

MCN Sunday 2026:
Christ's Ambassadors Bible Study



Part 1: Global Missions – What and Why?

What is Missions?

1. What is the Great Commission? (Matthew 28:18-20) *Before putting up the Bible verse, see who can answer this question for the group. Statistically based on Barna research, many American Christians don't know this!*
 - a. What do these verses tell us to do? *Go, make disciples, baptize, teach*
 - b. What is God doing in these verses? *He gave all authority to Jesus. Jesus promises to be with us always. Jesus commanded all that we need to know. This commission comes with huge promises and power from God!*
2. Mission of Christ Network's tagline is "Intentional Gospel Proclamation." Read Romans 10:17 and Romans 1:16.
 - a. What is the Gospel (Good News)? *The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection which gives forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who believe in Him.*
 - b. Why do you think Mission of Christ Network uses the word proclamation and not explanation or teaching? What does this say about where the power of mission comes from? *The power is in the Word of God (Rom 10:17) and specifically in the Gospel (Rom 1:16). We proclaim the good news about what Jesus has done – speak it aloud to others – and God is the one who works faith through His Word. Yes, it is good and often necessary to teach and explain, but the power to save comes not from our efforts or wisdom but from the Word and the Spirit.*
 - c. Finally MCN says "intentional" because we want Gospel proclamation to be a deliberate part of everyday life for our mission partners (and staff and board!) and the central element of ministry in every new place where we send missionaries. Can you have Christian missions without sharing the Gospel? Why or why not? *No. There are many good works God has prepared for us to walk in and mercy work, material aid, and education can all be great ways of serving our neighbor and glorifying God. But in order for God's mission to be accomplished, the sharing of the Gospel must be at the center.*

Why Missions?

3. "The church doesn't have a mission; the mission has a church." - Ed Stetzer What do you understand this quote to mean? Why is this important? *God's desire is not just for more people sitting in the pews. It is for more people to be in His family, His Kingdom. Missions is not simply one aspect of the work of the Church. Mission is what the Church exists for!*
4. From Genesis (God calling out to Adam and Eve, "Where are you?" Gen. 3:9) to Revelation ("the great multitude that no one could number, from every nation" Rev. 7:9), God is a God of Mission.

Why Global Missions?

5. What do you notice in these two slides of Biblical texts? (See Mt 28:19, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, Acts 1:8, Gen 12:3, Psalm 86:9, Rev. 5:9, Rev. 21:26) *God has a particular interest in not just many people being saved but people of every nation, tribe, culture, and language.*
6. There is a mission field in our backyards and neighborhoods that we cannot neglect. How might the mission field be different in other places, especially in numerical terms? *While more than one in two people in the United States is a Christian (meaning almost everyone knows someone who could tell them about Jesus!), this is not the case around the world. According to Pew Research, the percentage of the population that is Christian in the US is 62%. Meanwhile (as examples from places MCN serves) in Taiwan the Christian population is 7%, Cambodia 1%, Japan 1%, and Senegal 5%.*
7. Some people worry that if we focus too much on global missions we'll ignore our own neighborhoods. On the other hand, how do you think it could bring life, energy, and focus to other aspects of church ministry (youth group, Sunday school, women's Bible study, childcare, etc.) to integrate global missions education, prayer, and service into these ministries? *Integrating missions into the life of the Church reminds us what we're all about. If we are praying for the salvation of people in Japan, we must also be concerned about the salvation of our local neighbors. If youth groups learn about how missionaries share the Gospel in post-Christian Germany, they are encouraged to share the Gospel in our own increasingly post-Christian culture. If we are praying for children in Cambodia who have not yet heard the Good News, we are reminded that our own salvation and the daily opportunity to share Good News with our own children is an incredible gift!*

Part 2: Christ's Ambassadors

Read together 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

1. Ambassadors are sent out for a purpose and throughout Scripture we see that God is a sending God. (In fact, variations of send / sent / sending appear 1037 times in the Bible!)
 - a. Whom do we see God sending in these Bible verses?
 - i. Jeremiah 7:25 (*prophets*)
 - ii. John 1:14 (*Jesus*)
 - iii. John 14:26 (*Holy Spirit*)
 - iv. John 17:18-21 (*the disciples, the Church*)
 - b. What difference does it make to see ourselves as sent out by God? What difference does it make to see this sending in the context of all these other sendings? *There is great purpose and power in being sent by God Himself. There is also great comfort in knowing that God 1) has always continued to send people to the world - never giving up on us! 2) sends Himself and His Spirit to do the work of bringing people to faith. We are not alone!*

2. Most ambassadors have a lot of information about the place to which they are going. In contrast, when we follow God into mission, we are given a calling, not a map.
 - a. "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.'" (Genesis 12:1)
 - b. If you were going out into an unfamiliar place, would you rather have a guide or a map? Why? *Show video in PPT from MCN mission partner Hayley.*

3. Even in our digital age, countries still send ambassadors out to live in foreign countries because this is relational work. So, too, we are sent into relationships.
 - a. Look back at 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. What relational language do you see in these verses? How would you describe the relationship Paul talks about between God and humankind and between the apostles and those to whom they are ministering? *Reconciliation is all about relationships – broken relationships caused by sin and healed relationships brought about by Jesus. These verses show God's grace and compassion in not counting our sins against us and they show the relational nature of sharing the Gospel (appeal, implore).*
 - b. What is the difference between viewing mission work primarily as a project and viewing it as relational? *While we desire other people to be saved, this should be motivated by love for them and love for God. No one wants to be someone else's project! In the Gospels, we see Jesus living in relationship with others, spending time with them and expressing compassion for them as people. If this is how He accomplished God's mission, why would our approach be any different?*

4. Missio Dei is a Latin phrase that reminds us Mission belongs to God. What specific words and phrases in these verses from 2 Corinthians show us God is the one who begins, continues, and completes this work of reconciliation? *All this is from God. God reconciled us to himself. God was reconciling the world. God making his appeal through us. God made him to be sin. In Christ. etc.*

Part 3: What about you?

1. Which of these 4 points about mission do you especially need to hear today?
 - a. God is a sending God.
 - b. We have a calling not a map.
 - c. We are sent into relationships.
 - d. The mission is God's.

2. How does this point affect your thoughts about participating in God's Mission?

3. Acts 1:8 says "You *will* be my witnesses." We all have a role to play in the Great Commission. Talk and pray about how God is using you – and might use you in the future – to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

If desired, you can close the Bible study with the Litany for Missions provided on the slides.

