



ON MISSION

Leader Guide

Life On Mission Four-Week Leader's Guide

HOW TO USE THIS LEADER'S GUIDE

Life On Mission seeks to deliver a solid gospel foundation with everyday mission practices. It offers engaging stories threaded with powerful questions to help people take their next steps to living life on mission.

This Leader's Guide is an abbreviated version of the six-week Leader's Guide found in the back of the *Life On Mission* book and has been designed to use with the Life On Mission Pilot in a four-week setting. It can be used with small groups, Sunday school classes, and churchwide large group studies and correlates with the Life On Mission Sermon Series Outlines.

The Guide is simple and straightforward, including highlights from each chapter to help focus your conversation, a few helpful questions to guide discussion and some practical challenges.

FOUR-WEEK READING PLAN: OVERVIEW

Week 1: The Big Picture

- Chapter 1: Everyday Missionary
- Chapter 2: The Current Reality
- Chapter 3: The Mission of God
- Chapter 4: Kingdom Realignment

Week 2: Gospel Foundations

- Chapter 5: The Gospel
- Chapter 6: Spiritual Maturity
- Chapter 7: Biblical Community
- Chapter 8: Intentional Discipleship

Week 3: Mission Practices

- Chapter 9: Identify
- Chapter 10: Invest
- Chapter 11: Invite
- Chapter 12: Increase

Week 4: Ministry Steps

- Chapter 13: Pitfalls and Plans

WEEK 1: THE BIG PICTURE

(Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Chapter 1: Everyday Missionary

Chapter Highlights:

- Your life has a mission. If you are a follower of Jesus, then He has a purpose and plan for you.
- An everyday missionary is one who lives life on mission where God has placed him or her.
- The ultimate aim and goal of our lives is to glorify God!
- A weak gospel foundation leads to fragile mission practices.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you struggled with gifting out what God's will is for you? In what ways is it freeing to think that His primary will is for you to simply glorify Him where you are?
2. How do God's sovereignty and God's love form the correct motivation for mission? How do they take away unnecessary pressure from mission?

Chapter 2: The Current Reality

Chapter Highlights:

- Entire cities that were once vibrant, gospel-transformed places are now spiritually boarded-up wastelands.
- When things seem bleak and hopeless, God shows up and breathes life into our situation.

Discussion Questions:

1. Has your perspective about the need for the gospel in North America changed? How?
2. How does understanding the realistic spiritual landscape in North America affect your thoughts toward your everyday life?

Chapter 3: The Mission of God

Chapter Highlights:

- As we push deeper into what it looks like to join God in His mission, we should not skip the "why" it's important. Our ultimate motivation is God Himself.
- Our missionary God is not waiting for you or me—He is already at work!
- As we are transformed by Jesus, we are compelled to want to be where He is—

right in the middle of the greatest rescue mission ever given, led by God Himself.

Discussion Question:

1. How do you see your everyday life as a part of God's mission to bless the world? In what ways can this truth be something you are constantly aware of?

Chapter 4: Kingdom Realignment

Chapter Highlights:

- God is still King of His kingdom.
- Jesus is a King who gets down into the mess of humanity, who goes to ultimate lengths to seek and save the lost and restore people back into His kingdom.
- Jesus calls us to repent of chasing after our own fame and glory, and instead pursue His fame and glory. It's the best trade we could ever make.

Discussion Question:

1. How does knowing that God is our King strip away any hopelessness that might creep in when we consider the decline of the church in North America?

WEEK 1's PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

Ask God to let you see your community and city as He does. Ask God to help you examine your surroundings and determine where there is a lack of gospel influence. Ask God how you can live on mission in your community. Walk around your neighborhood and introduce yourself to neighbors you don't know.

WEEK 2: GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

(Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8)

Chapter 5: The Gospel

Chapter Highlights:

- Living out the gospel mission is not a guilt or fear-driven task—it is the good life.
- The gospel is not based on what you do for God, but what God has done for you. It is not “you do” but “Jesus did.”
- The gospel is how we become Christians but it is also how we grow as believers—through meditating on God’s Word and applying it to every aspect of our lives.

Discussion Question:

1. In what ways do you tend to believe that God’s feelings toward you rise and fall based on your spiritual performance (instead of being secured by Jesus’ righteousness)?

Chapter 6: Spiritual Maturity

Chapter Highlights:

- As you grow a deeper understanding of your identity in Jesus and submit your sinful nature to the Holy Spirit’s work, spiritual maturity should be consistently present.
- The gospel doesn’t just free you; it changes you.
- Our world does not need people who know more facts about God, but rather people who are falling deeper in love with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where have you seen Jesus at work in your life recently? How is He growing you toward maturity?
2. Are there areas where you have knowledge but not application and obedience? Are there things you need to repent of in order to grow spiritually?
3. What fruit of the Spirit is less prevalent in your life? What fruit of the Spirit is more prevalent?

Chapter 7: Biblical Community

Chapter Highlights:

- Biblical community is built on committed, authentic and caring relationships that urge one another toward Jesus and His mission.
- Everyday missionaries understand their biblical calling to be anchored to a group

of believers, to whom they confess, with whom they depend, celebrate, and live in faith.

- Community is essential because it is one of the primary ways we grow in the gospel.
- We need one another to carry out the mission of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. With whom are you walking in biblical community?
2. When was the last time you confessed your sin to another believer?
3. What changes can you make to move more purposefully toward being in consistent biblical community?

Chapter 8: Intentional Discipleship

Chapter Highlights:

- As followers of Jesus, everyday missionaries understand they are sent, just as Jesus was sent.
- Discipleship making happens best in the context of relationships and biblical community; discipleship happens in community.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you struggle with seeing mission as a “have to” rather than a “get to”? If so, what is off in your perspective?
2. Who has God put in your life who you can intentionally help take next steps toward Jesus?

WEEK 2's PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

Contemplate the ways you try to earn God's love and write those ways down. Pray each day that God would free you from the performance trap. Ask Him to reveal areas in your life that you haven't given over completely to Him as well as the people around you that you can help take their next steps toward Jesus.

WEEK 3: MISSION PRACTICES

(Chapters 9, 10, 11 & 12)

Chapter 9: Identify

Chapter Highlights:

- If our souls are satisfied in Jesus, we can turn our eyes away from ourselves and join God in His work. We can become disciple-makers, starting right where we already are.
- When we combine our natural rhythms and passions with the gospel and use them to build relationships, powerful things can happen.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who has God placed around you that He may be calling you to be on mission with (co-workers, neighbors, friends, those who share hobbies/interests, etc.)?
2. Are there ways your passions or natural life rhythms may focus God's mission for your life?

Chapter 10: Invest

Chapter Highlights:

- Growing in the gospel will move you from identifying those around you who need the hope of Jesus to investing your life in theirs.
- As an everyday missionary, you are rooted in the knowledge that God is already on mission around you, and the fact that He has placed you in your environment because He wants to use you to reach the people around you.
- As we invest in the lives of people, we help them continue to take the next step toward Jesus, with the hope that one day they will become a reproducing, everyday missionary as well.

Discussion Questions:

1. What would it look like for you to invest in the people God has led you to identify? How can you consistently build relationships and spend time with them?
2. What changes might you need to make to truly invest in people?

Chapter 11: Invite

Chapter Highlights:

- As we invite people into discipleship-making relationships, biblical community is formed.
- Invite people to give their lives to Jesus. Speak the gospel.

- People need to see God’s grace lived out among a group of people. They need to see other believers repenting, confessing, rejoicing in God’s grace and forgiving others. They need to see the gospel applied to life.

Discussion Questions:

1. What would it look like practically for you to invite people into disciple-making relationships?
2. Do you have consistent relationships with other believers (biblical community) with whom you could invite others to join?

Chapter 12: Increase

Chapter Highlights:

- Love for Jesus and His mission will compel you. The goal is to see a movement! The movement includes spreading the gospel, bringing people into relationship with Jesus and growing them to maturity.
- The most effective thing you can do for the mission is to reproduce yourself as many times as possible, so that many more missionaries spread the good news of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus’ promise in the Great Commission that “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20) encourage you in your disciple-making efforts?
2. What does the increase step look like in your setting? How can you be intentional about raising up others and sending them out?

WEEK 3’s PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

Pray about who God wants you to be intentional with (neighbors, coworkers, friends, people with similar interests/hobbies, etc.). Write down their names and pray for them every day as you intentionally invest in them (for instance, invite them to lunch or dinner, a local sporting event, a concert or to coffee). Whatever you do, be sure to show genuine interest in their life. Ask questions or ask them to share their story. Also, try to involve other Christians from your community.

A helpful question to ask people is: “This may sound weird to you, but I’m a Christian and like to pray for people. Is there anything I can pray about for you?”

Many times this simple question opens the door for more intentional conversation as you follow up with prayer requests.

WEEK 4: MINISTRY STEPS

(Chapter 13)

Chapter 13: Pitfalls and Plans

Chapter Highlights:

- Ministry is simply the overflow of the gospel in you working itself out into practical terms in the world around you.
- An everyday missionary has a plan of action, understanding there will be pitfalls through the journey.
- Many times an unhealthy pace of ministry can lead to burnout and even to the destruction of a family.
- Busyness is not a badge of honor to wear.
- We are called into meaningful ministry, but we are not responsible for every aspect of it.
- It is easy for our ministry motives to turn from being about Jesus to being about personal success
- Actively purpose the missionary practices.
- Identify, invest, invite and increase.

Discussion Questions:

1. In looking at the pitfalls listed in chapter 13, which one tends to be a problem area for you and why?
 - Pitfall #1: Misplaced Priorities
 - Pitfall #2: Refusing to Rest
 - Pitfall #3: Weight of the World Mentality
 - Pitfall #4: Lone-Ranger Mentality
 - Pitfall #5: Ministry Idolatry
2. Discuss the first three personal reflection questions from Chapter 13:
 - What has the Holy Spirit prompted you to glean from this book?
 - What steps do you need to take to grow as a missionary?
 - How can you grow to be more grounded in the missionary foundations (the gospel, spiritual maturity, biblical community, intentional discipleship)?

WEEK 4's PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

How will you pursue the missionary practices in the days ahead? Share your Life On Mission plan and how you have begun the journey of an everyday missionary with your biblical community.

IDENTIFY: Whom has God led you to identify as people who need the gospel?

INVEST: In what ways can you invest your life in those people while you share the gospel?

INVITE: How can you invite them into disciple-making relationships?

INCREASE: In what ways can you send them out to make new disciples?