actions?

Point to Ponder: Why is having a mission statement important? What might happen if our church (or any organization) didn't have a mission statement?

Call to Action: Memorize the church's mission statement, so that you can more easily filter your words and actions through it and determine what contributes to the mission and vision of the church.