

# SESSION ONE

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# OVERVIEW



**W**hat does it mean to be a witness? In a courtroom, witnesses are called to tell their stories - to testify about what they have seen or experienced. Why? Just because they have interesting stories? No. It's because their stories impact others, and have the potential to change the destiny of many.

Jesus calls us as His followers to be witnesses - to tell our stories. We don't have to be experts in theology

or know all the answers about the Bible. We do have to be willing to tell people why we believe, and how we have been changed by the hope that is in us.

Really, that's what it means to live life on mission. To see opportunities right in front of us: opportunities to tell our stories in a way that will change someone's destiny.

**Welcome to your *Life on Mission*.**

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**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A WITNESS?**  
*THAT'S WHAT THIS FIRST SESSION IS ABOUT.*



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## MEMORY VERSE

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8



# HANGING OUT

Open your group with prayer. Be willing to be real and honest. Remind the group to respect confidentiality; commit to keeping prayer requests and current needs within the group.

Over the next six weeks, we're going to start every session by praying together and just hanging out so we can get to know each other a little better.

So relax, settle in, and let's get started!

1. As we begin, what's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the title of this study, *Life on Mission*?
2. What is the most extraordinary thing you have ever witnessed?
3. During today's video teaching, Pastor Tim is in downtown Chicago, one of the largest cities in the world. If you had to choose, are you a big city or small town person and why?





# WATCH AND LEARN



Watch the DVD teaching for this session, using this **Teaching Notes** section to fill in the blanks, and record key thoughts, questions, and statements you want to remember or look into further.

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## OVERVIEW

The problem is, telling people about Jesus has become such a \_\_\_\_\_!

If \_\_\_\_\_ isn't applied, it's \_\_\_\_\_.

Christians are supposed to make things \_\_\_\_\_.

A \_\_\_\_\_ relationship is the key.





# FIGURING IT OUT



*If time is short, the questions marked with an \* should be given priority.*

1. What comments from the DVD teaching impacted you the most?

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2. \* Think about your life. Where has God given you influence? (For instance, your school, neighborhood, workplace, etc.) In other words, where are you already connected with other people?

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3. How often do you spend time with other people who aren't Christians?  
When you find yourself in social situations with people who don't know Jesus, do you feel:

- a) comfortable and friendly
- b) somewhat uncomfortable
- c) anxious
- d) I am rarely in social situations with non-Christians.

Now take a minute to elaborate on your choice.

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# FIGURING IT OUT

4. \* Think about people you know who don't follow Jesus. How would you describe them? When you think about building a friendship with them, what's your gut reaction?

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5. \* Lee Strobel shared Jesus' metaphor about being salt and light, and said that Jesus tells us to, "live lives that are salty, that make people thirst for God." How can the way you live your life make people thirst for God?

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6. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10.** God has planned some things for you to do. What do you think they are?

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## LIVING IT OUT

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IN THIS SECTION, TALK ABOUT HOW YOU WILL APPLY THE WISDOM YOU'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEACHING AND BIBLE STUDY. THEN THINK ABOUT PRACTICAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE IN THE COMING WEEK TO LIVE OUT WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED.

According to Rick Warren, there are two things you can't do in heaven; you can't sin and you can't tell people about Jesus.

Which of the following most accurately describes your view on sharing your faith:

- a) It makes me so nervous, I go out of my way to avoid it.
- b) I'll answer questions if someone asks, but I don't bring it up.
- c) I feel guilty that I don't do it more often, so occasionally I'll try.
- d) I evangelize regularly and start conversations about God with strangers all the time.

For more *Life on Mission* resources, visit  
[www.lifeonmission.com](http://www.lifeonmission.com).

Pastor Tim said we were called to be witnesses: not judges, defense attorneys, or prosecutors. Generally speaking, how can we expect people to react when they feel they're being judged and attacked versus being compassionately told good news?

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Read Acts 1:8. When you think of Pastor Tim's phone and current location analogy from the DVD teaching, who are the people in your family, neighborhood, or workplace who need some salt and light?

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Read Matthew 9:37-38. The need is obvious and immediate. How does this inspire you to live a life on mission?

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# CLOSE IN PRAYER



If you feel God nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next meeting to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. A great way to gain insight on a passage is to read it in several different translations. You may want to use a Bible app or website to compare translations.

## DIGGING DEEPER

### READ LUKE 15:11–32.

The parable of the prodigal son may be the best known of Jesus' stories. It's actually the story of three people: father, son, and older brother. Each of us might identify with any of those characters in His lesson. Each person in the story also represents a mission - a way of living with a certain purpose in mind. The main lesson, of course, is that at some point, each of us plays the role of the prodigal child who needs to come home. The underlying challenge in the parable is the question; how long does it take to develop the father's heart?

1. Verse 11 says, "Jesus continued." He's already told the parables of the lost coin and the lost sheep. How does the shift from coin to sheep to son make these three stories work together?

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2. In each of these three parables, something is lost, and then found. What conclusions can we draw about people who are "lost" and how God feels about them?

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3. How does this story change the way you see people who are rebelling or wandering away from God?

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4. If you met the prodigal son today - a promiscuous young man who was squandering his inheritance on partying - what would you think of him? How is this different from how the father sees him?

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5. In what ways do we sometimes act like the older brother in this story? In what ways could we call him a prodigal/wanderer, too?

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# DAILY QUIET TIME

Each day, read the daily verses and give prayerful consideration to what you learn about God, His Spirit, and His place in your life. Then record your thoughts, insights, or prayers on the lines below each verse.

**DAY 1:** “Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” (John 4:35)

**What “fields” are around you? What keeps you from seeing “the harvest” (the people who need to know Jesus)?**

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**DAY 2:** “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)

**How does it make you feel to realize that God and His angels have rejoiced over you? How will living life on mission lead to rejoicing?**

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**DAY 3:** "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6-7)

**What practices or habits will help you to stay "rooted and built up in Him"?  
What is one thing in your life that would change if you were continually  
"overflowing with thankfulness"?**

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**DAY 4:** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

**How has God demonstrated to you that you are dear to Him?**

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**DAY 5:** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

**In this verse, Jesus restates His commission to His disciples. To what degree would you say this is a description of your life? What needs to change?**

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