

Calvary's Gifts Discovery and Coaching Ministry Writing a Personal Mission Statement

“Never doubt that a community of thoughtful committed Christians, filled with the power and love of God, using gifts they have identified and developed, and pursuing passions planted in them by God - never doubt that these people can change the world.”

-Lynne Hybels

Mission comes from the Latin word “sending” and is our “service”. Calvary’s mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. What’s yours?

The last few weeks we have been discovering and uncovering our God given spiritual gifts, strengths, personalities, passions and values. These are God’s gifts to us, yet our gift to God is how we use them to be a blessing to others.

“What you are is God’s gift to you; what you do with yourself is your gift to God.” Danish Proverb

- *We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Ephesians 2:10
- *Serve one another in love.* Galatians 5:13
- *God not only loves you very much, but also has put His hand on you for something special.* 1 Thessalonians 1:4

Prayer: Gracious God, support us to discern your will and mission for our life. Help us to be tools in your hands to be used for your good purposes. We pray for your Holy Spirit to fill us, in order to discover our mission and the ministry you want us to do, so that we can “do the good works that you have prepared in advance for us to do.” We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

Scripture Reading: The Book of Ruth: A story of Faith, Love and Hope (and Courage!)

1. What were some of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz’s core values? How did they live them out on a daily basis?

2. Naomi and Ruth were in a challenging situation (as widows) at the beginning of the Book of Ruth, yet Naomi wasn’t aware of the resource God had given her in Ruth, her daughter-in-law. By the end of Chapter 4, Ruth becomes the great grandmother of King David and part of the lineage of Christ. Rick Warren in A Purpose Driven Life said that “God uses problems to force us to focus on God, to draw us closer to others in fellowship, to build our Christ-like character, to provide us with a ministry and to provide us with a testimony.” How has God used challenging situations in your life to bring you closer to Him?

3. What are some of the “God Moments” or “coincidences” in the Book of Ruth? Share a “God Moment” from your own life. Do you have faith that God is directing your life for His purpose?

4. Even though Naomi was bitter, she was still faithful and praised God. God rewards faithfulness. How can we honor our feelings, yet act on what we are committed to?

A God Inspired Mission Statement: God has an amazing plan for your life, and only you can fulfill it through faith, discipline, strength and courage! A mission statement is bigger than any one goal; it is the big “What” that gives your life purpose and focus. It is the “what” you are going to practice on a daily basis. Make it concise, and ask yourself: “If I have _____, what will that give me?” Continue asking that and digging deeper until you land on an important value. Here are some tips:

1. Make it short -10 words or less using one sentence.
2. Begin your mission statement with: I am willing to practice, I choose to, I intend to, My mission is to, I get to, I plan to, I will.
3. Write it in the affirmative and in the present tense.
4. Take time for reflection and prayer.
5. Rate it on a scale of 1-10. (1 - that’s awful, 10 - that’s so inspiring, motivating, I love it!)
6. If you get a low number, ask yourself what would make it a 10.
7. Continue this process until it inspires and motivates you!

Ask yourself:

1. Does this statement reflect my core values?
2. Does it reflect how I want to be remembered 100 years from now?
3. What difference will I make in the lives of others by living out my mission?
4. Am I in alignment with Jesus’ mission?

Examples:

- The mission of Calvary Lutheran Church is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- I will practice daily living a Christ Centered Life.
- My mission is encouraging, empowering and equipping leaders to reach their potential and make an impact.

Goals: Goals are the “how” we are going to live out our mission on a daily basis. Goals are the actions we take to live out our mission. After you write your mission, set 3-5 goals. You can also take a goal and dig deeper into what it will give you to clarify your mission. You may want to add scripture to each goal if that inspires you.

Visual: Create a “mission statement and goal collage”. Use pictures and words from magazines or other sources that inspire and motivate you to live out your God-inspired mission and goals. Bring it to our class next week to share.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, Open my heart and my mind to what you want to do in my life. Teach me. Change me. Use me. Amen.