



more

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK FOUR

WHERE I AM

CORE MISSION



GOAL FOR WEEK FOUR

The goal of group this week is to look closely at the context of our existing relationships to see where we have the most influence to make disciples. How do we claim a mission field where we are to model the characteristics of disciple making?



WEEK FOUR: WHERE I AM

$$\text{Primary Calling} = \overset{\text{BE}}{\text{cI}} + \overset{\text{DO}}{\text{cM}} + \overset{\text{GO}}{\text{cP}}$$



GETTING STARTED

ASK: When seeking to discern our calling, we often ask the question: “Where should I GO?” Your first thoughts might be, “Should I go to a developing nation?” “Or an under-served neighborhood in the nearest city?” “Or a shelter across town?” Why do you think we start with GO?

While we may be called to a new location, we can easily overlook “ripe” relational mission fields right where we are. Let’s take a moment to consider the word “ripe.” The word ripe creates a great word picture. For example, at the grocery store you can choose from 10 apples, which one will you choose? The ripest one.

In short, our close relationships already exist, so as a mission field, they are ripe—ready to be picked! We need to look no further than our homes, our neighborhoods, and our places of work. Jesus asks us, “How will you serve and be faithful where you are right now?” (Luke 16:10)



MORE OF THE STORY

READ: Take a few moments to read about Dr. Coleman’s mission field starting on page 129 and continuing to the last paragraph on page 130.

ASK: What sticks out about the simplicity of Dr. Coleman’s story? Did the approach require special training or anything extraordinary? What did it require?

THE BIG POINTS OF WEEK THREE

1. I DON’T HAVE TO TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD TO CLAIM A MISSION FIELD WHERE I HAVE RELATIONAL INFLUENCE.

2. I CAN VISUALIZE MY OWN MISSION FIELD IN PLACES WHERE I SPEND THE MOST TIME WITH PEOPLE.

3. MY RIPEST MISSION FIELDS ARE THOSE WHERE I SPEND THE MOST TIME AND HAVE RELATIONAL INFLUENCE WITH PEOPLE, AND THAT INTEGRATE WITH THE NATURAL RHYTHMS OF MY LIFE.

4. I WANT TO BE INTENTIONAL AS A MISSIONARY IN A SPECIFIC MISSION FIELD.

5. TO MAKE DISCIPLES IN A MISSION FIELD WHERE I AM, I NEED TO BE A COMMITTED LEARNER WITH AN INTENT TO ACT.

POINT 1

I DON’T HAVE TO TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD TO CLAIM A MISSION FIELD WHERE I HAVE RELATIONAL INFLUENCE.



CONSIDER: Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Our natural inclination is to dream about a

context beyond our current one. Every GO that moves us physically and geographically simply puts us in a new local place to be a disciple who makes disciples where we are. We may be asked to pack our bags and GO, but when we are, it’s for the purpose of creating a new local place (or core position) for carrying out our core mission to make disciples.

ASK: What keeps us from seeing the location where we are as a ripe mission field for disciple making?

Dreaming and praying for a future in a place different than where we are can be the biggest threat to engaging the life and opportunities God puts directly in front of us today. Rather than looking beyond what we have and are called to be stewards of, we should take ownership of what we’ve been given.

ASK: How do you define “missionary” and “mission field?”

POINT 2

I CAN VISUALIZE MY OWN MISSION FIELD IN PLACES WHERE I SPEND THE MOST TIME WITH PEOPLE.



It’s no accident that we have a context or core position to live out our calling. We were born in this generation, with our native language, to a nationality, a culture, a family,

and a set of early experiences that God ordained for us as a starting point. Your story is unique and ideally positions you to disciple specific people.

READ: The story of a judge who sees his courthouse as his church (first paragraph on page 137 of More).

ASK: Do you believe there is an equivalent place or mission field for you?

BRAINSTORM: Let's brainstorm for a moment a few of the roles that each of us plays in life. Many of us are parents, children, and siblings, but what other roles do we have in life? Stretch your thinking...no role is too small to consider.

What roles do you play in life? For example, as the "coach" to a youth sports team, mission field includes players, parents, other coaches, maintenance personnel, umpires, league officials, games, practices, etc.

ASK: As a group select one of the roles mentioned, how would your thinking and approach have to change to be an effective missionary to the mission field where a person plays that role?



PULSE-CHECK: We may not be able to get to every question this week, but let's take a few minutes to share with the group. (1) What excites you the most about being a missionary in your mission field? (2) What concerns or scares you the most?

POINT 3



MY RIPEST MISSION FIELDS ARE THOSE WHERE I SPEND THE MOST TIME AND HAVE RELATIONAL INFLUENCE WITH PEOPLE, AND THAT INTEGRATE WITH THE NATURAL RHYTHMS OF MY LIFE.

PERSONAL EXERCISE: Take the next 8-10 minutes to create a relational influence map (see example on the back cover and pages 139/140 in More).

POINT 4



I WANT TO BE INTENTIONAL AS A MISSIONARY IN A SPECIFIC MISSION FIELD.

KEY POINT: For you to disciple someone, it isn't required that the person believes in Jesus. What is required is the ability for you to intersect your life (and the fullness of Jesus that is in you) with another person. As long as you have a relationship with the other person and they are willing to spend time with you, they can be discipled. You don't even need their permission! The best mission fields are those that already exist in the rhythms of your life (remember Point 3).

ASK: Life is filled with multitasking and busyness and competing priorities. What does it look like in practical terms for you to be intentional and strategic about something?

THE MAP: Refer back to your My Mission Field map. Think of each cluster of relationships (or potential relationships) as a mission field. Is there a specific person or mission field that God is drawing your heart to?

ASK: What does it look like to be intentional with that person or in that role?

Here are a few ideas: Share your life with them. Serve them. Listen patiently as you learn about their life. Have fun with them. Look for common interests. Pray for them.

BRAINSTORM: As a group, make a list of ways that you can be intentional with the person or mission field you've identified. Help others come up with ideas too!

Of course, don't try to take more control than they've invited you to take, but make the most of every opportunity to let the light of Jesus shine through you.

POINT 5



TO MAKE DISCIPLES IN A MISSION FIELD WHERE I AM, I NEED TO BE A COMMITTED LEARNER WITH AN INTENT TO ACT.

Your next question might be, "How do I get started?" More suggests two simultaneous pathways: discovery and engagement.

ASK: Missionaries are intentional to discover how best to engage the people in their mission field. What does "discovery" look like with the person or mission field that you've identified?

KEY POINT: After learning about the people in their mission field, missionaries use their unique calling (secondary calling) to engage and serve the people. Recall that God gives us our unique or secondary calling to equip us to carry the fullness of Jesus to others as we make disciples. In weeks 5-7, we will learn more about discerning our unique or secondary calling (our unique BE-DO-GO) to equip us in engaging the people in our mission field.

ASK: Regardless of your current clarity on your unique calling, what could "engagement" look like with the person or mission field that you've identified?

KEY POINT: You are a missionary to your family (children, spouses, siblings, etc.) regardless of where they are spiritually. You can't control their receptivity to your words or even their desire to spend time with you, but you do disciple them by how they see the fullness of Jesus in you. The same should be true of others in your mission field.



1-THING SHARE



What is one thing that you heard, said, or thought during group that you want to keep in the forefront of your mind all this week?



TAKING MORE HOME

This week spend time prayerfully seeking clarity on defining a mission field for intentionally making disciples and deploying your unique or secondary calling. A good missionary spends as much time as needed to learn the culture and the context in which they serve. Spend time now intentionally and strategically defining the mission field that already exists in the rhythms of your life.

MY MISSION FIELD

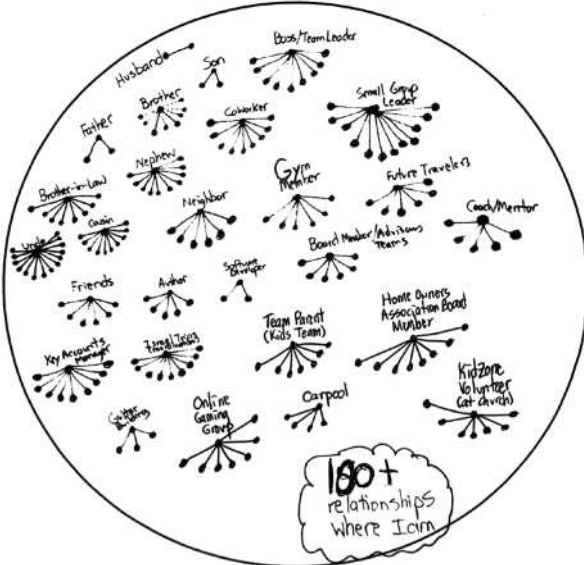
STEP 1 – Compile a list of all the life roles and titles you have where you interact with people (e.g. son, daughter, father, mother, niece, nephew, grandparent, boss, co-worker, neighbor, volunteer, gym member, coach, etc.).

STEP 2 – Make your roles and relationships similar to the example (use blank piece of paper, draw circle, and add the roles). “Dots” represent specific people. The more dots, the more people. Consider including specific names (or committing to begin collecting names). Most people have at least 10 different roles and over 50 specific relationships of influence to map.

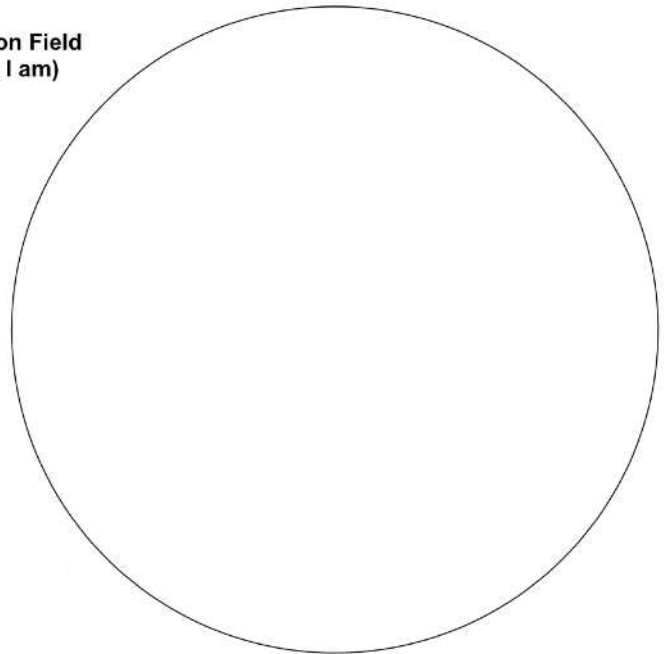
STEP 3 – Each cluster of dots is a potential relationship mission field. Identify 3 to 5 clusters that you are most drawn to for a mission field to develop. Then spend some time selecting just 1.

These are important steps! Don't move forward until you've drafted your first relational influence map. Keep in mind; it doesn't have to be permanent. It is meant to help you personalize your mission field as we learn more.

Todd's Mission Field
(Where he is)



My Mission Field
(Where I am)



This space is just to get you started. You are encouraged to spend more time with a large space to really see the full impact of you in your mission field.