

On Mission as a Small Group

Serving the Campus

Introduction

Consider the length of your small group as you take this course:

- **For longer-term small groups:** This course will help you think practically about how to incorporate the missional activities throughout the life of your small group. With a longer-term small group, you can root yourselves in the campus and really see its needs and opportunities.
- **For short-term small groups:** There's might be a resource or activity in this course that could fit realistically within your schedule. Use what you learn in this course to encourage your small group to gain a deeper sense of calling and connect with other Christians in missional living.

Community on Mission

Sent on Mission

John 20:19–23 represents our calling to be on mission. **This is our mission:** Jesus is sending us out to be his witnesses everywhere, all around the world. To testify to how much God loves the world, how he's calling us to repent of our sinful rebellion against him, how his transforming power heals and restores us, how he sends us into the world to bring his love, power, and justice wherever we go.

What it Looks Like



As we seek to be witnesses, there are three common strands that, when braided together, can help us address the bigger picture of being on mission:

- **Evangelism:** People Knowing God – Sharing our faith with friends who do not have a relationship with Jesus yet helps them and us know the real hope of Jesus.
- **Missional Service:** Places Reflecting God's Character – God cares about justice (Is 30:18). And as we grow to be more Christlike, we're called to be passionate about these things too, "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with [our] God" (Mic 6:8).
- **Planting:** Places Knowing God – There are hundreds of campuses and thousands of students across the nation with no known campus ministry or place to encounter the living God. This is something we long to change, and we invite your small group to help.

Skills for the Mission

The Three Strands of Missional Life

As you read through, use some discernment as to where to start and don't feel pressured to do everything at once. Remember, each of these strands flows out of our love for Jesus, the one who sends us. While the three strands braided together are what make up missional life, a life with God is key.



Pray – Like we saw in John 20, the Holy Spirit is living inside of us, empowering us to be faithful in the things he's calling us to. As we prepare, take a moment to think about and worship the one who sends us—Jesus—and why he is worthy to follow with our whole lives.

Evangelism

It's important for small groups to be inclusive of both Christians and non-Christians. God invites us to give clear opportunities for non-Christians to say "yes" to God, and we do that by giving calls to faith.

These are three steps in leading a call to faith:

1. **Introduction** – Prepare the group for the call to faith by clearly transitioning the subject.
2. **Read the Big Story and invite a response** – Share [handouts](#) of the invitation to faith, so everyone can follow along.
3. **Closing** – Thank everyone for sharing their thoughts. Set up follow-up conversations later, especially with anyone who decided to follow Jesus.

Missional Service

Reflect on the questions below:

1. What do you care deeply about? What does God care about? Where is the overlap?
2. What opportunities are available? In your school, town, or city? What about different people groups in the area and campus? What issues need to be addressed with Christ's love and grace?
3. How will your group play a role in this? Will this be a one-time event or an ongoing partnership? Is there a connection to campus?
4. What's one specific and concrete next step you or your group can take?

Here's some examples of missional service to consider:

- Regularly volunteer as a group at a local soup kitchen, shelter, or food pantry.
- Ask God who he wants you to invite to small groups or connect more deeply with.
- Identify some needs of a person, group, or community on campus and help to meet them.
- Pick a country or IFES movement to partner with, pray for, or financially support as a group.
- Participate in an InterVarsity Justice Program or Global Program.

Planting

These are four steps to help you discern God's invitation to plant new ministry:

1. **Create network maps together** – Name all the places you interact with people on a regular basis, and then write the names of people you know around those places.
2. **Pray** – As a small group, pray for the people who appeared on your network map.
3. **Discern** – Pay attention to where you feel most drawn.
4. **Decide together** – Where is God calling you to focus your energy?

A Moment of Discernment

Take a moment to think about where to start by asking God what he thinks. If you're having a hard time hearing from him, take a few minutes to think about your passions and interests. God often will start new ministries by calling us to press into our natural interests.

Related Resources

- [The Big Story Gospel Summary](#)
- [Small Group Invitation to Faith](#)
- [Justice Bible Studies](#)

Recommended Courses

- [Growing Disciples](#)
- [Growing Authentic Community](#)

Visit the Ministry Playbook to learn more about leading, planting, and building Kingdom movements on college campuses: <https://www.theministryplaybook.com/>