



THE



ACTIVATION



STARTER KIT



**Five Steps to Building
Transformational Communities**



THE ACTIVATION STARTER KIT

God is alive and moving, and He is calling us to join Him in shining His light in our neighborhoods and cities! When we join Him, people are invited into Transformational Communities that are being beautifully painted by the Father working through His children. What would this world look like if the global Church allowed Jesus to activate their lives to lead their neighborhoods and cities into new life through Him? Let's take that journey together!

My name is Jerry McCarty, and I am the founder of an organization called Activate International. I was born and raised in the United States, where I met Jesus at a young age. Early on, I had mentors and leaders in my life that introduced me to the ministry of leading others into deeper relationships with Him. For the last 15 years, I have been learning from as well as training leaders of Jesus Communities around the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their local communities. While traveling with small teams of Kingdom workers, I've been able to learn from ministers who plant churches among unreached tribes, mobilizers of cities who live in service of people in need, and pastors who lead their congregations into the community to invite them into transformational journeys together.

While serving my brothers and sisters in countries around the world, the Lord has highlighted for my team and myself that God's people are looking for ways to practically shine the light of Jesus in their local areas. We see several common challenges that Jesus Communities struggle with in this desire to live out God's mission in their neighborhoods and cities. That is why we created this Starter Kit! We want to introduce the leaders of Jesus Communities to the five Activation Steps to overcome these five common challenges.

This Starter Kit is a compilation of principles, practices, testimonies, and Action Steps for how to effectively help your Jesus Community shine their light as brightly as possible for your neighbors and city to see.

ACTIVATION STEPS

STEP ONE

Overflow:

Better than a Chocolate Fountain



STEP TWO

Everyone Plays:

Out of the Stands and onto the Field



STEP THREE

Vision for Mission:

Jesus' Treasure Map



STEP FOUR

Mission is People:

Share Your Pizza



STEP FIVE

Multiply Transformation:

Paint Community



WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN EACH ACTIVATION STEP



Picture

What is this Activation Step? A picture is used at the beginning of every Activation Step to introduce the principles with a visual analogy.



Jesus

How did Jesus lead His disciples through each of these Activation Steps? This section shows how Jesus taught each step of His mission culture to His disciples.



Activation

How can we do this now? Here you'll find the main content to help lead your Jesus Community into practically taking the Activation Step as part of the rhythms of



Selah

What is God saying to me? We include a moment to pause for around ten minutes towards the end of each Activation Step to pray, read Scripture, and ask for the



Modern Day Testimony

What does this look like today? Every Activation Step closes with a story of how different Jesus Communities around the world are taking these steps together.



Start Here

How can we apply this Activation Step immediately? We ask one question that will help your Jesus Community start taking action today. You will also be linked to the corresponding Action Steps appearing later in the Starter Kit.

GLOSSARY

These are some of the terms we will be using and what they mean in the context of the Activation Starter Kit:

Jesus Community: Any Jesus-centered group of believers that is focused on growing deeper relationships with God, His family, and their local community. This one term could refer to your local church, small group, or any other group of Christians.

Neighborhood and cities: The people who exist within the surrounding area of your Jesus Community. This may be your block, neighborhood, village, town, or city.

Activation: When the Spirit-empowered love of God's people goes from potential to action. Even taking small, faith-filled steps to be used by God to show His love to someone is a powerful moment of activation. While many people may believe in this concept and memorize scriptures about love in action, not everyone experiences lives that are used by God to share His love every day.

Mission: Building deeper relationships that bring people closer to Jesus throughout your neighborhoods, cities, and world. This is further developed in each Activation Step.

Transformation: The holistic process of a person changing spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially in accordance with the Lord's leading in their lives.

Any other terms that will be introduced will also be defined within the Starter Kit.



IT'S TIME TO ACTIVATE!

Welcome to the Activation Starter Kit!

The purpose of this kit is to help your Jesus Community go from simply gathering together to leading transformation in their local areas. Many Jesus Communities want to see a greater impact in the lives of people in their neighborhoods and cities but are challenged by the questions: “How do we get started?” and “How can we introduce our neighbors to Jesus?”. As a result, many Jesus Communities’ missions are limited to occasional events, and they miss out on leading people through a community experience that is both relational and transformational, like that of Jesus and the disciples.

Jesus is our ultimate example for leading a community. When He was with the disciples, He sparked the movement of the very first Jesus Community. He brought the disciples together, filled them with new life, empowered them with the Holy Spirit, sent them out to display the Kingdom, and then launched them into reproducing the Jesus Community that He modeled for them.

For the last 2,000 years, we have seen that original Jesus Community go from His disciples to the early Church and throughout the world. People from almost every tribe and tongue have experienced the reality of God’s transformation in their lives. Every step of the way, God empowered His people through the Holy Spirit to advance His Kingdom.

We serve a God who sends. The Father sent Jesus who sent the Holy Spirit. And now we are also part of this beautiful picture of being sent! We have been empowered to continue this movement today to see people all over the world transformed! But we have a problem. Far too often, this world-shaking potential is trapped within what people refer to as the “four walls of the church,” home groups, or any other gathering of Christians. Fears of being judged by family and friends, of failing to represent Jesus well, of taking on the burdens of people in need, or even just doing something we haven’t done before keep the family of God from

allowing others to know what His love is truly like. This has to change. God is alive and moving and still sending us today, and this world-changing potential that He has given us must be activated!

In Matthew 5:15, Jesus said “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.” He told us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and then to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). He said that when we serve the least of these, His brothers, we are serving Him (Matthew 25:40).

To Jesus, it is of utmost importance that the new life that He fills us with is not just transforming us but transforming the *world*!

That is the mission He is calling us to—activating His people to live out God’s Kingdom culture so that more people in our neighborhoods and cities will experience His great love in action.

As we at Activate International serve Jesus Communities around the world and consult with expressions of the global Church on every continent, we continually see five challenges that the global Church faces in living out a mission culture:

01	Burnout from serving
02	Few members engaged in the mission
03	Lack of awareness of where to focus ministry efforts
04	Transactional rather than relational ministry
05	Overlooking the greatest opportunities to create community

These challenges are walls that separate people inside Jesus Communities who are filled with the transforming love of God from the people in their neighborhoods who are in desperate need of that love.

To help overcome these challenges, we are introducing five Activation Steps that every Jesus Community can take.

Each step is based on mission practices of Jesus and His disciples that impacted their neighborhoods and cities. Today, these same practices can multiply any Jesus Community's impact for the Kingdom in any neighborhood or city around the world. They break down the walls between God's empowered people and the people around them in need of knowing Jesus.

We as the global Church have a world-changing opportunity to close the gap between the love of the people of God and the hearts of the people in our local communities.

God is calling us to be **bridge builders** to close those gaps! In order to effectively and sustainably cross these bridges as Jesus Communities, we need to take these five Activation Steps together.

In each step, we share both examples from the life of Jesus as well as modern day models of Jesus Communities living out God's adventurous mission in their neighborhoods and cities. Stories from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas demonstrate how these practices transcend culture and geography. After you read the steps, principles, reflections, and examples, you'll find practical Action Steps that we have provided at the end of the Starter Kit for you to go through with your Jesus Community.

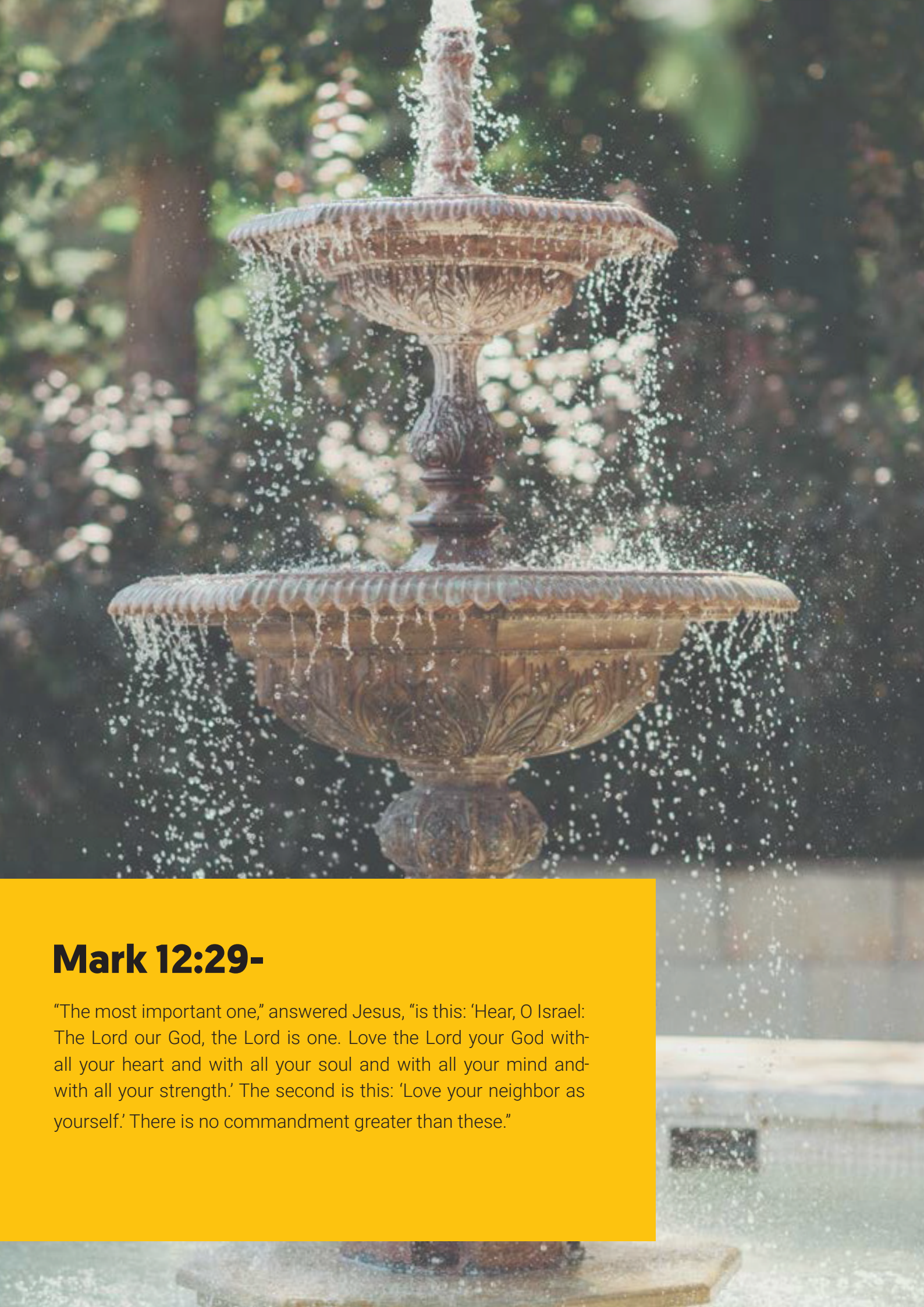
As we go through these steps, it is up to each of us to allow the Lord to activate our personal lives and our Jesus Communities to take new steps of faith toward seeing *God's mission become action*. Grab a cup of coffee and join us on this journey of following the Lord as He connects us to the people He treasures in our neighborhoods and cities around the world.

A golden liquid fountain with a large number 0 in the background.

STEP ONE

OVERFLOW

Better than a Chocolate Fountain



Mark 12:29-

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."



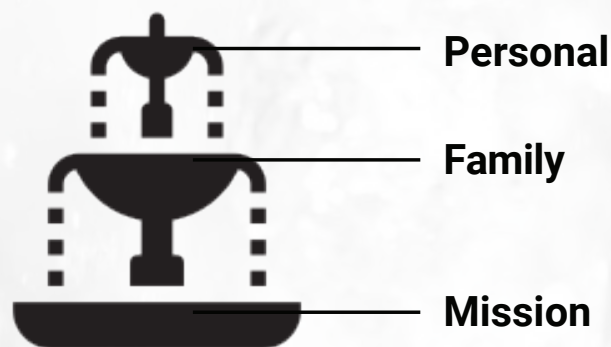
Imagine a beautiful fountain

Imagine your own, personal, three-tiered fountain overflowing with fresh water. Picture it cascading from one tier to the next, and then onto the next. Imagine being mesmerized by the flow of water as you watch it pour over and over.

Now what if it wasn't water? What if this was actually a giant, chocolate fountain? Imagine sleek streams of liquid chocolate flowing from one tier to the next, and at any point you can dip your hand in for the best chocolate you've ever tasted! This is an image of God's love—a three-tiered fountain overflowing with the purest and *greatest life possible*. The **first tier** of this fountain represents God's love that springs forth within us filling our hearts and transforming our **personal lives**.

As we begin to experience His love in our lives, it overflows into the **second tier** which is **His family**. God's family is meant to share His life together! This is an expression of God's family where everyone carries each other in defeat and celebrates each other's victories. But this sweet, beautiful, exciting, life-changing love is not meant for us to keep just to God's people.

This interconnected life in the family of God must also overflow into the **third tier**. That is the **people in our neighborhoods and cities**. Our neighbors must experience what it is like to taste and see that the Lord is good. As His adopted, redeemed, and cherished family, we are called to generously overflow this love to those throughout our local communities. This is the mission of God—for His new life to be experienced and shared!





Jesus Modeled Overflow

We see this fountain modeled clearly through the life of Jesus with His disciples. Jesus only said what He heard the Father say and did what He saw the Father do (John 17). This relationship of oneness is what He prayed for the disciples, invited them into, and modeled for three years. As they learned oneness with God, it overflowed into oneness with each other. The disciples were far from perfect, but their practice of God's family of disciples helped them to overflow care for those they ministered to in their mission.



Family of Disciples on Mission

For us today, our chief goal and purpose as disciples is to love God with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. **As we grow in this loving relationship with our Lord, He teaches us how to love our neighbors as ourselves.** Developing this deeper relationship with Him overflows into growing deeper relationships with those in our Jesus Community. And as we share in this family together filled by the Fresh Spring of Life, we have the privilege of being on God's mission to overflow this Kingdom culture to the world around us.

The first major challenge we see the global Church facing in activating mission is that often, those serving experience striving, frustration, and burnout. This often happens for two reasons. First, their love for others isn't overflowing from being filled up in their relationship with God. Second, they aren't being cared for within the family of God to the extent that they are able to overflow that family love into the community. When the people of God aren't experiencing His Kingdom culture together, they often don't have a reference point for what kind of community practices to overflow. **Before we head out on this overflowing mission, we must make sure we are truly experiencing this life together as God's people—that is what we are overflowing!**

God's family is not meant to merely gather together, but to bear, mourn, celebrate, rejoice, learn, create, discover, laugh, cry, share, explore, maintain, grow, develop, remember, look forward, serve, help, give, go, gather, sing, read, memorize, write, worship, meditate, play, exercise, compete, start, finish, dance, defend, travel, discuss, accept, welcome, invite, decide, deliberate, challenge, hope, reconcile, examine, confess, forgive, exhort, encourage, prophecy, listen, bless, affirm, recover, stand, pray, seek, question, comfort, practice, fail, succeed, eat, drink, reflect, investigate, compliment, admonish, receive, risk, disciple, study, plant, shop, clean, work, watch, analyze, question, harvest, reexamine, rethink, remember, cook, landscape, build, paint, eat, repair, walk, inspire, and love together.

Our lives are called to be deeply interconnected with each other as Jesus' body! (1Cor. 12) Be careful not to "check the second tier box" too quickly! If we can't honestly describe our experience of Jesus Community as a place where we are *continually building deeper relationships in God's family together*, then that must become our immediate focus so that we are prepared to overflow our shared love into our mission.

Once we have cultivated this life in our Jesus Community, we must not sit idly by and keep our experience of God's love to ourselves. It is meant to be shared with others! Jesus says in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest to send more laborers into His harvest." **That's us! We are the laborers God is sending—His family of disciples on His mission.**

SELAH

Throughout the scriptures we see God's love fueling a dynamic family culture that then overflows into a life-style of mission. Take a moment to slowly read through these scriptures and meditate on God's heart for our experience with each tier of the fountain and how He has designed each one to overflow into the next.

Tier 1: God's Love

It always comes back to our relationships with Him as the source. If we miss Him, we miss everything.

John 15:4-5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Tier 2: God's Family

His love teaches us sacrifice and a culture of serving each other. When we receive His love for us individually, it should overflow into our love for each other.

1 John 4:11-12

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 Corinthians 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Peter 4:9

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

John 13:35

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Tier 3: God's Mission

Our love and unity within our Jesus Community is already a source of light in the world, but our mission is to let our light shine the brightest among those who don't know Jesus.

John 17:18

As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

John 17:20-21

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.



YWAM: A Culture of Overflow

An excellent example of a Jesus Community whose lives of mission overflow from their relationships with God and each other is Youth With A Mission. Youth With A Mission, better known as YWAM is a discipleship program that was started in 1960 as a way to see more youth involved in missions. Today, their program receives people from all ages and backgrounds and works in almost every country in the world.

YWAM faced the same problem that any Jesus Community faces—being on mission can be very demanding emotionally and mentally. The students are excited and full of energy but are susceptible to operating out of their own strength and unfortunately can easily experience burnout. In order to successfully tackle this challenge, YWAM identified the need that every student had of first plugging into their Source of fuel for mission. They decided to set up every discipleship program to focus on students' relationships with God as the top priority.

To do this, YWAM teams start every morning with prayer, worship, and focus on loving God with everything inside of them. From there, the next major way they combat striving and burnout is by prioritizing and practicing the family of God together. **Simple everyday activities become opportunities to develop family relationships together, such as mopping up the cafeteria, waking up early for morning exercises, or learning to live and work in a team with individuals from vastly different backgrounds.** They form smaller groups of Jesus Communities to grow deeper, trusted relationships with each other. This daily practice of connecting to the Source of Life and investing in each other as the family of God, fully prepares them for sustainable ministry in their local areas. With this model, YWAM has continued to send out students to partner with local ministries so they can serve people in need.

One YWAM group saw a need to help local youth in the Roodewal community in South Africa which was notorious for its high crime rate and gang violence. They decided to commit themselves to serve this community. Week after week, year after year, they served the Roodewal youth with tutoring, music programs, youth development, and preschool programs. Even when terrifying gunshots ricochete

off the buildings around them, they continued to serve and began to see children from that neighborhood come into relationship with Jesus. One girl named “Laura”, was a child of local gang members. Because the YWAM team was able to overflow consistent, sustainable love for her and others, she came to know Jesus, received training and education, and returned to serve alongside the YWAM team in that same community where she grew up, helping other young girls like herself find new life in Jesus.

Something special happens when our Jesus Communities are genuinely experiencing the overflowing life that Jesus gives us. And when we truly know what it means to be part of an imperfect but loving community of the family of God, we are best set up to partner with Him on His mission in our neighborhoods and cities.

Imagine every single Jesus Community experiencing such overflowing love together that their mission is sustained for years to come! More people just like Laura will come to know Jesus, be discipled, and continue in the process of overflowing God’s love to make more disciples!



START HERE:

What experiences of God's Kingdom
can you **intentionally practice** within
your Jesus Community to better equip
everyone to serve your
local community on mission?

See practical Action Steps on Page 63

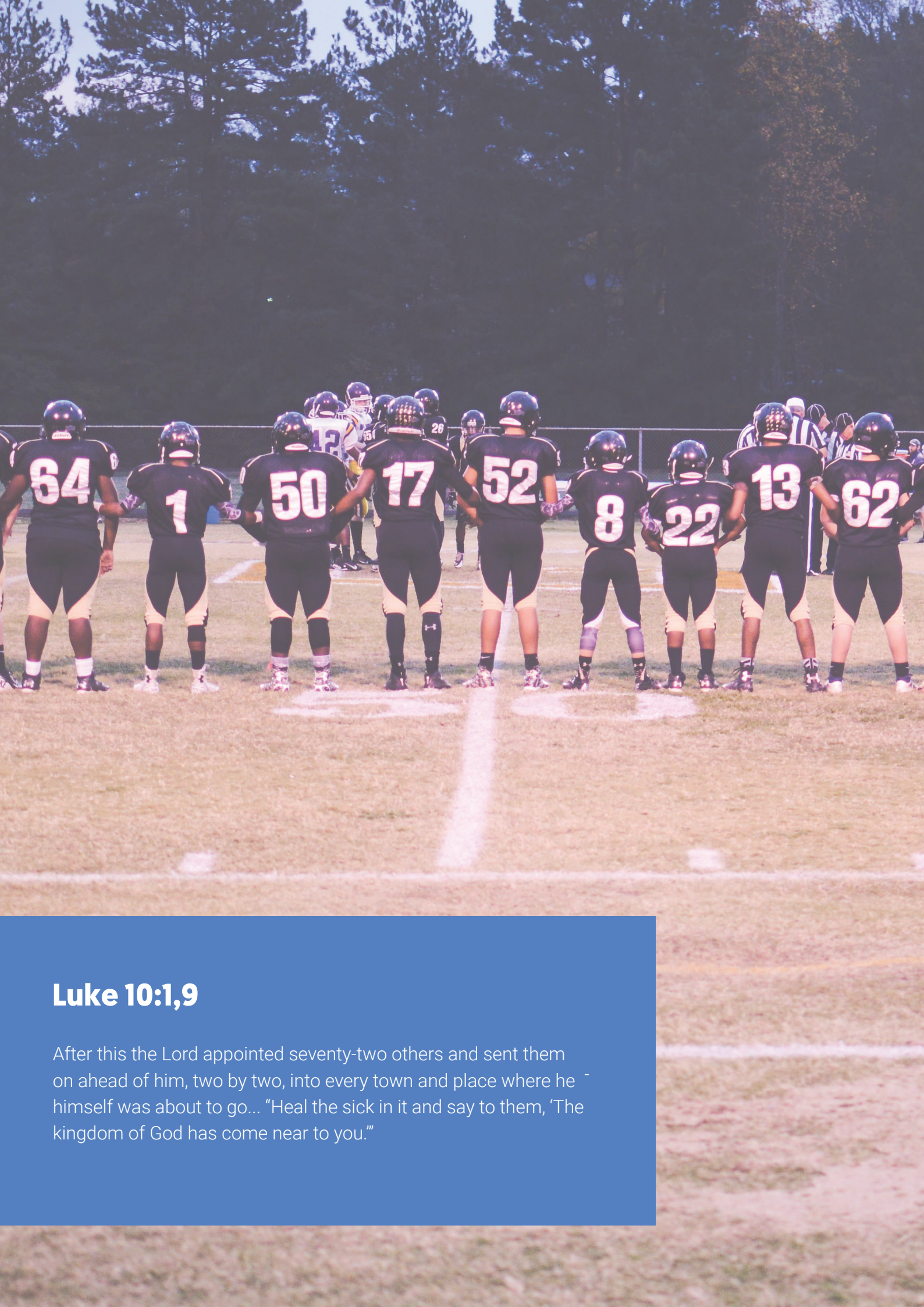
**What you practice with God's family is what
you'll overflow into your community.**



STEP TWO

EVERYONE PLAYS

Out of the Stands and
Onto the Field



Luke 10:1,9

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go... "Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"



My Grandfather taught me a lot about Jesus and football

Growing up, my grandfather was always involved in ministry. For 30 years, he and my grandmother went down to the mission to the homeless in Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA to tell people about Jesus. He also loved football and played on his college team. He would often use football as an example to share life lessons with me. I'll never forget one particular lesson. **He said, "When it comes to serving the Lord, you can either watch from the stands or get in the game and play on the field."**

That rang true for me all through my years growing up, learning how to serve the Lord, and share His love with others. *I wanted to play in the game! I didn't want to just sit in the stands and watch.*

Years of ministry later, this struck me in a whole new way. As I looked around at my brothers and sisters in the churches I served around the world, I saw that so many of them were sitting in the stands, watching the mission of God from afar. Seeing that changed my whole perspective of how to encourage the family of God. I want to let every person know that God has empowered them to be used by Him in powerful ways in the lives of those around them. **When we experience how God can use us, we are never the same.** We are all supernaturally gifted by God to lead others to the King and His Kingdom. We are all filled with the Holy Spirit of the Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth. We weren't created to sit in the stands; we were made to play on the field! There must be a shift in this culture of the global Church, because **when it comes to God's mission, everyone plays.**



Jesus Sends Everyone

Jesus saw every person as a vital participant in His mission. When the disciples served, they *all* served. When Jesus sent out His disciples on mission, they *all* went, *all* ministered, and *all* came back. The same followed when He sent out the 72 in Luke 10. He sent them all to bring the Kingdom near to others, and they came back rejoicing, having seen that God could use even them. They were never

the same. Jesus gave *all* of His disciples the great commission, and the “everyone plays” mentality continued in ministry throughout the Jesus Communities in the early Church of Acts. Jesus’ model of His Community was seeing everyone as a participant in building deeper relationships with the Father, His family, and their neighbors.

➔ Out of the Stands and Onto the Field

Today, we have a variety of expressions of our faith as the global Church. Whether our gatherings are traditional, modern, small, or large, the reality is the same—we are all part of the body of Jesus. We are all gifted by the Holy Spirit to minister to others. While some may be more experienced at preaching, teaching, leadership, and counseling, everyone is empowered to pray with, listen to, encourage, serve, and share stories with others. **God’s mission is for everyone.** We are all called as His people to live on His mission. As we practice sharing the culture of Jesus together, every member of our Jesus Communities will be prepared to follow the Lord’s lead to overflow His love in our neighborhoods and cities.

This is the second major challenge we see the global Church face in being actively on mission. The people of God often leave the practice of mission up to individuals to figure out in their own lives or allow them to sign up for extra-curricular ministries rather than making it a core practice of their Jesus Community gatherings. As a result, the vast majority of people in the global Church remain simply Jesus Community attendees and not active participants in a Jesus Community that lives out God’s mission together.

It is important to prioritize time for everyone to live out God’s mission together. **If building a culture of mission does not take place during the main gatherings of your Jesus Community, then the majority of members are excluded from living out the mission.** Instead, it falls to the passionate few to try and run this journey. Mission cannot be relegated to only professional staff or a few members. It must be a core element of our identity and practices as the body of Jesus! Just like the disciples, when we realize God can use *all* of us, we are never the same.

SELAH

Read through Luke 10:1-12, 16-24, and imagine it with new eyes.

Think of your Jesus Community back with Jesus and the disciples in their time and place. Envision Jesus giving these instructions to your Jesus Community as well. Think of all the different faces in your Jesus Community as they hear these words with you.

Luke 10:1-12, 16-24

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

As you read Jesus' words, imagine all the people in your Jesus Community along with the 72:

What do you hear in Jesus' voice as He says these words?

What do the faces of different people in your Jesus Community look like as they hear Him speak?

And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

Think of everyone in your Jesus Community teaming up two by two to go to the different places that Jesus was sending the 72.

Who teams up together and what kind of conversations can you hear them having?

Imagine everyone going together throughout the different towns to announce the Kingdom of God coming near to the people who live there.

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

What does the excitement in everyone's voices sound like when they come back and report to Jesus what they have seen?

And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

What could a modern day version of this experience look like for your Jesus Community?

Write down any reflections on how you can envision your Jesus Community practicing going to share the Kingdom together like when Jesus sent the 72.



Everyone Serves with Serve the City

Serve the City is an organization started by a church planting team led by my friend and mentor Carlton Deal, and his wife Shannon in Brussels, Belgium. Their motivation to start the organization was to show kindness to people in need in personal ways. But as they were organizing their serving projects they thought, "What if we invite people from all over the city to join us in serving those in need? We could invite children, students, parents, professionals, retirees... everyone!" And that's how Serve the City got started.

Their team invited people from all ages and all around the city to show personal kindness to people in need. Some had volunteered before and some had never volunteered in their lives. As they sent volunteers out to serve, they saw the most unusual mixtures of people connecting together! Students who were normally studying or hanging out with other teenagers went to serve at homes for the elderly by playing games with people their grandparents' age. In those homes, the elderly didn't get much interaction with young people. And the students who served brought life and smiles with them as they all played games together.

On another project, parents and their children visited families of refugees in refugee centers. As their kids played football together, the parents were able to hear each others' stories and discuss what was happening in their lives. The families in refugee centers were struggling with feelings of hopelessness and loneliness in their search for a life for their families without war and danger for their children. The attention the refugee families received and the laughter and joy that they shared brought them not only a sense of hope but the knowledge that there are people who care about them personally through their difficult journey.

As Carlton and his team watched the interactions unfold throughout the city, they saw new friendships and communities formed around the most unlikely pairings of people. Serve the City in Brussels eventually started over 30 weekly projects like these that involved people from all over the city serving together. Since everyone was playing, people decided to start Serve the City in their home cities! Today, Serve the City is active in over 50 cities around the world.

Serve the City is evidence that every person can make a difference regardless of age, experience, or personal strengths. In Jesus Communities, every individual is supernaturally gifted by God to change people's lives. Can you imagine the impact that is possible through an activated Jesus Community where everyone plays?



START HERE:

What simple actions and mindsets
of mission can take places
during your Jesus Community's
primary gathering times
so everyone can learn to “play”?

See practical Action Steps on Page 65

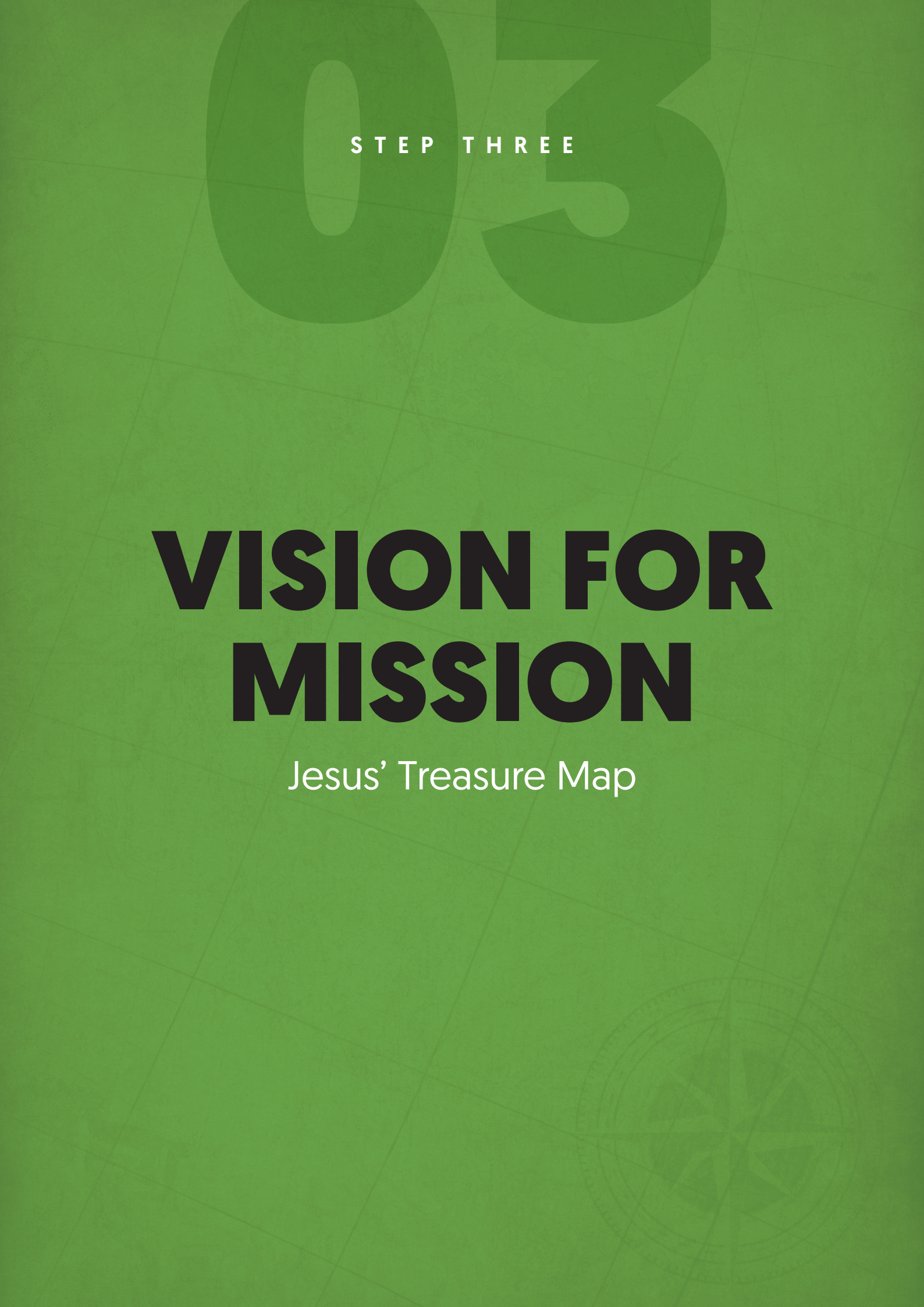
**Get everyone out of the stands and onto the field,
because on God's mission, everyone plays!**

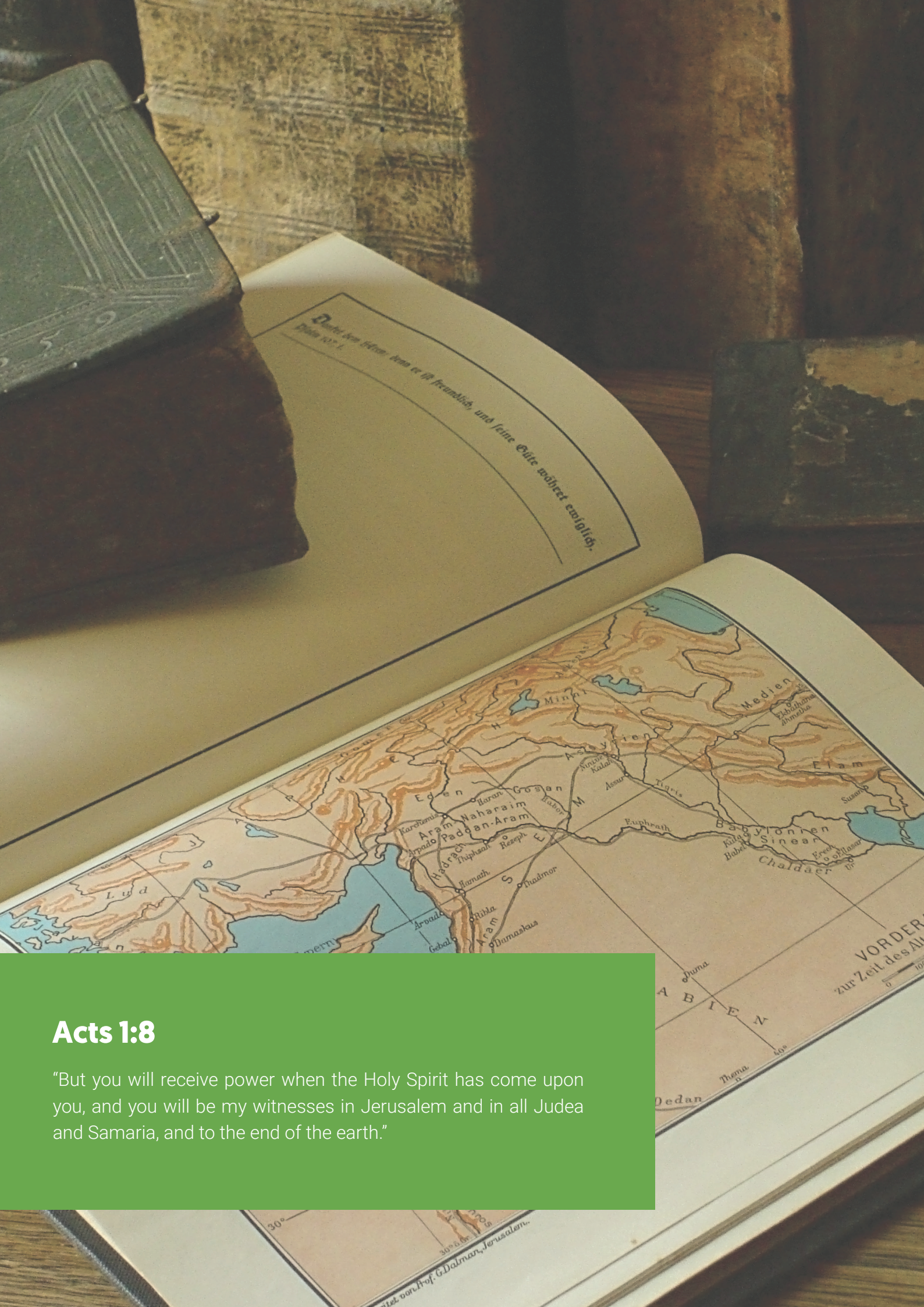
03

STEP THREE

VISION FOR MISSION

Jesus' Treasure Map

The background of the entire page is a light green color with a subtle, textured pattern. A faint, large-scale map of the United States is visible in the background. In the bottom right corner, there is a faint, circular compass rose or map-like graphic.



Danke dem Herrn, denn er ist freundlich und seine Güte währet ewiglich.
Psalm 136 v. 1.

Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."



We are All Invited on God's Adventure!

Just like any adventure, this one is filled with excitement and thrills and the unexpected, and it requires faith to keep hiking through the mountains and navigating in the valleys that lie ahead. What makes the difference on any journey is knowing where you are going, and in some of the best adventure stories, the characters have a treasure map—a map that leads to where the gold, jewels, pearls, and priceless artifacts are stored. A map shows you where to go so you don't just wander around and never reach your destination. This is how we often feel when we start living on God's mission as a Jesus Community. We may all get excited to go and take new ground for the Kingdom! But when we walk out of our gatherings we say, "Wait. *Where are we going?* Is our mission overseas? Is it the people we see every day? Is it the homeless? The poor?" **Mission can be intimidating without a vision or direction.** But what if we had a map that showed us exactly where Jesus was calling us to serve?

✝ Jesus' Treasure Map

Well, Jesus gave His disciples this very "treasure map" in Acts 1:8 when He proclaimed to them His vision for their mission. First, He told them that they wouldn't be going alone. They would be on mission *with* God, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Next, He explained that He was sending them on this adventure as His representatives. People would be introduced to Jesus through their lives. And finally, He revealed the locations of where to find His "treasure": Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

● For the disciples, Jerusalem was where they would already be waiting for the Holy Spirit, so the treasures of Jerusalem were the people who were already around them.

● Judea was the region surrounding Jerusalem, so the treasures of Judea were the people who were their neighbors.

- Samaria was a bordering region that was so socially disconnected from them that the disciples would rather walk around it than engage with those who lived there, so the treasures of Samaria were the people who were socially marginalized.
- After representing Jesus to the treasures right around them, their neighbors, and the marginalized, they were ready to multiply God's mission throughout the rest of the world—the ends of the earth.

➔ Where are we going?

Today, we can follow that same treasure map that Jesus gave His disciples. Our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria are represented by the same treasured groups of people—the people we see everyday, our neighbors, and the marginalized. Following this guide as a Jesus Community, the people we see everyday are not just co-workers, family, and friends, they are God's valued treasures. Our neighbors aren't just those around our area, they are people who need to know how much God values them. Marginalized people aren't just those we would rather walk around, they are those for whom Jesus' heart breaks.

A third major challenge we see the global Church struggle with is understanding the full vision of the mission they are called to.

Without a complete vision, there are groups of people in our lives who are critical to the mission of God that are often completely overlooked.

A limited or incomplete vision can lead to a practice of "checking the box of mission" through activities that fit in our comfort zones or preexisting efforts rather than boldly following Jesus' map that He gave us in Acts 1:8.

The people represented in each highlighted location on this treasure map are of vital importance to the mission of each Jesus Community. How else will the people we see everyday, our neighbors, the marginalized around us, and the unreached around the world come to know the love of God? Our individual Jesus Community is part of a movement that has been happening for thousands of years and still active all over the world. God's mission is bigger than just us. But

we must cultivate a full vision of mission to be active participants in what He is doing in our homes, neighborhoods, cities, and world. Let's take a deeper look into why each location is critical for our vision.

✗ **Jerusalem:**

Jerusalem ministry is where you already are. The disciples didn't have to go anywhere to start their Jerusalem Ministry. What they needed to do was, through the power of the Holy Spirit, start seeing the people around them as God saw them, and start sharing His sacrificial love with them! **Jerusalem ministry is about awareness.**

The same is true with us! We are already connected to our "Jerusalems" or "where we already are." We have family members, work colleagues, immediate neighbors, classmates, roommates, and others who we interact with on a recurring, regular basis. The question is, "What would it look like if we truly believed, every day, that God has sent us on a mission to love, serve, bless, encourage, and sacrifice for these people who are already in our lives?" If we cultivate awareness of this Jerusalem ministry every day, more and more people will be introduced to Jesus. **We don't have to go anywhere to begin a Jerusalem ministry. We just have to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to live out His love every day.**

Mark 12:31 "The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

✗ **Judea:**

Judea was the greater region surrounding Jerusalem. In calling the disciples to Judea, Jesus was calling them outside of their immediate surroundings into the area around them.

What is our Judea? **If our Jerusalem is the people we already interact with everyday, then our Judea is the people in the area around us in our neighborhood and city.**

There are two ways to begin to engage with our Judea—our neighbors and our neighborhood.



To start with our neighbors, we can just look out our window and ask simple questions. Do we know the people who live in the apartments/houses next to us? Who lives on our block? Do we have a relationship with the families down the street from us? How can we serve them? What are the ways we are learning from each other? Growing together? Sharing together? Knowing the answers to those questions will inform ways we can grow deeper relationships with our neighbors.



To start with our neighborhood, we zoom out a bit and ask questions to understand our area. What are the different social spheres of our neighborhood? Who leads this area in local government? What is our relationship with the schools closest to us? Are we connected to the arts and music scene? What faith communities are represented here? How do we serve those in local businesses? Are we involved in the social media that connects our neighborhood? Understanding our neighborhood will make sure our serving initiatives are rooted in the unique identity and culture of the community.

When we are building deeper relationships with both our neighbors and our neighborhood, we are then positioned to pursue our Judea goal—neighborhood transformation!

We gather as a Jesus Community where we do for a reason—whether that's a home, a building, a school, or a park. What would this area around us look like if it was filled with the active presence of an engaged, relationship-building, serving, prosperity-of-the-city-seeking, faith-in-action kind of people of God?? **We must plan, protect, and practice time together that is focused on making sure our neighborhood is different because we as the people of God gather there.** Then many more people will see our good deeds and glorify our Father in Heaven!

Matius 5:16 “Demikianlah hendaknya terangmu bercahaya di depan orang, supaya mereka melihat perbuatanmu yang baik dan memuliakan Bapamu yang di sorga.”

✗ Samaria:

Samaria is the region next to Judea. It wasn't just a neighboring state though. Samaria was viewed as a place where people who are "different from us" live. Their customs, beliefs, and lifestyles were perceived to be of a lower or "other" nature. In fact, people in that time of the disciples would much rather walk around Samaria than walk through it. There was such a relational disconnect, that people would do anything they could to avoid interaction with Samaritans or engaging with someone from that people group.

So who is in our Samarias? *Who would we rather walk around than engage with?* Who is on the other side of those social "lines" that run throughout our neighborhood and city? How is our Jesus Community's relationship with the homeless, victims of abuse, children with needs, elderly, refugees, or disabled in our area? Samarias are normally filled with forgotten people—people who are not only separated socially, but sometimes even physically shoved into the margins and out of eyesight through government programs and separate housing.

God does not forget the forgotten. What would it look like to walk into any city around the world, and find the church actively engaged in building relationships with the forgotten? We see God's heart for the poor and marginalized all over Scripture! **What if we had a mindset as a Jesus Community that not one person on our block would be forgotten?** What if every Jesus Community had this simple goal for their area? This is a very real path towards community transformation!

Luke 14:13-14 "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

✗ The Ends of the Earth:

"The ends of the earth" is everywhere else—the rest of the earth. Some translations say, "the uttermost parts of the earth." Jesus was sending His disciples everywhere to share Jesus!

Today, this looks very different than it did for Paul who was shipwrecked and had to send letters through personal messengers that took months to be delivered.

How long does it take today to get almost anywhere in the world? *One day*. How long does it take to get information about what's going on anywhere in the world? *One minute*. How long does it take to contact anyone, anywhere in the world? *One second*.

We are more connected to the “ends of the earth” than ever before in history! And we need to be aware of the spread of the gospel around the world. Our world contains billions of people speaking thousands of different languages in thousands of cultures. Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Your Jesus Community is part of this movement to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom throughout the “ends of the earth.”

This is a big task, but thankfully we have brothers and sisters in organizations that specialize in helping us to connect in prayer and support of global, Kingdom initiatives. Organizations like Joshua Project and Finishing the Task map out unengaged and unreached people groups throughout the world. Voice of the Martyrs and Open Doors inform us of sensitive areas of the world where persecution of Christians exists every day. We at Activate International provide training for Jesus Communities to find personal and practical ways to introduce their neighborhoods to Jesus in every region of the world.

So where can our Jesus Communities start? We must start with prayer. Pray for the ends of the earth and those actively serving there—our brothers and sisters. Pray for those being persecuted around the world—they are our family! Pray for God's leading in your Jesus Community to connect with others, support global kingdom work, and whether He might be calling some of you to go! **We live in a diverse, complex world that's full of need. But our local Jesus Community can make a difference in God's global mission.**

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Vision for Mission

- Jesus is calling us into the same adventure that He called the disciples to—stepping out in faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to represent Him. Representing Jesus means sacrificially loving others like He did, shining the light of His attention like He did, compassionately serving like He did, and reaching others with the Good News like He did.
- 
 When we sacrificially love those we see everyday, our Jerusalem is reached with the love of Jesus.
 - 
 When we intentionally connect with our neighbors, our Judea sees the light of Jesus.
 - 
 When we serve marginalized and hurting people in our area, our Samaria is served by the heart of Jesus.
 - 

 When we then ripple this mission culture throughout the world, our “ends of the earth” will be reached by the Good News of Jesus.

This map gives us a vision of where to get started. Mission is a lifelong journey and an essential part of the culture of the family of God. But we have to start somewhere, and following this map helps us know where to begin.

It's important to remember that we must **be intentional** about cultivating a practice of this adventure together. By scheduling regular discussions about mission with your Jesus Community, you can develop an awareness of living out a mission culture. As representatives of Jesus, we must also remember that the majority of people in this world do not have personal friendships with a Jesus Community. Therefore we must step out of our comfort zones and follow Jesus' treasure map to those that need Him. **This map is not merely a checklist, but rather the adventurous exploration of our Jesus-filled lives converging with the lives of those who desperately need Him.**

Jesus said in John 14:12,26, "...whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do....But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." When the disciples said "Yes" to Jesus' call to His mission, they embarked on an adventure that would change this world forever. It may seem hard to believe that we are part of the same movement of "greater works" that Jesus spoke of, but as God's family, we are given everything we need through the Holy Spirit to see transformation by loving the treasured people in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the earth. When we overflow our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria mission culture, our "ends of the earth" is reached by the Good News of Jesus.

SELAH

Jesus outlined four areas of focus in His vision for mission. While each area requires its own prayer and reflection to prepare for faith-filled action, this Selah section focuses specifically on Samaria. God does not forget the forgotten.

Slowly and prayerfully read through Matthew 25:31-46. As you read, pay attention to God's heart for individuals' challenging situations. Why does He speak with such strong verbiage? How is the heaviness of this passage connected to the new life He has given us in Jesus?

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?" Then he will answer them, saying, "Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Meditate on a few more passages of scripture that speak to God's heart for the poor and hurting. What are some ways to not forget the forgotten people around you?

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Correct oppression;
Bring justice to the fatherless,
Plead the widow's cause

James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Isaiah 58:6

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Psalms 82:3

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.



Pastor Jag and the Acts 1:8 Church

For a truly inspiring example of a church following an Acts 1:8 treasure map on mission, I want to introduce you to a friend of mine in the Philippines named Pastor Jag. He has been faithfully leading his church with a mission-mindset for years in their coastal region of Casiguran. They had been working on planting churches among tribes and following open doors to serve people they met in their town. But when their church started implementing the Acts 1:8 treasure map for viewing their mission, they found a clear path to follow for growing their mission impact by focusing on each group of people that God treasures. This changed their church's whole mindset. Following this treasure map, they now viewed their mission as being empowered by the Holy Spirit to be ambassadors for Jesus in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the Earth.

For their Jerusalem ministry, they started cultivating mission awareness whenever they could. They instilled this mindset and culture by talking about mission during every Sunday service, prayer gathering and devotional time. They even had families discuss in their homes how to live lives of mission everyday.

For their Judea ministry, they started going to their government officials, school campuses, and water-filling stations to find ways to serve. They went throughout their neighborhoods to meet their neighbors, pray with families, and serve the elderly. Since there are no elderly homes in Casiguran, the church started going to their houses to serve them by bringing medicine, feeding them, and even changing diapers.

For their Samaria ministry, they contacted the police department to find out how they could help. Drug offenders had been surrendering to the police and the police captain was looking for help to get the surrenderees out of the drug world and back on their feet. So in collaboration with the police, the church started a program where they regularly visited drug offenders at home while escorted by the police. They were able to mentor them and discuss how Jesus has a new and better life for them. The program has been so successful, the police captain asked them to do the same with all drug surrenderees in Casiguran going forward. Pastor Jag's church found themselves as a central part of the justice system of Casiguran!

For their Ends of the earth, the church prays for overseas missionaries and territories where the Gospel has not yet been preached. They also continue to build Jesus Communities among nearby unreached tribes.

Pastor Jag and his church are living on mission every day. Their neighbors are feeling cared for by radical love. Drug addicts are surrendering to Jesus to turn their lives around. And they have now planted multiple Jesus Communities among local tribal areas. In Pastor Jag's words, "If you live an example like that, your neighbors will be amazed. But the truth is you should be caring for the ones that no one is caring for. And that is our call as Christians. If nobody's doing it, that's what you should be doing. If you use this Acts 1:8 platform, we would say as just one church, it's applicable for every church." Pastor Jag's infectious enthusiasm for mission continues, "This is exactly what Christians should do. We were created to reach the lowest and furthest level of people."

How awesome is it to see the focused impact of a Jesus Community intentionality loving those God treasures in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the earth!



START HERE:

What exercises can everyone in your
Jesus Community practice to
develop their awareness
of their Jerusalems, Judea,
and Samaria?

For a simple start, try an Activation Month! See Page 67

Or for a more in-depth experience,
see our Acts 1:8 Treasure Map on Page 73.

**Be aware of your Jerusalem.
Go to your Judea.
Don't forget your Samaria.
Ripple throughout the world.**

04
STEP FOUR

MISSION IS PEOPLE

Share Your Pizza





Luke 12:6-7

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.



Let's talk about pizza

If we wanted everyone to eat pizza, there are a couple different ways we could go about it. One way would be picking up a pizza box and walking around handing out slices. "Pizza for everybody! Come on down! Get your slice!" This is an exciting option—passing out pizza and everyone enjoying it. Sometimes, we think about our mission like this. Let's pass out what people need. We give pizza. They have pizza. They are happy they are eating pizza. We are happy we gave them pizza. But the problem is we missed the mission. The mission is that which God treasures. **The mission is people.**

What if rather than passing out pizza slices, we were to sit down at a table with someone else with a pizza in front of us. And as we look at that fresh pizza right out of the oven, with bubbling cheese and the perfect mixture of toppings, we both reach out and grab a slice. What is different this time? This is an experience we are sharing together. We are actually using something as simple as pizza to not just feed people but to start building a relationship. When we share experiences together, we have the opportunity to do something truly transformational not just transactional. The impact of transactions are limited to the exchange, just like trading pizza for the happiness of helping others. But transformation is possible when our goal is to grow a deeper relationship with a person.

Using a simple connection like sharing a meal is an opportunity to look someone in the eyes and get to know their unique value to God. Beyond every face, there is a name. Beyond every name, there is a story. And as we share stories, we share life together with others and have the opportunity to highlight the amazing love that God has for them personally.



Jesus Shared Pizza

Jesus modeled many examples of sharing pizza. He taught crowds, but also ministered to individual people. While He was in the middle of speaking to one crowd, He noticed Zacchaeus, the notorious tax collector, up in a tree. He then used a simple connection to build a relationship—visiting his home. **In fact, using**

simple connections was a regular pattern that Jesus modeled. When going to Samaria, He had a deep, spiritual conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well after simply talking about water. When He called Matthew, He shared a meal with him at his home. When He healed Bartimaeus of blindness, He first initiated a simple conversation. This pattern of using simple, everyday connections to focus on people individually is what Jesus modeled over and over again for His disciples. Through simple connections, people's hearts were opened for the spiritual transformation Jesus had for them.



Transformational not Transactional

When we minister today, like Jesus, our focus must be people. God has created us all in His image. He sent Jesus to die for us to be reconciled with Him, and He desires that none should perish. **We simply cannot overlook the value that God sees in every person's life.**

As we go throughout our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, we must prayerfully ask, "Holy Spirit, show me how You see the people I see. Show me Your heart for them. Fill me with Your sacrificial love for those You are drawing to Yourself." We don't have to all be extroverts who can form friendships instantly, but we must be open to stepping out in faith to connect in simple ways.

Sharing meals, visiting homes, swapping stories, playing games, painting walls, playing music, or hundreds of other simple connections can be used to open the door for deeper relationships with others and allow the Holy Spirit to move conversations from the head to the heart.

This is the fourth major challenge that we see the global Church facing. When looking to be actively on mission, Jesus Communities all too often choose a path of connecting with people that is more transactional than transformational. While people may benefit from transactional relationships, they don't come to know how much they are individually valued unless Jesus Communities are willing to invest in growing a transformational relationship with them.

To build transformational relationships, we must prioritize connecting with people personally. Just like in the pizza example, rather than handing out food, why not sit down and eat a meal together? Rather than performing a concert, why not invite people to play music together? Rather than giving a lecture, why not facilitate a roundtable discussion?

Jesus said not even a common sparrow escapes the sight of God. He uses this to emphasize how much more important we, who are made in God's image, are to Him. In the parable of the prodigal son, God is seen as a running Father who embraces, celebrates, and cherishes a returning son. In Matthew 18, God is seen as a shepherd leaving his flock of 99 to search for the lost one. This is the love that God demonstrates for us, and He empowers His family to overflow that same kind of personal attention and value towards those He treasures as well.



SELAH

We need the Holy Spirit's direction in our hearts to transform how we see people individually. Let's reflect on these scriptures that show how Jesus meets people on a personal level. At first, it seems like Jesus presses "pause" on His history-changing mission to zoom in on individual people, but as we learn His way, we begin to see that although there may be a time and place to speak to crowds, deeply valuing people individually isn't a short detour but an essential part of God's loving mission.

Before reading, ask the Holy Spirit to make connections for you between the personal conversations Jesus had and the conversations you can have with people in your Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria.

John 4:4-26

Jesus and the woman of Samaria

And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him,

"Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

SELAH

Imagine yourself sitting across the table and sharing a pizza with a specific person from your Jerusalem, Judea, or Samaria that you have been praying for. Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight someone specifically, whether you know them well or not. As He brings them to mind, let's pray this prayer and take time to listen to the Lord's leading,

"God please show me how you see the person that I see right now.

Show me your heart for them.

Show me how much you value them.

Show me how you created them with purpose.

Teach me your serving and sacrificial love for them.

May I see them in the way Jesus saw people."

As you imagine this moment leading you to a deeper conversation with the person in front of you, write down questions that come to your mind that you could ask to show value to them.

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."

So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."



Paul, the Pizza Coach

If we're using the idea of sharing pizza to illustrate valuing others, then my friend Paul Short is one of the best pizza makers I know. In New Jersey, USA, the Lord led Paul Short to found Face to Face Space—a coaching business focused on equipping people to cultivate a world of valuing others. Paul helps businesses, faith communities, families, couples, individuals, and volunteer communities to realize there is something special, unique, and sacred about each person in their lives. When people have the opportunity to “share pizza” with others, Paul encourages them to courageously take relationships deeper by asking questions like, “What is your dream?” or “What do you celebrate in your life?” or “What is your source of life?”

If you were to join one of Paul's coaching sessions, you would hear him teach the concepts of using “Access Points” and not “Channel Surfing” when you're connecting with others. “Channel Surfing” is when we keep changing subjects while talking to people until we find something we are both interested in. “Access Points” are moments when people share personal information with us that opens a door for us to engage with them on a deeper level. An example might be noting when someone mentions a family member, belief, hobby, or value in their lives during conversation. Paul says, “Motivated by love, we need to invite ourselves to constantly be aware of other humans and their needs, disguised in the flashing of access points in their daily conversations and interactions with us. As we choose to be connected to the Source, the impossible is possible in all human intersections.” Paul encourages us to find the unique value of every person by following Access Points.

What if every activated person in a Jesus Community learned to show this kind of value and care for the people in their Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria? Imagine how many more people would experience the tangible love of Jesus in their lives!



START HERE:

What simple connections can
your Jesus Community use to
grow deeper relationships
within their Jerusalems, Judea,
and Samaria?

See practical Action Steps on Page 70.

**May the moments of connecting with our neighbors
be our starting line and not our finish line.**

05

STEP FIVE

MULTIPLY TRANSFORMATION

Paint Community





Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



Imagine you're an aspiring artist

You're getting ready to paint a picture of a stunning landscape when you suddenly realize that you only have three colors on the palette in front of you. They are the primary colors of red, blue, and yellow. As you stick your paintbrush into each color and start painting the landscape, you learn, almost anything you would like to paint can start with the same three primary colors. When mixed together, these colors have the potential to create thousands of other colors, in millions of ways, to make an infinite amount of paintings—only using these three colors! Just like painting a stunning, unique picture, God is teaching us how to paint something eternal among people. As we are investing in those God treasures, He can help us grow from sharing pizza to painting community using His three primary “colors” found in the three tiers of the fountain discussed back in step one—His love, His family, and His mission.

When we are painting community, it is important to recognize that people might not be ready to step into our Jesus Community just yet. So we may need to create a safe, *neutral* space for them to experience these colors as they are learning who Jesus is.

People may not be ready to have a personal relationship with God, but they may be very interested in discovering their purpose. So we can use our experience of His love to paint a neutral space focused on personal growth.

People may not be ready to be part of the family of God, but they may be searching for a place to belong. So we can use our experience of His family to paint a neutral space focused on building friendships!

People may not be ready to be part of the mission of God, but they may deeply desire to make a difference in the world. So we can use our experience of His mission to paint a neutral space focused on volunteering in the city!

These three colors of *purpose*, *belonging*, and *impact* speak to the core of who someone is. Every person has a desire to discover their purpose and identity. Every person has a desire to belong to a meaningful group of friends. And every person has a desire to make a difference in this world. As we paint community with these three colors--purpose, belonging, and impact--in our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, God, the Source of these colors, is creating a masterpiece.

† Jesus Painted Community

Jesus painted community with His disciples during His years of ministry. They discovered their purpose, belonging, and impact within the community He created. But it didn't stop there. Jesus sent them to multiply His community throughout the world with His great commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Imagine standing there with the disciples and hearing Jesus say, "Go everywhere and do what I did with you. Go make disciples. Teach them My way. Welcome them in. Multiply the Jesus Community you experienced with Me for the last three years." The disciples were filled with overflowing life from Jesus, and then every one of them experienced being sent on mission. They followed Jesus' steps to love those He treasured. They learned to value people as Jesus valued them. And, finally, they were sent out to multiply what they learned throughout the entire world--painting Jesus Communities and multiplying the movement, just like they learned from Him.

➔ Our Greatest Opportunity

And here we are today, part of the same movement that Jesus started 2,000 years ago and has been multiplying ever since. The movement grows as we introduce more people to Jesus. **And what is one of the best ways to do that? Painting community.**

When we journey with people in a community setting, it creates trusted relationships where deeper conversations can take place. As we use Jesus' primary colors of purpose, belonging, and impact to paint community, our conversations naturally go beyond the superficial.

Within a community committed to their personal growth, doors open for discussing “Why are we here?” and “What is our purpose?”.

Conversations within a weekly friend community that meets up to share a meal or watch sports together, will turn into deeper discussions about questions on individuals’ hearts. “What do I do about the stress I have from my job?” or “How am I going to pay my rent this month?” or even “As a parent, how do I not repeat the same mistakes my parents made?”.

Conversations among a community of people serving together are some of the most fun. “What motivates you to serve others?”, someone may ask. “Jesus,” we can answer. “He set an example for me as someone who loves others by serving and caring for them personally. I follow Him, and that’s why I’m here serving”.

These types of questions sometimes come up when we least expect them. They are the fruit of painting community and the evidence that we’re entering into a transformational journey with others. Even though we are part of Jesus Communities, we are all still learning. If others have an opportunity to learn alongside us, they have a front row seat to watch Jesus lead and impact someone’s life in a personal, tangible way.

This is the final major challenge we see the global Church facing when it comes to living out God’s mission. While many church-planting groups focus on cultivating these community spaces, the vast majority of the global Church struggles to take advantage of the world-changing opportunity to build community outside of their “four walls.” Building community is a universal need throughout every neighborhood and city and God has equipped His people to meet it! By experiencing His love, sharing in His family, and living on His mission we have already been equipped to help people grow in neutral spaces shaped around purpose, belonging, and impact.

Churches around the world excel at creating programs that cater to different people groups and life needs. It isn’t uncommon to find programs or small groups within the church for men, women, youth, or couples, as well as subject-specific groups like finances, marriage, raising kids, or healthy relationships. A common oversight can be realizing that the people in our neighborhoods and cities are also

men, women, youth, and couples with needs to grow in their finances, marriages, families, and relationships. **Imagine these programs as opportunities to build relationships in our local community rather than exclusively within our Jesus Community.** This may be a helpful first step for your Jesus Community to think through how to paint neutral spaces of purpose, belonging, and impact.

When the communities we are painting choose to grow and develop together in purpose, belonging, and impact, we refer to them as “Transformational Communities.” **In Transformational Communities, we get to see the primary colors mix together to create unique, beautiful pictures of people growing, connecting, and making a difference together.**

People have the best opportunity to personally experience the love, family, and heart of God by taking a journey alongside God’s family within a Transformational Community.

Conversations about the Source of our overflowing life happen frequently and naturally because of our investment into their community of purpose, belonging, and impact. Over time, we will see the Lord continue to open doors for people in our *Transformational Communities* to form *Jesus Communities*.

Just as Jesus came to “seek and save that which was lost,” (Luke 19:10) we celebrate every moment when someone in our Transformational Community sees, surrenders to, and receives Jesus in their lives! May we be painters of community with the primary colors that we’ve learned from Jesus! May we follow the Holy Spirit’s lead into every opportunity to invite people to take a transformation journey together! May our Jesus Communities plow good soil in people’s lives and experience a harvest that is 30, 60, and 100 fold!

Jesus famously shared a story about a farmer who scattered seeds. As you read this familiar passage, look at it from the perspective of the farmer.. You may realize that the farmer is perhaps not the best at scattering seeds. He throws seeds on rocky soil, into the thorns, and right there on the path.

Mark 4:3-9, 13-20

"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive

it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

What if we as the "farmers" could learn to cultivate good soil and focus on sowing our seeds there so that we could see more fruit grow and multiply in people's lives?

This is what painting community does. Rather than scattering seeds on soils that may not be the most effective, why not cultivate a garden of good soil? Building community in our neighborhoods and cities does just that. We can create pockets of healthier, good soil to sow seeds into. And when we do, we can experience the fruit that Jesus spoke of that bears thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold impact in people's lives!

Prayerfully write a brief reflection on what scattering seed on cultivated, good soil versus randomly scattering seed looks like practically in your neighborhood or city.



Painting Community in Africa: A Village Transforms!

I have to share with you a powerful example that I witnessed of what these three “colors” look like when a Jesus Community paints them both individually, and converging together in a Transformational Community. There is a village in Burkina Faso in Western Africa, that is divided into two different ethnic groups that speak different languages, practice different cultures, and have three different spiritual traditions. In this village, the Lord is doing something really special through a pastor named Boni and his church. They are focusing on transformation, not just transformation of the people in their church, but the transformation of their village outside the four walls of their church. Because of the different religious backgrounds and tribal divisions, painting neutral space communities among people in the village has transformed their relationships!

First, Pastor Boni’s church has initiated communities of personal growth by holding learning seminars about agriculture, personal income, hygiene, and family development. The results for the community are jaw-dropping. For the first time in the history of the village, women from different tribes and religions are collaborating together in business ideas. They combined their new knowledge to start a soap-making business so the people in the village can have better hygiene. Painting this personal growth community is allowing Christians to form relationships in ways they never have before with the people outside of their church.

The second way Pastor Boni and his church are painting community is by having people of all backgrounds play football together. This is a simple but powerful way to intentionally connect with each other to grow healthier friendships. Whether playing or watching from the sidelines, community is now forming through new interactions around something as simple as football!

Thirdly, their church is painting community by gathering people to problem solve local issues affecting everyone in the village. One issue they had was the deterioration of the main road. It had a big ditch and the road was so unreliable that unfortunately people who were sick and needing to get to a hospital were dying on the

way because of the unpredictability of the journey. The church ended up getting everyone together as a village to work on this project. The men used tools to chop up bits of stone and lay them down to form a road and the women provided food and drinks. The people were amazed at what was accomplished when they unified together. They now had a major village issue solved in just one day!

Since the village was growing together in personal, relational, and impact-making communities initiated by Pastor Boni and his church, they decided to throw a party to celebrate the transformation that was taking place! Everyone was invited. Food was cooked for the entire village, and everyone showed up. The whole village was celebrating together, eating, playing, dancing, and sharing stories. The leaders of the tribes, learning committees, faith communities, elders, government, and the village chief--leaders from groups that didn't normally interact--were all gathered together in a school room sharing a meal together for the first time.

One particularly moving moment for Pastor Boni was seeing the village chief, an animist, moved to tears from witnessing the transformation that was taking place in his village. Walls of division were breaking down amongst religions and tribes, people's personal lives were getting healthier, different tribes were playing together, and the village was developing in every major area of need. Pastor Boni saw the beautiful picture that was being painted amidst this transformational community.

How amazing is it that God wants to use us as His people to lead this kind of change in our neighborhoods and cities? Painting Transformational Communities in Pastor Boni's village allowed Muslims, animists, and people from different tribes to now see the love of Jesus more tangibly than ever before in the history of their village! And this is the same opportunity we have today. I've seen these practices applied throughout the spectrum of global cultures—from the cities in Western Europe to the villages in Western Africa. May we as the people of God, just like Pastor Boni and his church, paint neutral spaces of Transformational Communities that lead our neighbors closer and closer to Jesus!



START HERE:

Discover what desires of
purpose, belonging, and impact
the people in your Jesus Community's
Jerusalems, Judea,
and Samaria are expressing.

See practical Action Steps on Page 71.

**Our greatest opportunity to maximize exposure
to Jesus is by building community outside the
“four walls” of our gatherings.**



LET'S GO!

In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes about the body of Jesus, a passage often meant to inspire us to work together and connect. But our vision for the body needs to be more than just connection. A body can do extraordinary things. It can move and jump and run. So we, as Jesus' body, have to move! Being the body of Jesus is not only a nice thought, it is who we are. That is why we need to have this conversation. We cannot sit by and be passive. A body is active, so we have to be active!

When we see Olympic athletes stretching the human body to all that it is capable of, we say "Wow, a body can do that? That's amazing!" But how many times do people look at the body of Jesus and say, "Wow, Jesus' body can do that? That's amazing!" **Amazing is supposed to be our normal.** That is what we want. That is what normal Christian Kingdom culture is supposed to be.

How does the world think about the global Church? Are we identified as an active, loving people group? Is our reputation even close to what Scripture tells us we should be? Do they see us as merely a religious institution? A holier-than-thou group of people who judges outsiders? A political force? Or do they see us as an active movement of people who can't help but to love their neighbors and the hurting? People who go out of their way to seek the wellbeing of their neighbors, communities, and cities. People who are committed to helping others find purpose, belonging, and personal impact.

Can you see it?

Can you see the impact that is possible
when the people of God are living out His mission?

Can you see the change that happens in the hearts of people
in Jesus Communities when their potential is activated?

Can you see the eyes of people in your Judea and Samaria
lighting up when they first realize who God is?

Can you see people coming alive
when they surrender to the Lord and move
from death to new life?

Can you see the body of Jesus moving,
running, and embracing the community?

Can you imagine the body of Jesus not just sitting down passively
in a church pew or a home group but unleashed and revealed to the world
so that people can experience who Jesus is?

Living as an activated Jesus Community means witnessing the change that comes from living on mission together. Our individual lives change. We are never the same after we realize that God can use us, when we see God do something powerful in someone's life through our steps of faith. Gifts, talents, skills, and strengths that have been sitting as untapped potential within us are used in powerful ways.

Our Jesus Communities change. We come alive in fresh new ways because we are all taking action together. We are all out of the stands and playing on the field together. We are all seeking out God's treasure because we have been empowered to live on mission together. *Our mentalities change* as we go from consumers to contributors, from simply recipients of the truth to agents of transformation. And the process just keeps going! The more we grow in our relationships with God and each other, the more His love can overflow through our lives into our communities.

Our neighborhoods and cities change as people experience God's great love for them like never before. People see that God cares about them personally and uniquely. People see that the Lord treasures them, and He desires for them to be part of His family. People see that God's heart is for this world to be set free from the chains that keep them bound in the darkness of self-absorption, depression, poverty, disconnection, and self-centeredness. People see that the Father desires a reconciled relationship with them that springs forth new life and never runs dry.

God is alive and moving, and He is calling us to join Him in shining His light in our neighborhoods and cities.

When we join Him, He teaches us how to build bridges that connect the love of the people of God with the hearts of the people in our local communities.

When we join Him, people are invited into Transformational Communities that are being beautifully painted by the Father working through His children.

When we join Him, we see Transformational Communities become Jesus Communities where people respond to God's invitation to receive Him as Lord and Savior and follow His way.

This is our shared mission, and we as God's people must say, "Yes!" Let's allow Jesus to activate our lives to lead others into new life through Him. Will you join the movement that Jesus started with His disciples? Will your Jesus Community take these Activation Steps of faith to share the overflow of the new life that you have with your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the earth?

We at Activate International want to invite you to take action today. We have included Action Steps to launch you into this activation process. Pray and seek the Lord to fill you with His vision for your Jesus Community on mission. Prayerfully walk through each step and watch God work.

You are not alone in this process. God has given us a vision to see every Jesus Community around the world activated to lead more and more people to Jesus, and this includes your Jesus Community too! It is so inspiring to hear the testimonies, challenges, questions, and celebrations of others who are on the same journey as you. Because of this, we would love to hear from you! Please send any questions, ideas, testimonies, and photos of this activation process to hello@goactivate.org. We want to continue to share examples and models of activated Jesus Communities with you and our brothers and sisters around the world! We can't wait to hear how the Lord is working through your Jesus Community to lead transformation.



ACTION STEPS

It's time to take action! Each of these Action Steps are written for your Jesus Community to take together, not on your own. They can be practiced with any Jesus Community, regardless of the size, but in order for every person to be an active participant you may need to multiply your efforts by dividing into small groups of 6-12 people. Each is written in sequence and meant to build off of the last, so they should be approached in the order they are presented here.

These Action Steps are strategically crafted to spark creativity and develop more momentum as your Jesus Community puts its faith into action! As you develop your mission culture as a Jesus Community and walk through these steps, the Lord will show you your own customized version of each step. We would love to hear what they are! Be sure to share them with us at hello@goactivate.org.

ACTION STEP ONE - OVERFLOW

Preface: What is your dream for every member of your Jesus Community in regards to mission? What do you hope that every single person knows how to do? Pray with others? Share a meal? Listen to someone in need? It starts in the family of God and then overflows into mission. Here are some action steps you can take to equip your Jesus Community to build deeper relationships that overflow their new life:

- 1 Practice praying.** As a regular practice of your Jesus Community, develop a rhythm of groups that pray for each other. It is important to keep the groups small so everyone has an opportunity to share ways they desire to grow deeper in their relationships with God, deeper in their relationships with people in the Jesus Community, and deeper in their relationships with people in their neighborhoods and cities. Make space for every person to have the opportunity to pray for someone else. If prayer is new to someone, encourage them that there is no pressure to “perform” their prayer perfectly, but if they would like to vocalize to God what is on their heart for someone else, the rest of the group can pray in agreement with them.
- 2 Practice listening.** Try this listening exercise with people in your Jesus Community.
 - For 30 minutes, break everyone into pairs.
 - Have the first person share about their lives for 10 minutes straight. The second person must simply listen. They cannot ask any questions or take any notes.
 - Once the 10 minutes are over, give three minutes for the second person to share three things that they heard the first person say that stuck out to them.
 - Then give two minutes for both of them to discuss the three things that stood out to the second person.

- Switch and repeat the process with the second person sharing about their lives for 10 minutes.
- After the 30 minute exercise, facilitate a conversation for everyone to discuss what they took away from the exercise about listening.
- Ask how listening can influence their lives together in a Jesus Community.
- Ask how listening can influence building deeper relationships with their neighbors.

3 Practice connecting. Be intentional about creating space that doesn't have any plans besides a community activity. Share meals together. Play games or sports together. Go on walks or hikes together. Paint or clean together. Have drinks to catch up on the week together. Play music or create art together. Celebrate and party together. This creates space to celebrate each other's similarities, differences, gifts, talents, skills, successes, and challenges, and these practices within a Jesus Community can eventually overflow with people in our neighborhoods and community. To learn which activities would be most effective in connecting with others, take a survey or have a discussion with the people in your Jesus Community and discover the unique activities they enjoy.

ACTION STEP TWO - EVERYONE PLAYS

Preface: Create space during prime gathering times for your Jesus Community to practice these Action Steps. This gives everyone an opportunity to grow and practice taking first steps on mission together.

1 Everyone prays for the community. Create times within your Jesus Community's gatherings for every person to pray in detail for their local communities. Find Scriptures about mission and talk about them. Discuss the different sectors of your city to pray for such as these seven social spheres of culture: government, business, faith communities, arts and culture, media, education, and families. Pray for those in need that they will have the opportunity to meet people who know Jesus and can be part of a community of Christians. Pray for their prosperity and success. Pray for them to surrender to the Lord. One main goal in this Action Step is for each person to pray for the things that God wants them personally to be involved in. The aim is for people to be ready to be used by God in the lives of the people they are praying for. It is not just about praying "Lord, transform our neighbors, and send people to lead them to you" but praying, "Send us to lead them to You."

2 Everyone sees the community. First, divide into small groups to go to different locations around your local community. Prayerfully ask God the following:

- God, what are you already doing in this place? Reflect on Jacob who exclaimed, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." (Genesis 28:16).
- How do you see the people that I see? When Jesus opened Paul's eyes after his conversion, he saw the people God saw in a drastically different way (Acts 9:18).

Second, gather back together (maybe for a meal!) and give everyone time to share what they experienced and any sense they may have had of God's direction for any of the places or people. Going forward, this action of seeing the community will be a foundational practice for your Jesus Community to follow God's lead in reaching out to your neighborhood and city. Keep the results of this action in mind while exploring the remaining Action Steps.

3 Everyone meets the community. This will be greatly developed in Steps 3 & 4, but as a follow-up to "Everyone sees," create and discuss a list of 5 questions and 5 topics that are helpful to get to know people. Go back to the places and people that stood out to your Jesus Community while doing "Everyone sees," and meet some of the people around those locations. For example, while someone was praying for an area, God may have highlighted a local business like a restaurant to them. Go have a meal there and get to know some of the staff that works there. Getting to know people is the primary goal of this Action Step. While there may be opportunities to immediately share about Jesus, allow the Holy Spirit to open that door while you focus on meeting the people in front of you and valuing them like He does rather than feeling pressure to view them as a project to complete.



ACTION STEP THREE - VISION FOR MISSION

Acts 1:8 Treasure Map

Fill out your own custom Acts 1:8 Treasure Map. This will help you to identify who is in your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the earth. You can do this with the leadership of your Jesus Community first, or you can facilitate everyone going through the process together in small groups. (See Page 73).

Activation Month

Preface: An Activation Month is a four-week experience where everyone in your Jesus Community can practice Overflow, Jerusalem conversations, Judea experiences, and Samaria relationships. Each week is created to be done during your Jesus Community's primary gathering time for 100% participation.

Each week practices areas from the Overflow Action Steps and Acts 1:8 Treasure Map. The Overflow Action Steps and Acts 1:8 Treasure Map expand each of the Activation Month weeks into a fuller way of developing the parts of mission culture that are introduced.

The first two weeks will take place within the normal gathering location of your Jesus Community. The second two weeks involve leaving that location.

Week 1: Overflow Family

Time: 30 minutes

Preparation: Minimal

- 1** Split everyone into inter-generational pairs.
- 2** Practice connecting with someone. Ask an opening, fun question for pairs to discuss.
Example: You're planning a part for both of your groups of friends. The party is themed around a common interest of yours. What is the common-interest theme and how will it be turned into a party?
- 3** Practice getting to know someone. Ask a personal, self-describing question.
Example: What is a question you would want the closest people in your life to ask you more often?
- 4** Practice listening to someone. Lead a shorter version of the **"Practice listening"** exercise from the Overflow Action Steps.
- 5** Practice praying for someone. Have partners pray for each other.

Week 2: Jerusalem Circles

Time: 30 minutes

Preparation: Minimal

- 1** Share the vision of Jerusalem mission. How were we able to be light and salt among those we already see every day?
- 2** Break everyone into groups of 3-7 people.
- 3** Every person in the group answers, "What has happened in your personal 'Jerusalem' mission this past week?"
- 4** Pray for the people in each person's "Jerusalem."
- 5** Cultivate awareness by reminding when the next Jerusalem Circle will be.

Week 3: See Judea

Time: 40 minutes. Longer with discussions.

Preparation: Decide locations

- 1** Share the vision of Judea mission. What is different about our neighbor-

hood because we are here representing the Kingdom of Heaven?

- 2** Practice “Everyone sees the community” from the Everyone Plays Action Steps.
- 3** Discuss the question, “What steps can we take to be obedient to what God highlighted for us?”
- 4** Put dates on the calendar to answer the question, “When will we take these steps?”

Week 4: Serve Samaria

Time: 60-90 minutes. Transport time will vary.

Preparation: Make a list of the groups of people you can serve in your Samaria. Discuss with your Jesus Community and Persons of Peace, simple actions to connect and the locations you can use (See “Your Samaria Ministry” Pages 76-81 for more information). It is important to have at least one leader in each group prepared and connected to the location and Person of Peace ahead of time to make the best plan for the time.

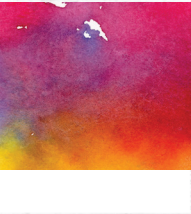
- 1** Share the vision of Samaria mission. How can we connect personally with vulnerable people in our city?
- 2** Have every group connect with their group leader for a short briefing about their particular place, people group, and actions. Head off to different locations to serve.
- 3** When you arrive, learn about the location and context from the Person of Peace.
- 4** Relationally serve and connect. Love out of the overflow of the family of God practices. Listen, ask questions, speak life, and celebrate how God uniquely knows them.
- 5** After the time of serving and connecting, reflect as a group. *Example* questions to ask: What did you learn? What did you feel? Were you uncomfortable at any point? Did you have a sense of God’s love for the person you connected with? How can we continue to build deeper relationships with the people here?



ACTION STEP FOUR - MISSION IS PEOPLE

Preface: This is the passing of the baton following the creation of your own custom Acts 1:8 Treasure Map. These are ways to cultivate relationships of value with those you're meeting in your Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria.

- 1 Connect with someone.** When meeting people in your Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, use simple connections to start relationships such as sharing meals, playing sports, creating art, doing practical projects, and creating conversation tables. As connections are being made, follow the Holy Spirit's lead and pay attention to the "Access Points" (Face to Face Space example) that people offer.
- 2 Engage with someone.** As you connect with others, look for opportunities to enter their world rather than trying to get them to enter yours. For example, if they have a hobby, try it. If they like certain music, check it out. If they're reading a book, read it with them. If they are willing to have you over to their home, be willing to be their guest. If a situation presents itself where it would be more appropriate for other people to join as well, introduce those relationships as early as possible to make it a natural transition. For example you can bring a friend from your Jesus Community with you if you are invited to someone's house for dinner.
- 3 Create with someone.** Create something new together. For example, if you're both musical, work on a song, riff, or beat. If you're both into sports, find a new way to create an environment to enjoy sports—whether through playing or as fans. If artistic, draw, paint, or photograph a location together—find a theme or focus. Accessing creativity and creative space brings fresh new dynamics for connection that open doors to authentic relationships and deeper trust.



ACTION STEP FIVE - MULTIPLY TRANSFORMATION

Preface: We use the phrase “gather people around” to mean inviting friends, family, or acquaintances connected to the people you’re “sharing pizza with” who would be interested in being part of that particular community focus. Remember to use “neutral space” that allows people to feel safe and belong even if they are not yet personally inspired by the Source of these community focuses. This is a different practice than joining pre-existing communities. Joining communities like these that already exist is another fantastic way to meet people and share pizza, but for this step it is important to create new communities in order to be able to lead them in a way that connects the neutral space practices of purpose, belonging, and impact with His love, His people, and His mission. This is the Kingdom influence that leads to true transformation.

- 1 Paint Communities of Purpose.** Gather people around personal growth. To paint a community of purpose, try doing some of these activities together. Take self-assessment tests like StrengthsFinder, Myers-Briggs, or enneagram. Set health and fitness goals like running a race or getting in healthier shape. Learn languages and hold discussions about people’s reasons for learning. Read self-development books that help spark personal growth conversations. Learn to manage and invest personal finances through taking a course or inviting a professional to lead you in the process. Learn healthy communication strategies for relational growth such as overcoming common marriage challenges or raising children. As we journey, our opportunities to highlight the Lord as the Author of our value and purpose can be much more easily introduced.
- 2 Paint Communities of Friendship.** Gather people around connecting as friends. Most people are seeking a safe place for meaningful connection with others. To paint a community of belonging, try some of these engaging, fun environments. Play music together. Take walks together. Get together for after-work drinks. Watch and discuss movies. Try each other’s

favorite recipes at different homes. Go on hikes. Watch or play sports. Read a book. There are hundreds of other activities that can emerge from the different people you are forming this community with. As we connect, the Lord will highlight opportunities to transcend surface conversations to deeper personal conversations.

- 3 Paint Communities of Impact.** Gather people around making a difference in your local area. To paint a community of impact, here are some ways to consider serving together. Serve people who are homeless by sharing a warm meal with them. Connect with people who are refugees/foreigners by playing board games with them. Help children with special needs by creating art projects with them. Show the elderly you care by cooking their recipes together. Build friendships with people with disabilities by having conversations about dreams in life. Show kindness to victims of abuse by helping with housework while they're receiving care from organizations. When people see themselves making an impact in the lives of others, they recognize that they are part of something bigger. As they serve alongside those whose love comes from Jesus, their perspective of God starts changing from a religious icon to a loving Father who cares deeply for all as His treasures.

ACTION STEP THREE - ACTS 1:8 TREASURE MAP

This exercise will bring together elements of Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4 to identify the areas where you should direct your mission's focus—your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and Ends of the earth. From there, much clearer action steps for Step 5 can be taken.

Your Jerusalem Ministry

Who are the people you see every day? What are the names of family members, co-workers, friends, and fellow students you interact with regularly?

Discover

Below, list 10-15 names of those you regularly interact with in life:

1 _____	6 _____	11 _____
2 _____	7 _____	12 _____
3 _____	8 _____	13 _____
4 _____	9 _____	14 _____
5 _____	10 _____	15 _____

Plan

What if you are the one God is calling to impact the lives of those around you every day? Write one simple way you can serve, give attention to, or show love to each person on the list above this week.

1 _____	6 _____	11 _____
2 _____	7 _____	12 _____
3 _____	8 _____	13 _____
4 _____	9 _____	14 _____
5 _____	10 _____	15 _____

Engage

A Jerusalem Circle is a small group of people focused on checking in with each other about how God is using them in everyday life. It's like a "knights of the round table" gathering where we can feel safe to ask questions, listen to, celebrate, and learn from other's experiences in Jerusalem Ministry. When is your regular meeting of a Jerusalem Circle? Who is in this support team around you?

Time/place _____

Names:

✗ Your Judea Ministry

What impact does your Jesus Community have on the neighbors in your local area? How are your neighbors around you seeing the love of Jesus in action? How can you sow into the different spheres of society in your neighborhood and city?

Discover

Below is an outline of the different spheres of society to help you develop a clearer picture of who your neighbors are and how they are functioning together for community health and growth. For each sphere, fill in how your Jesus Community is sowing into its prosperity through the influence of Jesus culture. If no interaction is happening yet, share one way you can bless people working in this area of your community. Additionally, share 2-3 locally-focused prayer points for each area.

Business:

How are we serving people working in the businesses in our neighborhood?

What are ways we can start blessing people working in local businesses?

What can we pray for for the people working in businesses in our neighborhood/
local area?

(Repeat for Government, Arts/Entertainment, Digital/Media, Families, Faith Communities, Schools)

Plan

How can you see doors open in spheres where there is no current impact/relationship?

Here are three exercises for prayerfully stepping out in faith to see what doors the Holy Spirit is opening for you:

- 1** Connecting with Step 2: Action Step 2, prayerfully go in groups to different locations of your local area. Have each group walk around and pray together for the different people and places you see. Ask questions to the people you meet about their neighborhood, sphere of society, and dreams for change. Follow the Holy Spirit's lead for open doors of connection. This is what will help you transition to the relational and community-building Steps 4 & 5.

- Examples of places to pray for include:
 - i Businesses
 - ii Homes
 - iii Schools
 - iv Government buildings
 - v Faith-related buildings
 - vi Other gathering points for people

- Examples of people to pray for include:
 - i People working in businesses
 - ii Families
 - iii Students and teachers
 - iv Leaders in charge of making decisions for that area
 - v Members of different faith communities
 - vi Specific people you see in those places
- Here are some questions you can ask within conversations or as a “Neighborhood Survey”
 - i What do you like about your neighborhood?
 - ii What would you change about your neighborhood?
 - iii What informal groups get together in your neighborhood? What groups are you involved in within your neighborhood?
 - iv What is a skill you have that you would enjoy teaching others?
 - v What knowledge do you have that you might be willing to share with others?
 - vi What do you feel passionate about?
 - vii What would you like to learn if training were available in your neighborhood?
 - viii What is it like having a business in this area? (Adapt to be sphere-specific)
 - ix What is your dream for your neighborhood?
 - x What is an example of unity or community you’ve seen among your neighbors?
 - xi How can bridges of connection be built among people in your neighborhood?
 - xii If using a survey, you can ask for the person’s name and contact details.

- 2** Pick up local newspapers (or print them from online) and have the members of your Jesus Community prayerfully go through and circle areas of the community that stick out to them from the different articles. These can serve as indicators from the Holy Spirit of where to focus your next steps of connection.
- 3** Find Persons of Peace. Jesus instructed the disciples to look for a person of peace when they were sent out in Luke 10:6. For our Judea ministry today, these can be people in a community who will open doors for you to bless people working in a particular social sphere. As you pray, go, and meet, the Lord will lead you to Persons of Peace in different social spheres of society.

Examples:

- A teacher that cares about community involvement with their school.
- A local news station worker that cares about volunteering and blessing people in need.
- A police chaplain who wants to help facilitate better police-community relationships.
- A neighborhood association leader who wants to partner together for families' health and activity.

Engage

Here is a list of the spheres of your local culture, simple actions you can take and environments you can take them in. Connect the three together to find next steps for your Jesus Community to take to develop deeper relationships:

Spheres	Person of Peace	Simple Connections	Environments

We will connect with people in ____ **(Sphere)** ____ helped by ____ **(Person of Peace)** ____ using ____ **(Simple Connection)** ____ at ____ **(Environment)** ____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

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Who are the people who are on the other side of social divides in your local community? Who would it be easier to walk around than to engage with? As we reflect on Jesus' heart for "the least of these" and our "neighbors," let us prayerfully consider who is in our modern day Samaria Ministry.

Discover

Pray for and Discuss. This is where to start. Gather your Jesus Community to pray over and discuss these questions together. This will paint the picture of your current understanding of the Samaria of your local area. For this exercise, don't look up answers (you'll do that later), but based on prayerful conversations, fill out your community's starting point below.

1 Who are groups of people who are socially disconnected in our local area?

- Do we have any preexisting relationships with people in these groups?
- Who?

2 Where is there social disunity present in our local area?

- What are relational actions that can be taken that display loving unity and not just tolerance of existence?
- Who may be someone who already organizes unifying action?

3 Holistic transformation focuses on these four areas of transformation: physical, spiritual, mental, and social. Thinking through these needs, what groups of people exist in our neighborhood and city that we can intentionally reach out to connect with?

- Do we know any initiatives already underway that are connecting with people working through these areas of life transformation?
- Who is connected to these initiatives?

Plan

Research. Now that you've discussed your existing knowledge base of what Samaria looks like in your local area, it's time to do some research. Find out what you don't know. Think of this process as building your field of vision for what has been reported and discovered by others about disconnected and hurting people in your area.

- 1** Look up demographics, surveys, polls, articles, interviews, and statistics online.

- Write an overview of your local area based on what you find.

- 2** Contact your local government, police department, and charities to find more information about the status of people in need around you.

- Write summaries of what they reported.

- 3** Search local online forums, discussions, Facebook groups, and "help needed" requests to build a current understanding of need in your neighborhood and city.

- Write down a summary of requests that you find from these sources. Highlight common themes from these requests, needs, and discussions.

4 Look at groups of people that are highlighted by Jesus and Serve the City, a global non-profit organization that mobilizes people to serve those in need.

- Study Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus talks about serving and ignoring “the least of these my brothers” as directly connected to serving and ignoring Him. Look at the people Jesus highlights in this passage—the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned.
- Serve the City mobilizes people to show kindness in personal ways to people in need. They share that every city around the world will have different groups of people in need, but these are the six groups commonly shared throughout the world: people who are homeless, refugees, elderly, disabled, victims of abuse, and children with needs.
- Where is there overlap between the lists that Jesus and Serve the City highlight and what we are discovering about the people in need in our area? Write any connections next to the groups below.

Hungry/thirsty: _____

Foreigner (stranger): _____

Without essential clothing (naked): _____

Imprisoned: _____

Homeless: _____

Refugees: _____

Elderly: _____

Disabled: _____

Victims of abuse: _____

Children with needs: _____

5 Find Persons of Peace. Jesus instructed the disciples to look for a person of peace when they were sent out in Luke 10:6. For our Samaria ministry today, these can be people who are already working with groups of people in need and can open doors for you to serve. Examples:

- Someone who works at a refugee center and is willing to help you find times to connect with people there.
- Someone who is already involved with serving the homeless and hungry community who will help you develop deeper relationships.
- Someone who works with the elderly who can help you connect in meaningful ways.
- Someone serving families and children with needs who can create safe spaces for fun and healthy connections.

Engage

With the field of social need painted for what Samaria Ministry looks like in our local area, let's now take action.

Make a list of the groups of people you can serve in your Samaria. Discuss with your Jesus Community and any Persons of Peace simple actions to connect and environments you can take them in. Connect the four together to find next steps for your community to take to develop deeper relationships:

People in need	Person of Peace	Simple Connections	Environments

We will connect with ____ (**People in need**) ____ helped by ____ (**Person of Peace**) ____ using ____ (**Simple Connection**) ____ at ____ (**Environment**) ____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

We will connect with _____ helped by _____
using _____ at _____.

Your Ends of the Earth Ministry

Our focus for the Ends of the Earth is for our local mission to have a ripple effect towards the rest of the world. As you get started, it is recommended to keep the majority of your focus on developing a culture of mission to your Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. This will be the source of the ripple effect through your region, your nation, and the world.

Here are three ways right now that you can have your Jesus Community connect what they see God doing locally with what He is doing around the world.

Pray

- Find a missionary, overseas missions organization, or church outside of your local area to connect with. Ask them for ways to pray for people and places in their area of ministry.
- Keep alerted on global events and pray for the places and people around the world that the Lord is highlighting for your Jesus Community.

Give

- Financially partner with global missions efforts that are helping local, sustainable ministries to multiply. It is important to generously sow into the equipping of local ministries around the world without creating dependency on foreign support for sustainability.
- Financially partner with those sent from your local area to cross-pollinate and reproduce the mission culture your Jesus Community is practicing.

Go

- Find local international groups to connect with. International and foreign language churches are great places to start. Share a meal with them to learn more about their culture, country of origin, and personal lives in a foreign country. Be alert of any collaboration for Judea and Samaria ministry.
- Look for trusted people and organizations who will allow you to experience serving in ministry overseas for a short-term trip. Make sure to follow a few key guidelines:
 - Work with overseas ministries that support indigenous leadership, ideas, and development so that they are investing in long-term sustainability. It is important to sow into local initiatives but not create dependency on outside funding to minister.
 - Always go as learners, not as experts. Find what God is teaching you through the trip.
 - Be humble when asked to speak, pray, teach, listen, befriend, serve, and help in any way. It is important to both elevate the Kingdom culture and honor the local culture.

Would you like to watch our Introduction to Activation videos?

We have an online Introduction to Activation geared for local churches that contains Activation Modules, engaging videos, prayer prompts, reflective questions, and practical steps.

You can have free access at www.activate transformation.org

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(2007). ESV: Study Bible : English standard version. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles.



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