

Adopting a Missions Mindset

Big Takeaway: A true “missionary heart” is to become all things to all men, so that by all possible means you can win some to Christ.

The goal of this session is to help you develop a Missional thinking and practice. The sooner you learn how to walk and present yourself as a kingdom person, the better you will connect with those you are called to reach and serve.

Mission is not just about location, it is about Identity. It is not what we do, it's who we are.

- Personal Consecration and Discipline -

1. Incorporate Missions in your prayer life:

- Pray over yourself and your Missionary calling. Paul suggested praying Ephesians 1:18. I ask that the eyes of (my) heart may be enlightened, so that (I) may know the hope of (Your) calling, the riches of (Your) glorious inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of (Your) power to (me) who believe.
- Pray for Missionaries you or your church have adopted and are serving.
- Pray for UUPG's as you are led.
- Pray for the persecuted Church as you are led.

2. Set a Missions budget for you and/or your family:

- Jesus said, “Where your heart is that's where your treasure will be also.”

3. Keep yourself informed:

- Follow missionary websites on social media such as Finishing the Task, Joshua Project, Samaritan Purse, Living Word Missions, etc.
- Subscribe to Missionary newsletters working in your region of interest.
- Collect intel regarding the spiritual, political and social condition of the region where you are called to serve to help you pray more accurately.
- Follow the progress of the gospel in that region, and among the people group God is calling you to reach.

4. Accountability:

- Being submitted to a spiritual authority and having to be accountable will help you build your spiritual maturity and teach you how to handle relationship on

the mission field. **If you don't learn to be accountable to men it will be hard to be accountable to God.**

- Develop a Specific Set of Skills and Attitude -

1. *Being led by the Holy Spirit:*

- This is the very first skill every missionary should learn, because if we try to build without the master, all our efforts will be vain. It sounds so basic but it is foundational to always keep in mind that God is the master of the Harvest. (Luke 10:2 NLT).

2. *Develop a cross-cultural attitude:*

- *"For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more...I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."* 1 Corinthians 9:19-22
- What you will be faced with stepping into another culture — another language, a different code of ethics, unfamiliar music, new art, a different way of dressing, a change in the mode of transportation, exotic food and beverages — will all be bits and pieces of a new way of approaching life and connecting with people.
- A "Missionary attitude" will make it easier to earn enough trust from the people you intend to reach with the gospel message and make the gospel resonate with more accuracy in their context. You will obtain a far better response.

Remember our Big Takeaway, A true “missionary heart” is to become all things to all men, so that by all possible means you can win some to Christ.

- How Do You Do That? -

1. *Settle in your heart your Kingdom Identity:*

- You are not an American, a Brazilian, etc. Your citizenship is from Heaven (Phil 3:20). As a Missionary, you now look at people from a kingdom perspective, the way God looks at them, with love and compassion.

2. *Learn the Principle of Incarnation:*

- Even though you are “seated with Christ in the heavenly places," you need to learn to come down to the level of the people and be willing to become one of them so you can win them.
- Philippians 2:5-8 NIRV *“You should think in the same way Christ Jesus does. In his very nature he was God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something he should hold on to. Instead, he made himself nothing. He took on the very nature of a servant. He was made in human form. He appeared as a*

man. He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to his death..."

- Learning to identify with the people you want to reach is a basic skill that a missionary should develop. Learning their language, eating their food, understanding their cultural code of ethics will be invaluable to win their trust and serve as a bridge to present the Gospel effectively in their context. That's how the Word will become flesh to them and will dwell in their midst with grace and glory.
- The best way to practice now is by connecting with people from different culture who live within your reach.
- The student in training, the refugee in your city, the immigrant who just moved to your neighborhood or whose child goes to the same school as your children. The foreigner who just opened a store in your neighborhood.
- *"The foreigner who dwells with you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself..."* Leviticus 19:34 MEV. Offer to participate in their social events (Picnics, holidays, birthdays, funerals, etc.)
- Learn how to navigate in their social environment. Collect insight through observation and questions, and record it for the sake of prayer, planning, and collaboration. The Holy Spirit might point elements in their culture or belief system that may serve as a bridge to communicate the Gospel.
- Paul gave us a perfect illustration of this principle in Acts 17.23 *"For as I walked around and examined your objects of worship, I even found an altar with the inscription: To an unknown God. Therefore what you worship as something unknown, I now proclaim Him to you."*
- **Building a relationship is the key. By showing love and respect you are sowing good seed that will bear fruit in due season because love NEVER FAILS.**

3. Go Deeper With Your Training:

- I learned from my spiritual Father, who learned it from his, that **certain things are better caught than taught**. As much as you can learn from books, seminars like this or in classroom training, nothing can replace field training where you are mentored by a veteran missionary. There are certain things that can only be passed through discipleship.
- We have put together such training, for people who will qualify and are serious about their calling to missions. In-person immersive training program for people who are called to serve on a foreign field.