



SYLLABUS

- 1. Overview of Mission
 - Mission Defined
 - God's Bigger Missional Story
- 2. The God of Mission
 - The Unifying Nature of God
 - · The Relationality of God
- 3. Connection between God and Mission
- 4. The Mission and the Fall
- 5. Summary

OVERVIEW OF MISSION

Genesis 1:28

MISSION DEFINED

When looking at the general concept of *mission*, it contains the idea of accomplishing something through utilizing resources. Consider the scenario, "She's on a mission to find her keys." We understand this scenario as, "She has chosen to sacrifice time and energy in order to work at accomplishing the goal of finding her keys." From this scenario, we understand that *mission* contains both the *work* involved to accomplish the task (looking in the washer, checking under the couch cushions, searching jacket

 •••••

pockets) and the <i>goal</i> that is reached (keys located in the kitchen	
beside the microwave).	
When we consider the Missian of Cod we revet consider both the	
When we consider the <i>Mission of God</i> , we must consider both the	
work involved in the mission and the goal of the mission. These both flow from the relational nature and character of the triune	
God. <i>Trinity</i> is the man-made word that attempts to describe the	
fundamental relationality of God. He is three unique persons	
(Father, Son, Spirit) consisting of the same composition, substance,	
purpose, and love. Each member of the Trinity is engaged in deep	
relational transactions with the other members. Their	
fundamental disposition toward one another is always outward for	
the benefit of the others.	
Understanding this at deeper levels reveals more of the nature of	
the Mission of God. At the core, God's mission is about	
relationship. Whatever the work of the mission is, it must center	
on relationship. Whatever the <i>goal</i> of the mission is, it must center	
on relationship. We conclude this because of the relational nature	
of God! If He is the definer and initiator of the mission, then the	
mission must flow from His fundamental nature, which is	
relational.	
GOD'S BIGGER MISSIONAL STORY	
God gives us a snapshot of the <i>work</i> and the <i>goal</i> of his mission in	
Genesis 1:28 when He defines and initiates His mission through	
the command to the man and the woman, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of	
the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living	
thing that moves on the earth."	
thing that moves on the earth.	
The work of God's mission for humanity was to be fruitful and	
<i>multiply.</i> Interestingly, the process of being fruitful and multiplying	
is inherently relational between the man and the woman. God's	
design for this to occur was through a covenant marital	

relationship. God's missional work for humanity was to move

forward as they relationally connected with one another while depending on Him for wisdom, direction, and strength ¹ . The <i>goal</i> of the mission was to <i>fill the earth with His relational image bearers</i> who were relating with God and each other in the same way that God relates to Himself in the Trinity (an outward relational disposition for the benefit of others). Out of this relational dynamic with God and others, they were to rule over the entire earth, glorifying God (making much of Him) by putting His love on display in various ways.	
In conclusion, we see <i>relationship</i> being both the <i>source</i> of God's mission and the <i>goal</i> of God's mission. It was the <i>source</i> of His mission because people were to relationally depend on Him while doing the work of the mission through relating with one another. It was the <i>goal</i> of the mission because the end result of the missional work was deep relational connections between God and others where His love was manifested among His image bearers.	
It was through a relational partnership with God that the work of the mission was to be directed and empowered. Although the work of God's mission has taken on different forms throughout history, the goal has always been the same: to fill the earth with God's relational image bearers who relate with God and each other in the same way that God relates to Himself in the Trinity.	
God is continuing the work of His mission to this very day and will continue it until the goal is accomplished. He is devoting all his resources to this end. As with Adam and Eve, He invites all His children to make a committed choice to partner with Him in His mission as the central motivation for their lives.	

¹ This is inferred from God walking in the garden in the cool of the day from Genesis 3:8. We believe this was a common interaction between God and Adam and Eve before the Fall.

In the Bible Overview (OVE 100), we take a bird's eye view of God's Larger Story starting with Beginnings and concluding with Restoration. **GOD'S LARGER STORY** Beginnings Fall Israel Church Restoration Jesus In this series, we will delve deeper into God's Larger Missional Story through the following courses: Introduction: Mission Defined (INT 200) *Method: Divine Partnership* (MET 201) Relevance: Mission for Today (REL 202) Motivation: Engaging the Mission (MOT 203)