



YOUR WITNESS

BIBLE STUDY 2025

Faith Methodist Church
“Your Witness” Bible Study
2025

Preface

In the tapestry of Scripture, God's mission unfolds as a profound narrative of reconciliation and redemption. This Bible study material, "Biblical Perspective of Missions - Your Witnesses" invites you to journey through this divine mission—a mission that beckons us all to participate actively in God's plan for humanity.

From the very beginning, God created a world marked by harmony and relationship. Yet, as we know, sin fractured this creation, leading to separation from our Creator. The biblical story is, at its heart, the account of God's relentless pursuit to restore what was lost towards a new creation. This narrative crescendos in the person of Jesus Christ, the ultimate embodiment of God's redemptive work. Jesus not only brought the message of God's Kingdom, but also modeled for us how to live out this mission in our daily lives.

Throughout the lessons in this study, we will explore key biblical passages that illuminate our call to join God in this transformative work. We'll trace the historical progression of God's mission, beginning with His initial calls to His people and culminating in the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit within the Church. Each session builds upon the last, creating a rich understanding of how our participation fits within the larger biblical framework.

Why does God call His people to mission? And to what end? These questions are foundational to our exploration. We'll see that God's call is rooted in His character and purpose: to redeem a world marred by sin and to restore His creation. We're propelled by a "push" away from the devastation of sin, as poignantly captured in Genesis 6:5, while simultaneously being drawn by a "pull" towards the glorious promise of redemption, as seen in Revelation 21:1-4.

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. - Gen 6:5

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." - Rev 21:1-4

As we engage with these Scriptures, we will not only reflect on our individual roles but also on the collective mission of the Church. We will learn how to be witnesses of God's love through our words and deeds, empowered by His Spirit. Each lesson serves as a reminder that we are not mere observers but active participants in this divine partnership.

Ultimately, this study aims to deepen our understanding of missions within the overarching story of Scripture, illuminating God's heart for all people. As we uncover the richness of these biblical passages, may we be inspired to respond to His call, becoming agents of His grace and hope in a world longing for redemption. Together, let us step into this mission with boldness, knowing that we serve a God who is both our guide and our strength.

Through this bible study series, we will be exploring the following learning points:

- God's mission is to reconcile with the fallen Humanity, to redeem us and to establish the kingdom of God.

- We are all called to participate in this mission with God
 - a. By being called to a partnership with God
 - b. Jesus brings this redemption to all, and we can follow in the footsteps of Jesus
 - c. To bring the message of God's Kingdom
 - d. To bring that message to all the world, relying on God to empower us
 - e. With our lives, with our words and deeds as witness

“Your Witness” Bible Study Lesson Overview

Outlines and Learning Objectives	Reference
<p>Lesson 1 - Blessed to be a blessing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God’s mission is to redeem the world for the glory of His name. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God’s original creation has been corrupted by sin [3]. Thus all the world needs God’s salvation [9]. b. But God has a plan [1][5]and a desire [4], a <i>mission</i> to save us [7]. 2. God calls Abraham <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God’s call, promises of blessings, and Abraham’s response [1] [4]. b. God establishes a covenant with Abraham [4]. c. God blessed Abraham and through him, all nations and all who have faith like Abraham [6]. 3. God calls us to join him in this mission [1][2][8][9] to seek and save the lost <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. He doesn’t need us, but invites us to partner with him [8]. b. Our very involvement in His mission is a blessing for us [1][2][4]. c. We can follow Abraham by responding in obedience and faith [6]. d. God strengthens and empowers us to obey like Abraham [10]. 	<p>[1] Genesis 12:1-4 [2] Malachi 1:14, Numbers 14:21, Habakkuk 2:14 [3] Genesis 1-11 [4] Genesis 17:3-14 [5] Luke 15, John 3:16 [6] Galatians 3:6-9 [7] Hebrews 11:8-10 [8] Revelation 21:1-4 [9] Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 24:14 [10] Ephesians 3:16-19</p>
<p>Lesson 2 - A New Life for All</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus is the power to save the world <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus is the culmination of the promises in the OT [1]. b. Jesus extends this salvation to all the world [1]. 	<p>[1] John 3:1-21 [2] Philippians 2:5-8 [3] John 4:4-26</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Salvation through Jesus allows us to be born again in the spirit and see his kingdom [1]. <p>2. Jesus shows the way to save the world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus humbled himself and related directly to the situations of the ones he ministered to [2]. b. Jesus ministers to each one of us as unique individuals [3]. 	
<p>Lesson 3 - The Kingdom of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The kingdom is the promise of redemption that the world needs. It is the rule and reign of King Jesus. [1] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It is the present and future realisation of God's redemptive mission [2][3]. b. Just like Jesus and the apostles, we need to tell the world about it [4]. 2. The kingdom is the reason for pursuing redemption for the world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Entry into the kingdom of God is through the new birth [5]. b. For each one of us who have the new life of Jesus, the kingdom has come to us. It is already here, now [6] but not yet, in all its fullness in the world [6a]. c. Since we are all now part of this Kingdom on earth, we live our lives as redeemed members of the Kingdom [7], praying and working for its further realisation on earth [1][4]. 	<p>[1] Psalm 103:19-21 [2] Psalm 145:13 [3] Revelation 11:15, Daniel 7:14 [4] Matthew 3:2, 4:17, 10:7; Mark 1:15; Luke 4:43, 9:2, 10:9, Acts 28:30-31, etc [5] John 3:5, 3:16, Romans 10:14-15. [6] Colossians 1:12-14, Revelation 1:5b-6. [6a] Luke 17:20, Matthew 6:9-13 [7] Matthew 7:21, Luke 10:9, Galatians 5:16-21, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5</p>
<p>Lesson 4 - The Great Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Together with the Great Commandment, Jesus gave the Great Commission [1]. 2. With God's power and love in our hearts, we can join in this mission [1][2][3][7]. 3. We are called to bring the gospel to <i>all</i> the world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No place is too far to be reached [2]. b. No one is too different to be saved [2][3][6]. 	<p>[1] Matthew 22:36-40, 28:18-20 [2] Acts 1:8 [3] Acts 2:4-5 [4] Acts 4:29-31 [5] Acts 10:9-45 [6] Romans 1:14-16 [7] Ephesians 6:12</p>

<p>c. Some people may be near us but far in terms of socio-economic and religious distance [5].</p>	
<p>Lesson 5 - Our role in missions</p> <p>1. Don't witness, <i>be the witness</i></p> <p>a. We fulfil God's mission in all parts of our life, not just in a specific activity.</p> <p>i. Each of us is a witness [1] and in Jesus, together, we are built up as a dwelling place for God in this world [3].</p> <p>ii. "Non-spiritual" aspects of our lives are also a witness to God [4][5].</p> <p>b. We each contribute to salvation according to our gifts [2].</p> <p>2. <i>We</i> the church are the witness</p> <p>a. We the church are God's people, the body of Christ [6].</p> <p>b. Knowing that we each have our own gifts [2], we each have our role to play within the church [7]</p>	<p>[1] Acts 5:29-32 [2] 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31 [3] Ephesians 2:11-22 [4] Acts 14:15-17 [5] Isaiah 28:24-29 [6] Romans 12:5 and 1 Corinthians 10:17 [7] Acts 13:2-3 and Acts 14:27; also 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2</p>

Lesson 1

Abraham – Blessed to be a blessing

Learning points:

- God calls us to join in his redeeming of the world from sin.
- God blesses us by calling us to be a blessing to the world.
- We respond to God's calling in obedience and faith.

Introduction

1. What does “missions” mean?

Missions has a colloquial understanding in church, referring specifically to evangelistic activities to reach out to non-Christians, typically overseas. But the word itself fundamentally just means “**a statement of purpose**”.

2. In the Christian context, why are we sent? Whose purpose is this? God's purpose surely. What would that be?

3. How do we serve or partner God's purpose for the pursuit of His glory?

4. When did God call His people to make disciples of all nations?

9. How did Abram respond to the promises and commands of God, according to Genesis 12:4?

10. According to Hebrews 11:8-10, why did Abram respond the way he did in Genesis 12:4?

11. What actually happened to Abram after he responded to the calling?

12. Given all the difficulties in his life, why do we still remember Abram as being blessed by God? What were the blessings that Abram received beyond his lifetime?

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram (meaning exalted father); your name will be Abraham (meaning father of many) for I have made you a father of many nations. - Genesis 17:3-5 (NIV)

13. Read Galatians 3:6-9. Who are the children of Abraham? How is this a fulfillment of God's promises to Abram in Genesis 12:1-4?

His descendents did become God's chosen nation, and subsequently Jesus was born through them, and through Jesus, all of God's people are now blessed through him. In other words, his greatest blessing is ***just being part of God's plan of redemption***, even though in his lifetime, his role must have seemed quite insignificant on the outside.

Does God need to involve Abram in any of this? Does God need to involve any of **us** in his mission?

*And this gospel of the kingdom **will** be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end **will** come - Matthew 24:14*

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
- Matthew 28:18*

No! God doesn't need us to redeem the world, He can do it anyway. But He wants us to be part of the plan, and we are blessed to be able to be involved.

14. Reflect on how God's blessings actually came about for Abram. Do you think being called to participate in God's redemptive plan is a blessing? Express in your own words what are the blessings you look forward to when responding to God's call.

15. Consider again how you would respond to God's call for you.

16. Read Ephesians 3:16-19. How can we respond in faith like Abraham, to the life that God has called us to live?

17. Today, we have received God's greatest blessing of forgiveness and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. Like Abraham, we want to be a blessing to others with this greatest blessing that God has given us. Write down 1 name you would like to share this blessing with and share with your Life Group how you plan to do it.

Personal Journal #1 (What is one fact that I have gained from the bible about mission? What is being stirred in my heart? What does participating in missions mean to me now? What is one action I am committed to do as part of missions?)

Lesson 2

A New Life for All

Learning points:

1. How did Jesus extend the blessing of Abraham to all the world?
2. How did Jesus do this redeeming work in the world?

Introduction

Last lesson, we looked at how God has been calling his people to join Him in redeeming the world. Abraham first responded to that call in obedience and faith, and his call & response is a blessing for all the world. But how exactly have we been blessed, in being able to share in this redemption? The answer of course, is Jesus!

The only power to save the world

Jesus declared that his mission was to seek and save the lost in Luke 19:10. We will look at how Jesus did this in his encounter with Nicodemus.

Read John 3:1-21

In this passage, we see Jesus conversing with Nicodemus about what it means to be “born again”. Jesus said it was necessary to be born again to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus explained how God plans to save the world through Him. John 3:16 probably records the most well-known summary of the core promise that Christ brings to us.

1. What does John 3:16 say about God, Jesus, and everyone?

Nicodemus is a “Pharisee” and “a member of the Jewish ruling council”. He would have been familiar with the promises of the Old Testament, in particular the promises God made through Abraham and the other patriarchs: how He is to bless the nation of Israel, and “*all peoples on earth*” through them. But Nicodemus did not know that Christ Jesus is the blessing of Abraham for all peoples (Galatians 3:8,14).

2. What is it that Nicodemus did not understand? What is Jesus telling him in John 3:10-11?

In v14-15, Jesus refers to an incident from Numbers 21:4-9. Israel was afflicted with an outbreak of venomous snakes after complaining about God's direction for them. After their repentance, God told Moses to make a snake figure and put it up on a pole, and when any snake bite victim looked at it, they would live. In this passage, God did not deliver Israel by taking away the snakes. Instead, the problem and solution co-existed at the same time - both were snakes. The same duality is seen in the image of Christ on the cross, which is both an image of the fallen state of the world, but also of God's saving love and grace.

3. What is your testimony of being born again? How does your own experience give you the motivation to want this new life for others?

The way to save the world

Jesus is indeed at the heart of God's redemptive mission for the world. Jesus is the Redeemer and Saviour in God's mission. But Jesus didn't just skip straight to sacrificing himself on the cross for our sins. He ministered to people of His time and place. He pointed them towards his identity as their Saviour. As Jesus ministered, he modelled missions to the disciples. In doing so, he gives us the model for how to engage with others about Him. Jesus is the greatest missionary ever in the history of man.

Read Philippians 2:5-11

4. Paul urged the Church to have the mind of Christ. What is involved in having the mindset of Christ?

5. Why do you think this mindset is important or necessary?

6. What might make it difficult to have this mindset?

Jesus overcame many barriers to reach the masses in His ministry. He challenged the stubborn teachers of the law via repetition, taught the confused disciples through plain speech and parables. He overcame strong opposition due to cultural barriers and reached out to the marginalized groups in society like children, women and tax collectors.

As we have learnt from Abraham, blessings are not to be kept to oneself. The blessing that Jesus brings is also not for any single group of people or nation. The blessing of New Life that Jesus brings is for all. We will face challenges as we bring the blessing of new life to others. In this final passage, we reflect on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman.

Read John 4:4-26

7. The blessing of a new life is also offered to the Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at the well. What happened in this encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman?

8. Why do you think the Samaritan woman came out to draw water in the middle of the day at noon when the weather is the hottest?

9. Jesus faced the gender barrier (men do not engage with women they do not know in public) and the racial barrier (Jews do not associate with Samaritans) when he conversed with the Samaritan woman. What are some barriers you face, past, present or future, when approaching others with the gospel? Discuss in your LG how you can overcome these barriers.

10. What is the gift of God and the living water that Jesus is referring to?

I (Jesus) am the way and the truth and the life. John 14:6

The redemption that Jesus offers to the Samaritan woman is Himself because Jesus is the life. God sends us out to offer His love to those who are like this woman – despise and discriminated, seeking for love and acceptance.

11. Write down the name of someone whom you intend to reach out to, and how you would do it this coming week!

Personal Journal #2 (What is one fact that I have gained from the Bible about missions? What is being stirred in my heart? What does participating in missions mean to me now? What is one action I am committed to do as part of missions?)

Lesson 3:

Missions – Kingdom of God

Before we dive into this lesson, let's recap Q11 and share in our LG whether we have followed through with our action plan. If yes, share the experience! If not, share your struggles!

Learning points:

- What is the kingdom of God in heaven? And what is the kingdom of God on earth?
- The kingdom of God is both the message we want to proclaim, and the reason we do missions.

Introduction

Jesus spoke often about the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God was His main theme in His teachings. The kingdom of God is the rule and reign of King Jesus.

Learning about the kingdom of God is important for missions for two main purposes:

- It provides us with the message that God's kingdom is near and holds the promise of a world free of sin; a world redeemed.
- It provides us with the reason why we do missions in the first place i.e. God's kingdom is here in the form of the church, and we continuously work to realise God's will on earth.

In the last two lessons, we learnt that God has called us to partner with Him in His redeeming plan, and that we can follow Jesus' ministry on earth as a model for how we can accomplish this mission. But what exactly is the message that we should be bringing across? What does this message tell us about the reasons for participating in God's mission in the first place? We can once again look at Jesus as our example. What message did He bring to those around him?

Read Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus said to His disciples:

⁹“This, then, is how you should pray:

“*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

¹¹*Give us today our daily bread.*

¹²*And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

¹³*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one. (NIV)*

- 1. Where is the kingdom of God?

Read Psalm 103:19-21

It similarly describes what Jesus says the kingdom of God is like in heaven:

*The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.
Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.
Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. (NIV)*

- 2. What does this tell us about the kingdom of God in heaven?

- 3. What is the kingdom of God like? Read Psalm 145:10-13.

<i>Verse</i>	<i>Descriptions of kingdom of God</i>
<i>Psalm 145:10</i>	
<i>Psalm 145:11</i>	
<i>Psalm 145:12</i>	
<i>Psalm 145:13</i>	

Kingdom of God on earth

The kingdom of God/ kingdom of the Lord is first mentioned to be on earth in 1 Chronicles 28:5 where king David declares that Solomon, his son was to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. The Prophet Zechariah too prophesied that:

“The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.” (Zechariah 14:9, NIV)

Has the Kingdom of God actually come on earth? In Mark 1:15, Jesus said:

“The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

- 4. What does this say about the kingdom of God?

In Luke 11:20 Jesus said:

“But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (NIV)

- 5. What does this say about the Kingdom of God?

Kingdom of God is here but not yet

These 2 verses tell us that the kingdom of God has come on earth. Jesus demonstrated the power of the kingdom of God when He drove out demons by the finger of God on many occasions. (Mark 1:23-26, 7:24-30, Matthew 9:32-33). Jesus has ushered in the kingdom of God and the message is to repent and believe in the good news! Yet, this kingdom has not yet come completely in its full glory as Jesus taught His disciples to pray for the kingdom of God to come. (Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 1:5-7). This is why we still see injustices, disasters, sickness, war, pre-believers, etc. This is also the reason why we continue to preach and live out the message of the kingdom of God here on earth.

What the kingdom of God is like on earth

Let us read the following passages and list down what this kingdom of God, which Jesus has inaugurated on earth, is like in the table below:

Verse	Descriptions of the kingdom of God on earth
Psalm 47:2	
Psalm 47:8	
Isaiah 52:7	
Colossians 1:13-14	

6. What are the similarities and differences between this kingdom of God and the nations today?

The key distinction between the kingdom of God and our earthly reality is the very core characteristic of God's kingdom: that in God's kingdom, we are completely reconciled to God. The kingdom of God is the realisation of God's redemptive mission. With that in mind, it is clear to see why Jesus constantly preached on the coming of the kingdom, both now on earth and in the future new creation.

Who can enter the kingdom of God?

As we have covered in our previous study, to enter the kingdom of God, one has to be born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5). This gospel message of Jesus Christ is for the world (John 3:16) but:

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! (Romans 10:14-15)

7. What then is the key message that we want to tell the world?

Our part in bringing people into the kingdom of God

Jesus' disciples are to pray for the kingdom of God to come on earth because Jesus is the great King over all the nations. His purpose is for glad tidings, peace and salvation from darkness and forgiveness of our sins.

8. Read Luke 10:9 and note down what Jesus told His disciples to do when He sent them to bring this Good News to different towns and places.
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9. Read Matthew 7:21 and write down what else the disciples need to share with the people they have reached to ensure they will enter the kingdom of God/ kingdom of Heaven?
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10. With reference to Luke 10:9 and Matthew 7:21, how can you better prepare or equip yourself to bring the Good News of Jesus to the world?
11. Now that you know this Good News, what are you doing about it? What else could you do for the expansion of God's kingdom? Who or which part of the world would you want to bring this Good News to?

When we talk about bringing people to enter the kingdom of God, it's easy to get caught up in the aspirational future heavenly kingdom. Let us remember that Jesus has already begun establishing the kingdom here on earth, and that all of us are continually building this kingdom in His name. What does this mean in action?

We build God's kingdom here on earth by i) continually living redeemed lives- having an active fellowship/ reconciled relationship with God ii) bringing others to the kingdom iii) Taking care of the creation that God our creator created. In other words, the kingdom is not just the message we want to bring to others. It is the reason we want to bring people to God in the first place.

Personal Journal #3 (What is one fact that I have gained from the bible about missions? What is being stirred in my heart? What does participating in missions mean to me now? What is one action I am committed to do as part of missions?)

Lesson 4:

Our mission from Jesus

Before we dive into this lesson, let's recap Q11 and share in our LG whether we have followed through with our action plan. If yes, share the experience! If not, share your struggles!

Learning points

- Our mission is to partner Jesus and make disciples of all nations as witnesses for Him
- We are called to bring the gospel to **all** the world

Introduction

Jesus' final words before His ascension can be found in Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20. Commonly known as the Great Commission, we are called upon to partner Jesus as His witness to the ends of the world. Today we shall witness how the apostles and the early church carried out the Great Commission, to reach **all** the world. Indeed there's no place too far to be saved, and there's no one too difficult to be saved.

Read Matthew 28:18-20

1. In the Great Commission, what are the three things Jesus commissioned us to do?
2. What does Jesus promise us when He commissioned us?
3. On whose authority are we to carry out this mission? What does that make you feel about carrying out the mission?
4. Read Acts 1:8. Who are we called to be? Where are we called to go?

5. Jesus instructed the disciples to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:4-5. In Acts 1:8, the disciples received power when the gift of the Holy Spirit came upon them. Why do you think it is important for the disciples to wait for the gift in Jerusalem before going out to be witnesses to the ends of the earth?

6. Read Acts 2:4-5. Where did the Apostles begin sharing the gospel? What happened before the Apostles began sharing the gospel?

7. Read Acts 2:9-10, why do you think the Holy Spirit made the people speak in tongues from various places?

8. Read Acts 8:5 and Acts 13:4,14. Fill in the blanks.

	Philip	Paul & Barnabas
Location where gospel was preached		

From the above, we can see how the gospel spread from *Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria and to the ends of the world*, thus fulfilling the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.

The Gospel is for everyone

9. Read Acts 10:9-23. How would you feel if you were tasked to do what Peter had to do?

10. Why did Peter refuse to kill and eat the four-footed animals, reptiles and birds? (*refer to Deuteronomy 14:3-20, Acts 11:8)

11. How many times did the 'voice' reply to Peter when he refused to kill and eat the four-footed animals, reptiles and birds? What did the voice reply?

12. Read Acts 10:24-46. Who was Cornelius and what is his nationality? What does God want to teach both Peter and Cornelius through this?

13. From Acts, the Gospel was taken by the early church further and further from Jerusalem to the ends of the world. In the table below, fill in where your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the world would be?

Jerusalem	Judea	Samaria	Ends of the World

14. Are we likewise sharing the gospel near and far?

Share with one another, where and how you have been a witness of God in your own life.

Where shall we go?

*“The essence of the Missio Dei is that God is the **sending God** in sending His Son to the world. The Son sends the Church into the world to present the living God. The human person is then empowered in the world by the living God by his Son and through the Holy Spirit.”¹*

Personal Journal #4 (What is one fact that I have gained from the bible about missions? What is being stirred in my heart? What does participating in missions mean to me now? What is one action I am committed to do as part of missions?)

¹ Verster, P., 2022, 'Perspectives on church and mission: The missional church and metaphors for the church', *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1), a2379. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ve.v43i1.2379>

Lesson 5:

The church and missions

Objectives

- To understand the relationship between the church and the mission God gave to the church.
- What does witness mean?

Introduction

The church in Greek is called *ekklesia* where the literal translation of it would be “A called-out assembly”. This called-out assembly is what the bible commonly refers to as the body of Christ. Apostle Paul refers to the believers as the body of Christ in many of his letters including Romans 12:5 and 1 Corinthians 10:17.

Being a witness

1. Read Acts 5:29-32. In verse 32, Luke refers to the people of God as ‘witnesses’ of these *things*. What are these *things* that Paul refers to?

2. To ‘witness’ means to have seen and then to testify. What sort of things might we do that act as a witness/testimony?

3. What do you think is the difference between *being* witnesses and *going* to witness?

Church and missions

- 4. Read Deuteronomy 7:6. How does God refer to the nation of Israel as?

- 5. Read Ephesians 2:11-22. What are the differences before and after coming to Christ? How does God refer to those who have been reconciled to Him?

Read Acts 13:2-3. What was the church in Antioch called to do?	Read Acts 14:27, what did Paul and Barnabas do in Antioch?

- 6. From the above, we see an interactive relationship between the missionaries (Paul and Barnabas) and the local church (Antioch). In Faith Methodist Church, there are both local and overseas missionaries. Write down the names of all the missionaries in our church.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- 7. Plan and write down how your Life Group can establish such an interactive relationship with one of our missionaries.

8. How have you 'seen' or experienced the power of Jesus' death and resurrection in your own life? How have you testified to Jesus' death and resurrection to others? Share with your Life Group!

9. Jesus was praying for His disciples in John 17:18. If God's dwelling lies among His people, what did Jesus pray for His people? Why do you think Jesus prayed that for His disciples?

10. We are God's people, called to be witnesses for God. Discuss how your Life Group can be witnesses for God in the world on a consistent and regular basis. Write down one or two things your Life Group can do together to be witnesses for God.

*"The church is really called to be witnesses in the world. Therefore, a church is also the **witness of God** and is a special relation of the mission of the church. The church is a servant church and should always humbly witness to God. Living with the expectation of the new life in Christ, the church witnesses to the world that God is the living God and that new life is possible in Him (Migliore 2004:254)."*²

Personal Journal #5 (What is one fact that I have gained from the bible about missions? What is being stirred in my heart? What does participating in missions mean to me now? What is one action I am committed to do as part of missions?)

² Verster, P., 2022, 'Perspectives on church and mission: The missional church and metaphors for the church', *Verbum et Ecclesia* 43(1), a2379. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ve.v43i1.2379>

