



In Columbia as it is in Heaven: Mission

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- What are you struggling to trust God with this week? How can you give God control of it? (As people confess sin, make sure to remind one another of the good news Jesus offers. If need be, use the worksheet "Go-To Verses for Gospel Fluency" at MidtownLifeGroups.com)
- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting? What steps do you need to take to obey?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins to God in prayer and pray for each other.

Pray for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passage: Matthew 28:18-20

Read **Matthew 28:18-20** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?
- Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.
- What stood out overall from the sermon?

Our covenant practice for this week is mission:

Mission brings the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth through communities of Jesus-centered followers marked by faith, hope, and love. **Therefore, I commit** to hospitality and sharing my faith through everything I do by the power of the Spirit.

As a LifeGroup we will spend the remainder of our time working through the tool, **“Their Story/Your Story/The Story.”**

If you want to learn more about this covenant practice, go to this Mission sermon page on our site and look under “Recommended Resources.”

1. Have questions about the sermon? Ask us at bit.ly/2Kzyd9B
(form.jotform.com/91616134918157)

2. Looking to grow as a LifeGroup? MidtownLifeGroups.com

3. Check out our Bible reading and Prayer Plan based on this series at midtowncolumbia.com/reading-plan

“Their Story/Your Story/The Story Mission” Tool

INTRO:

Everyone has a story.
Past, Present, Future.
Beginning, Middle, End.

We all come from somewhere and we’re all are going somewhere. We’re all dealing with life somewhere in the middle right now. The art of learning someone’s story, and sharing your story are essential to building rich friendships as we live on mission.

The following tool is one simple way to go about learning these skills. It provides a series of questions in the framework of Past, Present, Future.

DISCLAIMERS:

- Don’t think about any of this as a rigid one-size fits all formula, so much as guardrails to help you get started and troubleshoot as you go.
- This is not intended to be a one-time, one-shot conversation... unless you’re going to be stuck in a quiet, one-on-one setting for 4+ hours with someone.
- Learning their story and sharing your story could take weeks, months or an entire season. This tool is intended to be used over time as you get to know someone in the context of a real, mutual, loving relationship.

FRIENDS WHO DON’T KNOW JESUS:

- Start by listing some friends and neighbors who don’t know Jesus. Keep them in mind as you work through the rest of the tool.

PART 1: THE PAST

We all come from somewhere. Somewhere that includes a physical place (or places), a family of origin and a series of personal experiences. Everyone’s past provides the context for their entire story. So getting to know someone requires getting to know their backstory. And inviting someone into your life requires sharing yours.

THEIR PAST:	YOUR PAST:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are they from? What was their family like growing up? • What are their past experiences - positive or negative - with church and Christians? • Who are the most important, shaping, and influential people and experiences in their life? • As you get to know them, you’re always looking for clues about where they are looking for ultimate joy and satisfaction outside of Jesus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are you from? What was your family like growing up? • What are your past experiences - positive or negative - with church and Christians? • Who are the most important, shaping, and influential people and experiences in your life? • As it is helpful, tell them about where you’ve looked for joy and satisfaction outside of Jesus. How did you realize sin was the real problem in your life?

PART 2: THE PRESENT

Regardless of our backstories, we all find ourselves right here and now... dealing with life. Some of us are doing that pretty well, others are really struggling. But how they are dealing with life, and how we deal with life give us a lot of opportunities to share the truth and hope of Jesus.

THEIR PRESENT:	YOUR PRESENT:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are their beliefs about Jesus, God, the Bible, etc.? • What are their biggest struggles, pains, problems in life? • Where do they look for joy, satisfaction and meaning? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your beliefs about Jesus, God, the Bible, etc.? More specifically, how did Jesus draw you to Himself? • What are your biggest struggles, pains, problems in life? How does Jesus help you deal with those? • Where are you tempted to look for joy, satisfaction and meaning outside of Jesus?

PART 3: THE FUTURE

In the midst of dealing with our lives, all of us have certain beliefs about what is broken in this world and what would fix it. We all have dreams and hopes about what “the good life” would look like if we ever got there. Tapping into these hopes and dreams helps us get to know people and see places where they have false hopes outside of Jesus.

THEIR FUTURE:	YOUR FUTURE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are their hopes and dreams for the future? • What do they think is the biggest problem in the world? What do they think would fix it? • What would heaven be like for them? Personally and/or societally? If they could make life perfect, what would they change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your hopes and dreams? How has Jesus helped reshape what you put your hope in? • How did Jesus convince you that sin is actually the biggest problem in the world? How does Jesus give you hope? • How is life with Jesus, both here and now and eternally better than any other version of utopia possible?

PART 4: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

As we get to know their story and share our story, we are always looking for ways we can share Jesus’ story through our story and apply it into their story.

THEIR STORY:	YOUR STORY:	THE STORY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past shaping experiences: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past shaping experiences: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is Jesus good news for their story?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present situation: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present situation: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has Jesus shaped your story and how you can connect that to their story?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future hope: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future hope: 	