



ON A MISSION FROM GOD

NOTHING CAN STOP
THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



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Series by Ray Reynolds

Lesson #1 – “A Long Distance Call”

Text: Acts 16:6–10

Introduction: How's your listening skills? What do you hear? What do you ignore? We need to challenge ourselves to see that we are on a mission for God! God hears the voices of despair and listens to the cries of hopelessness in the world. He sees the lost state of mankind, and he has a solution to the problem. Jesus is the answer! But how will anyone in the world get the message, unless you and I deliver it? Consider what the apostle Paul did when He got a long distance call. Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. Prepare For The Call (vs.6-8)

- A. Let God be the focus of your life
- B. Let God interrupt your plans
- C. Let God have your full attention

II. Listen For The Call (v.9)

- A. The person in the vision
- B. The posture of the person in the vision
- C. The prayer of the person in the vision

III. Answer The Call (v.10)

- A. Don't ignore the call
- B. Don't wait too long
- C. Don't give up

Conclusion: Have you heard the call of God? What are you doing about it? Do you pursue a higher calling? Are you teaching, preaching, and ministering to those who are lost? Are you on God's side? Are you on a mission for God?



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Lesson #2 - “Confidence For The Task”

Text: John 20:19-29

Introduction: How’s your confidence and passion to carry out God’s mission? What did the Lord do for the apostles when they got discouraged? Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. THEY BECAME CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEY WERE COMFORTED

- A. Consider What Was Said
Luke 24:36-49, John 20:19-29
- B. Consider What Was Not Said
Luke 22:54-62, John 19:26-27, 20:1-18
- C. Consider What Was Understood
Luke 24:38-39, John 20:27-29

II. THEY BECAME CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEY WERE CONVINCED

- A. The Savior
Luke 24:13-36, John 20:10-18, 19-22, 24-29
- B. The Scars
Luke 24:37-39, John 20:24-29
- C. The Scriptures
Luke 24:44-46, Isaiah 53, Psalm 22

III. THEY BECAME CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEY WERE CONFRONTED

- A. An Excellent Plan of Action
John 20:21-23, Matthew 10
- B. An Exalted Privilege
Romans 1:16, II Corinthians 4:4-5, I Timothy 1:11-12
- C. An Extremely Personal Invitation
Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16

IV. THEY BECAME CONFIDENT BECAUSE THEY WERE CONVICTED

- A. They Continued To Meet
Acts 2:42, 20:7
- B. They Continued To Pray
Acts 2:42, 12
- C. They Continued To Love
Acts 2:42-45, 4:32-35, 16
- D. They Continued To Teach
Acts 2:42-47, 5:42

Conclusion: Have you heard the call of God? What are you doing about it? Are you teaching, preaching, and ministering to those who are lost? Are you on God's side? Are you on a mission for God?



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Lesson #3 - "Renewing Our Commitment"

Text: Jonah 1-4

Introduction: For the past few weeks we have been focusing on what it means to be on a mission from God. We have talked about answering the call of God and having the confidence to move forward in the path God has chosen. Today I want to talk about what happens when we question God. What happens when our commitment grows weak? Let's consider some thoughts from the book of Jonah together.....

Discussion:

I. The Story of Jonah

- A. The Real Story = Compassion
- B. The Real Story = Mercy
- C. The Real Story = Commitment
- D. The Real Story = Contentment

II. The Mission of Jonah

- A. The Heart of the Mission Is A Mission of the Heart
- B. The Mission Is About The People
Not The Prophets, The Preaching, or The Programs
- C. The Gospel Is A Mission of Love
- D. The Mission Is An Open Mind & An Open Heart

III. The Finale of Jonah

- A. A Happy Ending?
- B. God's Challenge
- C. Jonah's Repentance
- D. Our Commitment

Conclusion: Jonah did not carry God's heart for people. In fact, he ran away from it. What will we do? Will we respond as Jonah did or like those on Pentecost in **Acts 2**? Have you heard the call of God? What are you doing about it? Are you teaching, preaching, and ministering to those who are lost? Are you on God's side? Are you on a mission for God?



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Lesson #4 - "Concealing vs. Contributing"

Text: Matthew 25:14-46

Introduction: For the past few Sundays we have been focusing on what it means to be on a mission from God. We are each called into ministry, not when we feel compelled to do something, but from the moment we are brought to Christ. We can have confidence that God is with us. We can grow in our commitment towards His will for our lives. But we also need to recognize that each of us are given talents and opportunities that no one else will experience. We are each unique and gifted by the Holy Spirit to participate in the mission of God. Let's study a famous parable together....

Discussion:

I. The Distribution of the Talents (vs.14-18)

- A. God Willingly Distributed The Talents
- B. God Wisely Distributed The Talents

II. The Dedication of the Servants (vs.19-23)

- A. Two Servants Were Willing, One Was Lazy
- B. Two Servants Cared For Their Master, One Despised Him

III. The Day of Reckoning (vs.24-30)

- A. The Lord Wants To Bless, But He Has To Curse
- B. The Lord Wants Us To Rejoice, Not Suffer

IV. The Duty of a Faithful Servant (vs.31-46)

- A. Serving God Means Being Compassionate Toward Others
- B. Serving God Means Casting A Wide Net

Conclusion: What are your talents? What has God required of you? Are you contributing to the work of the Lord or are you concealing your spiritual gifts? How are you serving Him? Are you useful in His earthly kingdom? Have you heard the call of God? What are you doing about it? Are you teaching, preaching, and ministering to those who are lost? Are you on God's side? Are you on a mission for God?



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Lesson #5 - "Claiming Our Territory"

Text: Matthew 9:35-38

Introduction: For the past few weeks we have focused our studies on what it means to be on a mission from God. We have talked about the call of God, the confidence we need for the task, the commitment we need, and what it means to truly contribute to the work of the Lord. Now I want us to see what happens when we consciously make a decision to move forward in our mission. What happens when we stake our claim? What did Jesus do? Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. The Practice of Jesus (v.35)

- A. Go Out Teaching
- B. Go Out Preaching
- C. Go Out Healing

II. The Passion of Jesus (v.36)

- A. Look at the Hurting
- B. Look at the Helpless
- C. Look at the Hopeless

III. The Prayer of Jesus (vs.37-38)

- A. The Harvest Is Ready
- B. The Laborers Are Few
- C. The Lord Can Help

IV. The Plan of Jesus (v.38)

- A. Consider What God Wants
- B. Consider What God Sees
- C. Consider What God Knows

Conclusion: We can stake our claim. We can plant our feet. We can claim our territory. What happens if we try to do it alone? What happened in chapter ten? The disciples work together with Jesus to go into the harvest! We have a mission. Where is your mission field? Have you staked your claim? Are you on God's side? Are you on a mission for God?



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Lesson #6 - "Restoring Our Compassion"

Text: Luke 10:25-37

Introduction: Previously we considered the story of Jonah. We talked about how our mission for God, like the mission of Jonah, is more successful when we have a strong commitment to the task set before us. One of the thoughts that I brought out, but didn't flesh out, was the idea of how the heart of God needs to be center of our lives....not just the message on our lips. There are some great Bible stories that reinforce this thought. Let's open our Bibles and read a familiar text together....

Discussion:

- I. The Critical No-It-All = Lawyer/Attorney***
 - A. Compassion Should Be Exploited
 - B. Compassion Should Be Explained
 - C. Compassion Should Be Explored

- II. The Criminal Hooligans = Thieves/Robbers***
 - A. Why Show Compassion, When You Can Steal?
 - B. Why Show Compassion, When You Can Hide The Evidence?
 - C. Why Show Compassion, When Nobody Cares?

- III. The Conscientious Elite = Priest & Levite***
 - A. Compassion Is For Those Who Want To Get Involved
 - B. Compassion Is For Those Who Have Time To Get Involved
 - C. Compassion Is For Those Who Are Obligated To Get Involved

- IV. The Compassionate Neighbor = Good Samaritan***
 - A. Compassion Sees Beyond Self
 - B. Compassion Sees Beyond Risk
 - C. Compassion Sees Beyond Cost

Conclusion: The secret to compassion is not found in religion. It is found in the eyes of Jesus. It is found in the shadow of the cross. The result of compassion is being Christ-like and obeying His commands not because we have to, but because we are compelled by what Jesus has done for us. God has called us to go on a mission for Him...a mission of compassion. Are you ready to go?