



Analer

CHURCH

HOPE OF NEW JERSEY

CREW LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

LESSON 7

MISSION & TESTIMONY

Who Could God Reach Through Me?



GROW



FISH



REPEAT

CREW LIFE — LESSON 7 MISSION & TESTIMONY



Introduction

Following Jesus changes us. As we walk with Him, He begins shaping our character, changing our priorities, developing our faith, and teaching us to become more like Him. But discipleship was never intended to be only about what God is doing IN us.

Eventually, what God is doing in us must begin reaching somebody THROUGH us.

God has given each of us things He can use for His Kingdom. He has given us experiences. He has given us relationships. He has given us opportunities. He has given us a testimony of what Jesus has done in our lives. And none of these things were meant simply for us to possess. God wants to use our lives to help other people encounter Jesus.

That doesn't mean we have to know every answer. It doesn't mean we have to be great speakers. It doesn't mean everyone will serve God in exactly the same way. God has placed each of us in different families, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and relationships. And every day, we interact with people who are at different places in their journey toward God.

Sometimes reaching somebody begins with something very simple. A conversation. An invitation. An act of kindness. Praying with somebody who's hurting. Sharing something Jesus has done in our lives. Being willing to recognize an opportunity and allowing God to use us in that moment.

And that's where our **CREW LIFE DISCIPLESHIP culture** becomes more than a phrase: **GROW. FISH. REPEAT.**

We **GROW** as disciples of Jesus. We **FISH** by allowing what God is doing in us to begin reaching others. Then, as people encounter Jesus and begin following Him, we help them **GROW**, learn to **FISH**, and eventually the process **REPEATS**. That's discipleship.

So tonight we're going to focus on two things that are essential to living as a disciple of Jesus:

1. **MISSION &**
2. **TESTIMONY.**

We're going to discover that God has placed people around us whom He wants to reach, and that every one of us has a story of what Jesus has done in our lives that can point somebody toward Him.

So as we begin, I want us to think beyond one question: **"What is God doing in me?"** And begin asking another: **"Who could God reach through me?"**

Lesson Objective

To help every believer understand that following Jesus includes being sent by Jesus. Each disciple has a mission field, a testimony, and opportunities to intentionally help others encounter Christ. By the end of this lesson, we should be able to identify people God has already placed around us and begin using our testimony to share the Gospel with confidence and purpose.

Big Idea

What God does IN us was never meant to stop with us. He wants to work THROUGH us to reach others.

Every disciple has a mission.
Every believer has a testimony.
Every testimony can point someone to Jesus.

Focus Scriptures

- * Matthew 4:1
- * Acts 1:8
- * John 20:21

Lesson 7 — MISSION & TESTIMONY

I. EVERY DISCIPLE HAS A MISSION

When Jesus called His disciples, He never called them simply to come. He called them to eventually go. [John 20:21](#) — “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” Jesus was sent into the world with a mission, and now He tells His disciples, “I am sending you.”

This means mission is not a special assignment reserved for a select few believers. We often hear the word mission and immediately think about missionaries traveling to another country, pastors preaching behind a pulpit, or evangelists traveling from church to church. Those are certainly expressions of mission, but Jesus’ call is much bigger than that. Every disciple of Jesus is called to live on mission.

[Matthew 4:19](#) — “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Notice that Jesus connects following with fishing. As we follow Jesus, He begins changing us into people who reach other people. We **GROW** so that eventually we can **FISH**.

Our mission field doesn’t necessarily begin across an ocean. It begins with the people God has already placed around us.

Our family. Our friends. The people we work with. The people we go to school with. Our neighbors. The person we see every week at the grocery store. The parent sitting beside us at our child's activity. God has already surrounded us with people who need Jesus.

Sometimes we can become so FOCUSED on discovering the big thing God has called us to do that we OVERLOOK the people He has already placed directly in front of us. We ask, "God, where do You want to use me?" while God may already be showing us through the relationships and opportunities He has given us.

You don't need a microphone to have a ministry. You don't need a title to have a mission. You don't need to stand behind a pulpit to point somebody toward Jesus. You simply need to be available wherever God has placed you.

Acts 1:8 —, "...ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me..." Jesus didn't say, "You shall all become preachers." He said, "Ye shall be witnesses."

A witness simply tells what they have SEEN, HEARD, and EXPERIENCED. That means God can use your conversations. He can use your compassion. He can use your relationships. He can use your acts of service. He can use your invitation. He can use your story.

The question isn't simply, "Do I have a mission?" Jesus has already answered that. Every disciple has a mission. The better question is: "Who has God already placed around me that He wants to reach through my life?"

CREW DISCUSSION

1. When you hear the word "mission," what normally comes to your mind?
2. Where has God already given you influence—home, work, school, neighborhood, friendships, or somewhere else?
3. Without sharing their name if you don't want to, can you think of ONE person God has already placed in your life who may need encouragement, prayer, an invitation, or an opportunity to hear about Jesus?

II. EVERY DISCIPLE HAS A TESTIMONY

One of the biggest reasons people hesitate to share their faith is because they feel unprepared. We think, “What if they ask me a question I can’t answer?” “What if I don’t know enough Scripture?” “What if I say the wrong thing?”

Sharing Jesus doesn’t always [BEGIN](#) with having all the [ANSWERS](#). Sometimes it begins with simply telling someone what Jesus has done for you.

In Mark 5, Jesus encounters a man whose life had been completely broken. He lived among the tombs, isolated from people and controlled by unclean spirits. But when Jesus encountered him, everything changed. Jesus delivered him, and by the time the people of the city came to see what had happened, they found this man “sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind.”

The man wanted to get into the ship and go with Jesus, but Jesus gave him another assignment. [“Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.” — Mark 5:19](#)

Think about that. This man hadn’t been through years of training. He didn’t have all the answers. He hadn’t studied every doctrine. But he had something nobody could take away from him. — He knew what Jesus had done for him. And Jesus told him: [GO HOME. TELL THEM.](#) That’s a testimony.

Your testimony doesn’t have to sound like somebody else’s. It doesn’t have to be dramatic to be powerful. You don’t have to have a story of being delivered from addiction, rescued from the streets, or surviving some terrible situation for your testimony to matter.

Maybe your testimony is that God kept you when you could have walked away. Maybe He restored your family. Maybe He gave you peace during a difficult season. Maybe He answered a prayer. Maybe He healed something in your heart. Maybe you were raised knowing Jesus and His grace kept you from things other people had to be delivered out of. [What Jesus has done in your life matters.](#)

[1 Peter 3:15](#) — “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...”

Notice, Peter doesn’t say we have to know the answer to every question someone could possibly ask. But we should be ready to [EXPLAIN](#) why we have [HOPE](#).

One of the simplest ways to prepare ourselves is to learn how to tell [OUR](#) story.

YOUR TESTIMONY — THREE SIMPLE PARTS

1. **BEFORE** — What was my life like before this encounter with Jesus?

You don't have to glorify your past or give every detail. Simply help someone understand where you were.

2. **JESUS** — What did Jesus do?

How did you encounter Him? What happened? How did He meet you, change you, forgive you, deliver you, restore you, or reveal Himself to you?

3. **AFTER** — What difference has Jesus made?

What changed? What is He still changing? What hope do you have today because of Jesus?

BEFORE → JESUS → AFTER

Your testimony doesn't have to be thirty minutes long. Learn to tell what Jesus has done for you in two or three minutes. Sometimes the **GREATEST** opportunities God gives us happen in a **SHORT** period of time, but those moments can open the door to future opportunities to share more of what God has done in our lives.

It's simply an opportunity to say: "Can I tell you what Jesus has done for me?"

CREW EXERCISE — BUILD YOUR TESTIMONY

Take a few minutes and write one or two thoughts under each. You don't have to write your entire testimony tonight. We're simply learning to recognize the story God has already given us.

BEFORE: What was happening in my life before Jesus changed this part of my story?

JESUS: What did Jesus do in my life?

AFTER: How is my life different because of what Jesus has done?

CREW DISCUSSION

3. Why do you think sharing what Jesus has personally done for us can sometimes be easier than trying to explain everything we know about the Bible?
4. What part of your story could encourage someone who is going through something you've already experienced?
5. How could you tell that part of your testimony in two or three minutes while keeping Jesus—not yourself—as the focus?

III. YOUR MISSION FIELDS IS ALREADY AROUND YOU

Sometimes when we think about being used by God, we imagine something that will happen somewhere else, sometime in the future. We think we need a special [OPPORTUNITY](#), a ministry position, or the perfect moment before we can really make a difference. But Jesus taught His disciples to begin right where they were.

Notice the progression of [Acts 1:8](#), “witnesses in, Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth. Their witness would eventually reach the world, but it would begin where they were.

The same principle applies to us. We can have a burden for our community, our state, our nation, and the world—and we should. But [we should never become so focused on reaching somebody far away that we overlook the people God has already placed within our reach.](#)

Our mission field may begin at the [KITCHEN](#) table. It may be the person sitting at the desk beside us at work. It may be another parent at our child's school. It may be the neighbor across the street. It may be the family member we've prayed for for years.

You don't always have to [GO](#) somewhere to find your mission field. Sometimes you simply have to [SEE](#) the mission field God has already placed around you.

Living on mission doesn't mean every conversation has to become a Bible study. Sometimes it begins by simply paying attention.

Who is hurting? Who needs encouragement?

Who has been asking questions? Who needs prayer?

Who could use an invitation? Who has God repeatedly placed in my path?

Sometimes we are waiting for a great opportunity while overlooking the small opportunities God gives us every day.

A conversation can become a connection. A connection can become a relationship. A relationship can create trust. And trust can open the door for somebody to hear about Jesus.

That's why we don't have to **force** the Gospel into every conversation. We should be intentional, but we should also be **sensitive** to people and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Ghost.

We love people. We serve people. We pray for people.
We build relationships with people. And when God opens the door...
We tell them about Jesus.

That's fishing. — Fishing requires us to recognize that there are people all around us who need what Jesus has given us. And sometimes the first step isn't complicated at all.

Notice someone. Pray for someone. Talk to someone. Invite someone. Tell someone.

CREW DISCUSSION — WHO'S YOUR ONE?

Take a moment and think about the people God has already placed around you.

6. Where is your most immediate mission field right now—home, family, workplace, school, neighborhood, friendships, or somewhere else?

7. Is there ONE person God keeps bringing to your mind whom you could begin intentionally praying for?

8. What is one simple next step you could take with that person this week?

It might be:

PRAY for them.

CONNECT with them.

SERVE them.

SHARE part of your testimony.

INVITE them to take a step toward Jesus.

Write their name down if you're comfortable doing so. You don't have to share it with anyone.

CREW NOTES

1. Sometimes we can become so _____ on discovering the big thing God has called us to do that we _____ the people He has already placed directly in front of us.
2. A witness simply tells what they have _____, _____, and _____.
3. Sharing Jesus doesn't always _____ with having all the _____. Sometimes it begins with simply telling someone what Jesus has done for you.
4. We should be ready to _____ why we have _____.
5. One of the simplest ways to prepare ourselves is to learn how to tell _____ story.
6. Sometimes the _____ opportunities God gives us happen in a _____ period of time, but those moments can open the door to future opportunities to share more of what God has done in our lives.
7. Sometimes we think we need a special _____, a ministry position, or the perfect moment before we can really make a difference.
8. Our mission field may begin at the _____ table.
9. You don't always have to _____ somewhere to find your mission field.
10. Sometimes you simply have to _____ the mission field God has already placed around you.

CREW LIFE CULTURE

At Angler Church, we believe every disciple of Jesus has a mission and every believer has a testimony. Reaching people is not reserved for pastors, missionaries, or those with a ministry title. It is part of what it means to follow Jesus.

We intentionally look for the people God has already placed around us. We love them. We serve them. We pray for them. We build genuine relationships with them. And when God opens the door, we are ready to share what Jesus has done in our lives.

We don't have to know every answer or wait for the perfect opportunity. We simply make ourselves available and trust the Holy Ghost to help us recognize the moments God places in front of us.

At Angler Church, we don't just come to church—we are the Church wherever God sends us. Our homes are mission fields. Our workplaces are mission fields. Our schools and neighborhoods are mission fields. Wherever God has placed us, there are people we can love and point toward Jesus.

This is our CREW LIFE DISCIPLESHIP culture: GROW. FISH. REPEAT.

We GROW in our relationship with Jesus.

We FISH by intentionally helping others encounter Jesus.

And we REPEAT by helping those we reach become disciples who will eventually reach someone else.

We don't just ask, "How am I growing?"

We also ask, "Who am I helping reach Jesus?"

Because disciples don't just follow Jesus. Disciples help others follow Jesus too.