

SIMPLE WAYS TO BE MISSIONAL

One of the goals of a life of faith is to motivate and equip growing disciples to understand that missional living (Matthew 28:19) is a fundamental aspect of personal discipleship. That is, mission is not secondary or optional for the life of a disciple any more than personal worship or fellowship is optional. Jesus calls his disciples to follow him so he might send them out as “fishers of men” (Mark 1:17). He called us to be with him (Up), together (In), so that he might send us out (Out) [Mark 3:14]. Motivated by his love for us, he sends us as his reconciled ambassadors of reconciliation in the world (2 Corinthians 5:14-21). Thus, to be “missional” is not merely a program of the church (hopefully it is that, too!); it is the calling of every Christian. “Missional living” is the intentional adoption of the posture, thinking, behaviors, and practices of a missionary in order to engage others with the gospel message. It is, simply put, a way of life—how we go about our days wherever we live, work, and play.

► MOTIVATION

There are two main issues with trying to live a missional lifestyle. The first is your motivation to do so. The second is some practical way to actually live it out. Take a moment to reflect on the first issue.

Do you have a missional heart? How might you need to Gospel Waltz around this issue?

Take a moment to write out your thoughts and feelings about having a missional heart.

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► PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR A MISSIONAL LIFESTYLE

The following ideas are taken from “Simple Ways to Be Missional” by Tim Chester, Josh Reeves, and Jonathan Dodson. Don’t feel overwhelmed by this list. Consider a handful of things you could do to live more intentionally as an ambassador for Christ in your everyday life. These tips are not the same thing as sharing the gospel with someone; rather, they are simple lifestyle choices you can make to build relational bridges to non-Christians so that you might have the opportunity to have a spiritual conversation at some point when it is natural and appropriate to do so.

1. Engage your neighbors and those walking through your neighborhood while you are outside, working in your yard, etc.
2. Invite neighbors over for a fire pit, cookout, dinner, game night, etc.
3. Attend parties that you are invited to by neighbors, school families, sports families, etc.
4. Grow a garden and give out extra produce to neighbors.
5. Do a summer BBQ every Friday night during the summer and invite others to participate and contribute.
6. Host a sports game watching party.
7. Host a coffee or dessert night.
8. Host a play date weekly for other stay-at-home parents.
9. Eat lunch with your co-workers.
10. Pray for your co-workers on your commute to work or before you login for the day.
11. Make it a daily priority to speak a word of encouragement when someone does good work.
12. Create a regular time to invite coworkers over or out for drinks.
13. Make every effort to avoid gossip in the office. Be known as a voice of encouragement, not complaining.
14. Offer to throw a shower for a co-worker who is having a baby.
15. Visit a co-worker in the hospital.
16. Invite your neighbors or co-workers to join you for any service projects you participate in.
17. Be a peacemaker.
18. Prayer walk your neighborhood—use what you see as fuel for prayer as you walk, praying for people, families, businesses, community needs, opportunities to make connections, and other issues you are aware of, etc.
19. Serve your neighbors by weeding, mowing, helping with repairs, lending tools, or otherwise being friendly and helpful.
20. Become a regular at your neighborhood park/pool/fitness club/etc. and engage people you regularly see there.
21. Throw a 4th of July block party, give out hot chocolate on your front yard/porch on Halloween, etc.
22. Offer to babysit neighbor kids so the parents can have a date night.
23. Find out your neighbors’ birthdays and take them a card and baked goods on their special day.
24. Participate in local festivals, parades, and celebrations of your city—invite your neighbors to join you.
25. Pick a few restaurants and be a regular; get to know the staff and regulars.
26. Go to the same coffee shop and get to know the staff and regulars.
27. Take the kids to story time at your local library and engage other parents who are there.
28. Connect with the families of your kids’ sports leagues and other activities.
29. Start a guys’/gals’ night at your local pub/eatery.
30. Get involved in your kids’ school PTA.

What are one or more things you could do as part of your normal lifestyle that would express your desire to live missionally (from this list or otherwise)?

What is your plan to incorporate these practices/rhythms in your life?