

# ME-LIGION

AM I REALLY HERE FOR ME?

Study Guide

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# ME-LIGION

## Study Guide

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### Series Overview

This study confronts the common misunderstanding that a “missionary” is a professionally-trained minister who moves to another country to do church work. We will see how God calls each of us to be a “missionary” in our neighborhood, school, job, club, team, family, and all other areas of our life.

### Using This Guide

You may choose to use this guide:

- for personal study and reflection.
- as a discussion guide with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

# 1-Be a Missionary Right Now

Scripture: [Mark 5:1-20](#)

## Icebreaker: Someday

What are some things you would like to do “someday” that you’ve never done. What regrets, if any, do you have about letting “someday” pass?

## Questions for Study or Discussion

- Consider how difficult it must have been for the maniac to recognize Jesus ([Mark 5:5-6](#)). When you think about the maniac finding Christ, how does this give you hope for those who have not yet found Christ?
  
- What is your motive in deciding how to spend your time?
  - ▶ Do you want to tell others about Christ because of what He has done in your life ([Mark 5:18](#))?
  - ▶ In what ways do your current activities provide situations in which you may have opportunities to share Christ? What changes would make that more likely?
  
- After Jesus freed the man from the devil, what did He tell the man to do ([Mark 5:19](#))? When was the last time you told someone about the great things the Lord has done for you ([1Cor 7:16](#) and [John 4:39](#))?
  
- Consider how Jesus has given each of us a mission. How is the mission Jesus gave you similar to, or different from, the one He gave the maniac?

## Dig a Little Deeper: A Missions Process

Although God may not plan to send you across the world, He has called each of us to share our faith with others as He directs. Consider the following process. Which steps are you taking regularly? Pray about any changes He wants you to make.

<i>Step</i>	
<b>Surrender.</b> Go where He tells you to go (next door or across the world).	<b>Mat 28:19</b> <b>Acts 1:8</b>
<b>Seek</b> those who need to hear about Jesus.	<b>Mark 6:34</b>
<b>Share</b> with those who are ready to hear.	<b>Luke 14:17-22</b>
<b>Show</b> what He has done for you. (It is not your duty to convict or convert. It is your duty to convey. Simply tell others what happened to you.)	<b>Mark 5:20</b>

### Application Exercise: My Mission Statement

Considering the four steps in the table above, write your own Christ-centered mission statement for yourself or your family.

## 2-Be Willing/Ready to be a Missionary Anywhere

Scripture: [Isaiah 6:8-9](#)

### Icebreaker: Trip Planner

If someone asked you if you would be willing to leave for a trip tomorrow, what questions would you ask before saying, “yes”?

### Questions for Study or Discussion

- God gives us choices of whether to partner in the salvation of others. Which of the following might be a reason you would hesitate to tell someone about Christ?
  - I don't know enough about the Bible to know what to say. (They might ask me a question I can't answer.)
  - I feel unworthy because of sin in my life.
  - I don't want them to think less of me.
  - Other?

For each reason above, what could you do to overcome it?

- If you knew you had to spend a year as a missionary in a foreign land, which lands would be the most challenging for you and why? What would it take to have the attitude that Abraham had ([Heb 11:8-10](#))?
- Is there such a thing as being so comfortable with your current lifestyle that you are unwilling to move in the direction God desires ([Psa 84:10-12](#))? What can people do to avoid or overcome the lure of comfort and luxury?

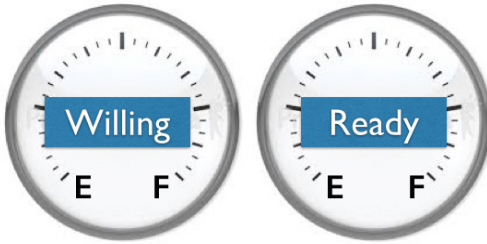
## Dig a Little Deeper: The Missionary Call

Consider how God, the church, and circumstances each play a role in the missionary call.

God gives the call.	<a href="#">Jer 1:4-9</a> <a href="#">Mat 4:19</a> <a href="#">Acts 22:21</a>
The church confirms the call.	<a href="#">Acts 13:2-3</a> <a href="#">Acts 22:12-15</a> <a href="#">Gal 2:7-9</a>
Circumstances bring the call.	<a href="#">Gen 45:4-5</a> <a href="#">Acts 8:3-4</a> <a href="#">Acts 18:1-2</a>

### Application Exercise: Willing and Ready?

Evaluate yourself on your degree of willingness to be a missionary and on your degree of readiness to be a missionary.



What things can you do to increase your willingness and readiness?

# 3-Missions Stories

Scripture: [Acts 14:25-28](#)

## Icebreaker: What Makes a Good Story?

Most of us have heard a variety of stories throughout our lives. Who is the best storyteller you know? What is it that makes a good story?

## Questions for Study or Discussion

- What are some of the missions stories you have heard? In what ways do you find those stories encouraging or challenging?
- Watch this [Unreached Peoples](#) video clip. Discuss your reaction to the video.
- In what way do stories of God working in the lives of people strengthen your resolve to serve Him well ([Acts 14:27](#))?
  - ▶ Tell about a time when you told others about how God was working in your life.
  - ▶ Why is it more encouraging to hear what God has done through someone than it is to hear what people have done through their own power?
- What does it mean to have an open door and how we should react to it ([Rev 3:8](#))?
  - ▶ What might make you hesitate to walk through the open door?
  - ▶ How could others' mission stories strengthen your resolve to walk through the open door?

*We talk of  
the Second Coming;  
half the world has  
never heard of the first.  
-Oswald J. Smith*







## Dig a Little Deeper: State of Missions

Visit the site: [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)

Find the “From Every Nation” document which shares some missions success stories from around the world. Pray, thanking God for those success stories. Find the “Encouraging Trends from the Field” document. Pray, asking God to show you one area to lift up in prayer over the next week.

### Application Exercise: The World in 10 People

<i>View of Jesus</i>	<i>How Many in 10</i>	<i>Who I Know</i>
He is my Lord and Savior. (10% are true Christ-followers)		
He is a nice teacher, but I want to do my own thing. (20% may say they are Christians, but they don't actively follow Him)		
No thank you. (40% have heard the gospel but have not yet accepted Christ)		
Who is that? (30% have no access to the gospel)		

Look at the table above which is a representation of the state of Christianity [from [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)]. Think about the people you know and where they probably fit in the table. Pray for each person's relationship with Christ.

# 4-Remember the Persecuted Church

Scripture: [Hebrews 13:3](#)

## Icebreaker: It's Happening Today

[video clip - Persecuted Christians](#)

Watch this 2-minute video and discuss how we can continue to remember the persecuted Church.

## Questions for Study or Discussion

- How does Jesus view those who are under persecution on His behalf ([Mat 5:10-12](#))?
- In what ways can suffering bring you into a better realization of who Jesus is?
  - ▶ [2Corinthians 12:10](#)
  - ▶ [Romans 8:35](#)
- What does Christ wants us to do when we are aware of those who are persecuted for Him?
  - ▶ [Hebrews 13:3](#)
  - ▶ [1Corinthians 12:26](#)
- In what ways can the persecuted Church be an example for how you live your life as a Christ-follower?
  - ▶ [Romans 12:21](#)
  - ▶ [Luke 23:34](#)
  - ▶ [Isaiah 55:8-9](#)
  - ▶ [Psalm 46:10](#)

## Dig a Little Deeper: Pray for Them

As a group, pray for the persecuted Church. Here are a few ideas.

Spiritual Needs:

- Pray that persecuted believers know the hope that God gives ([Eph 1:18](#)).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit strengthens them ([Eph 3:16](#)).
- Pray that persecuted believers know how much God loves them ([Eph 3:17-19](#)).
- Pray that they know how best to share the gospel ([Eph 6:19](#)).
- Pray that they are fearless in telling others about Jesus ([Eph 6:20](#)).

Practical Needs:

- Pray that they have access to a Bible.
- Pray that they have courage to stay or go as He directs.
- Pray that other Christians love and support them (especially when their own families reject them).
- Pray for God to supply their physical needs (food, shelter, clothing).

### Application Exercise: On Your Prayer List

Add the persecuted Church to your prayer list each day this coming week. You could use some of the ideas for prayer requests from above or pray for a specific need of a persecuted church that has come to your attention.



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