



LESSON TWO: THE CALL TO MISSION

*Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH
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RELATING TO THE WORLD'S STORY

King Solomon observed, “[God] has also set eternity in the human heart” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). This means not only that, by nature, we have a sense that there is life after our earthly life comes to an end. It also means that we sense that there is a purpose or a mission for our life in this world.

- 1) What purpose(s) or mission(s) do you think unbelievers would say they live their lives for? What would their actions reveal about the purpose(s) or mission(s) of their lives?

LEARNING FROM PAUL'S STORY

When Saul became a Christian, his name became Paul. Paul calls himself “an apostle of Christ Jesus by will of God” (Colossians 1:1), “sent not from men or by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father” (Galatians 1:1). This was not just a call to faith, but a redefining of his life.

- 2) Describe Paul’s mission as defined by God in the following passages:

- 📖 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man [Saul/Paul] is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.” (Acts 9:15)
- 📖 “For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’” (Acts 13:47)
- 📖 “Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” (Acts 26:26-18)

- 3) Paul was sent out through the church in Antioch (See Acts 13:1-3). Read 📖 Acts 16:6-12. Describe the factors or events that affected and guided the next steps in Paul's journey.
- 4) In groups of 3-4, discuss the value of planning, as we seek to carry out God's mission in our lives. Share a time when God may have been using events or influences in your life to interrupt, alter, or redirect your plans.

Want to learn more?

*Paul traces God's hand
in history*

Acts 13:14-39

- 5) Many times, we may wish God would talk to us directly to tell us our next steps or the right decisions. Based on the following passages, explain why is it foolish and even dangerous to seek God's direction apart from his Word.

📖 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

📖 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

📖 When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. (Isaiah 8:19-20)

📖 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Don't expect that our journey in life will be neatly spelled out for us but being a witness of Jesus and a light to the world is not just a task, it is our identity (See 1 Peter 2:4-10; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 13:27). Our call to action doesn't usually come as dramatic as it came to Paul, but it may become obvious if we look at the people around us. The work may not be as high profile as Paul's, but God involves us in very important roles. Each role is important (See 1 Corinthians 3:5-8). Don't overlook your home, your friends, your community.

6) Read the passages listed below. How do they reveal God's direction for your life?

 Matthew 28:18-20

 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

 1 Corinthians 10:31

TELLING YOUR STORY

7) You too were chosen. Read through the passages below. First, describe what it means to you that you were chosen by God. Then, write a statement expressing your personal mission or purpose in life, given to you by the One who chose you.

 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other." (John 15:5,16-17)

 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (Ephesians 1:4-6)

 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:28-32)

 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

- 8) Discuss your life's mission in view of being a light for the nations. Determine how that changes your priorities. How does that redefine how you carry out your different roles and relationships in life?

Many countries have been closed to Christianity, and every sinful heart is naturally opposed to the gospel. We may have to endure the frustrations of our plans and expectations before we discover the doors God is opening for a new and clearer direction. Yet all of us are also involved in the task of taking the gospel message to the ends of the earth. Don't sit around waiting for it. Keep moving and let God direct your steps.

Motivation from Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1-8
Isaiah 45:1-25
Isaiah 49:1-22

THIS WEEK:

- *Learn this Bible Story to share: **The Call of Moses** (Exodus 3-4).*
- *Think about this: If someone reads your actions, expenses, and time commitments, what would they say is your mission? What do you want your life to communicate about your relationship with God through Jesus? What steps can you take to make sure that your life communicates this?*

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