

August is Mission month

LET'S RISE UP TOGETHER

WEEK 5

INTEGRATION

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Over the month of August we've been looking at mission – what is the Biblical, historical, strategic and cross-cultural basis for mission. This last week we're asking how do we put it all together. We're looking at four practices and four disciplines that we can use to integrate these insights into our lives as World Christians.

THE WORLD CHRISTIAN JOURNEY¹

Four Practices of the World Christian Journey

1. The Practice of Going: Immersing Ourselves Cross-Culturally

Read Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15. "Go means a change of location." Being in a new context, often means learning how to do things differently when in a different culture. Just living in a pandemic can seem like a different culture! How can you apply "going" to a new cultural context in your life? Perhaps "going" online or "going" to a neighbor? Or when it's possible again, join a short-term mission trip to another culture.

2. The Practice of Welcoming: Connecting with Those Who Come to Us

Read Leviticus 19:34 and Deuteronomy 10:18-20. Welcoming can be a way to describe "going" to people without travelling as far. Who could you invite to your home for a coffee or a meal that is from a different culture than yours? Is there someone you could invite to join the Alpha Course? How could you welcome someone into your Life Group? Or what about starting a new Life Group or being open to host one? Even online groups can be a starting point to welcome someone new.

3. The Practices of Sending: Supporting Those Who Go

Read Matthew 6:21. The World Christian lets the compass of God's heart direct their resources. That may be with expertise, time, finances, prayer or relationships. How can you, your family or your Life Group get involved with supporting others who are going? What need can you help meet?

¹ From Claude Hickman, Steven C. Hawthorne and Todd Ahrend, "Life on Purpose," in *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader* (4th ed.), William Carey Library, 2008, in the *Kairos Reader*, 4th ed., Living Springs International, 2011.

4. The Practice of Mobilizing: Empowering Others in His Purpose

Read Matthew 9:37-38 and Luke 10:2. The harvest locally and globally needs laborers! Every generation needs those who will plow, sow and reap. You can find lists of Frontier Peoples – the least reached groups of people in the world [here](#). How can you make praying for laborers a part of your daily life? Consider a [31-day Prayer Guide for Frontier Peoples](#). How about set an alarm at 9:37 or 10:02 am or pm to remind you to pray those Scriptures? Who can you help empower to take a next step in pursuing God’s global purposes?

Four Essential Disciples: Turning Good Intentions into Real Life Decisions

1. The Discipline of Community: Walking with Others

Read John 13:34-35, Ephesians 4:1-2, Hebrews 10:24-25 and 1 John 1:7. These are just a few of the 59 “one another” statements in the New Testament. We need each other! We’re made for relationship in community. If you are not already in a Life Group, join one or ask about starting or hosting one. What are ways that you can build up others? What intentional plans can you make to be part of something larger than yourself?

2. The Discipline of Prayer: Co-Working with God

Read Philippians 4:6, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Hebrews 4:12. At it’s essence, prayer is about communicating with God. It can be as simple as sharing what’s important to you with God. Another way to pray is with Scripture – God’s Word is alive, active and powerful. On a separate page, make a list of people or people groups that you would daily like to pray for. What would help make praying for them a habit for you? Are there things that keep you from praying? What can you do about them?

3. The Discipline of Simplicity: Living to Give

Read Matthew 6:25-26, 33; 1 Timothy 6:6-8, 17-19; and Hebrews 13:16. Over and over God says I’ve got you covered. You don’t have to worry, you can live simply and be generous with what you have. When we know how much is enough and live within that, we are set up to share God’s gifts to us with others. What does seeking first God’s kingdom and righteousness look like? What does it mean for you to do good and be rich in good works? Does that allow for being strategic and intentional, as well as for listening to the Holy Spirit? Take time to ask God how much is enough and what to do with the rest.

4. The Discipline of Learning: Grow What You Know

Read Proverbs 1:5, Psalm 103:7-8, 2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:16-17. God wants us to be learners – not only to know his acts and deeds like Israel, but to know his character, nature and ways like Moses. That comes from intimacy with God and time rightly handling Scripture, the word of truth. How will you go deeper with God in the coming months? How can you learn more of God’s ways, his character and nature? Sign up for a course(s) that Crossroads offers this fall or spring. If you want to go deeper in the World Christian Journey, sign up for Kairos. And above all, learn by doing! Go, welcome, send and mobilize others to join God’s global purposes!

SUGGESTED PRAYER:

Heavenly Father,

You have called us to work with you to make disciples of all nations.

Help us to learn from those we work with together in your harvest fields.

We commit ourselves to practices that will bear fruit for your kingdom.

Help us to bear the kind of fruit that lasts and produces many more disciples to share in your salvation, and bring glory to your name.

Amen.

OTHER FRUITFUL PRACTICES²:

1. Address practical needs in your community as an expression of the Gospel.
2. Be bold in witness.
3. Be intentional in your discipling.
4. Mentor leaders who in turn mentor others.
5. Engage in regular, frequent prayer.
6. Sow broadly.
7. Be in a committed small group that builds one another up in love.
8. As a church seek to bless your wider community.

² Taken from among 68 fruitful practices in John Becker, Laura & Eric Adams, Gene Daniels, and many others, *Fruitful Practices: A guide for learning from the best practices of church planters in the Muslim world*, Fruitful Practice Research, September 2019. Contact: info@fruitfulpractice.org