

FP
PECFD

**MISSIONAL
CLARITY**

1 20/200

2 20/100

3 20/70

4 20/60

5 20/50



**A SERIES ON REGAINING
CLARITY AROUND THE
MISSION OF JESUS FOR
THE LOCAL CHURCH**

6 20/40

7 20/35

8 20/30

9 20/25



AN SKMB RESOURCE

10 20/20

The building that my church currently rents is called St. Matthew's. This church was originally started back in 1909 through a Sunday school ministry that was started by a young woman named Grace. Grace had a desire to see the Gospel encounter Regina and was committed to this mission and God blessed her work.

As people encountered Jesus, lives were changed, and this Sunday school ministry grew. It grew to the point that it went from a Sunday school to a church called Grace Church. Then in 1913, they began the process of building St. Matthew's – a huge beautiful brick church building.

This building was built for the mission of Jesus, to see people encounter Jesus. For a period of time this was their focus but over the years, the mission that was so clear at the beginning, begun to get fuzzy. The focus moved on from the Gospel, the mission of Jesus, and as that focus shifted, the church began to slowly die. In 2021, the church closed its doors for the last time.

Sadly this isn't a unique story in here in Saskatchewan and in Canada. It's been estimated that in the next 10 years, 9,000 churches will be closing their doors for the last time. We take comfort in the reality that Jesus builds His church, that He is faithful and that nothing can stop His mission from advancing. We also know that we have been entrusted as leaders to faithfully steward the church towards faithfulness to Jesus and His mission – that our decisions, focus, and plans have an effect on the church. (Matthew 25:14-30)

We also know that keeping our focus on the right things is a challenge in ministry. The urgent, the unplanned, the week-to-week needs of the church, often create a ministry fog that can easily hinder our ability to keep the mission of Jesus in front of us. From time to time, one of the best things we can do is slow down and ask, "Do we have missional clarity?" "Are we moving towards and pushing in to the mission of Jesus or are we drifting from it?"

The Missional Clarity series is meant to do one of two things for your leadership team:

1. This series is meant to help you ask that all important question, "Do we have missional clarity?" As you go through it as a team, it will either encourage you in what you are already doing as a team and church and maybe even help your missional focus grow stronger, or it might reveal to you that you have lost sight of the mission of Jesus and you didn't even notice it and it will help you take steps towards moving back towards clarity.
2. Maybe you know as a church you have lost sight of the mission. This series is to help you regain clarity on the mission. As you go through this series, you will have the chance to ask where and why you lost sight of the mission, and see some very practical steps you can take to begin to move the church back towards it.

Through it all, our deepest desire is to see you as a leader and for your church to be encouraged and equipped for the mission of Jesus for the glory of God and the good of your context.



Luke Etelamaki
Discipleship Coach





How this study guide works.

This study guide is here to help prime the pumps for discussion around your leadership table. You know the leadership team you are a part of, you know the needs of the church and the context you are in, so please use these questions as a spring board to dive deeper.

To help with that, if you are the facilitator, I would encourage you preview each session to see if it speaks to your context in a unique way.

To get the most out of each session, there is some homework for each member of the team to do on their own before each session. This homework is meant to help get each leader thinking about the up topic but from a slightly different vantage point.

Finally, each session has some extra resources that might help you or your team dive deeper into the topic at hand. Again, this course is meant to be a primer on Missional Clarity, so there is plenty of space to dive deeper and explore each topic.

Pre-Session Homework

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

1. Write three things that stand out to you from this passage.
2. Based on what you have read, how is faithfulness seen in this passage?
3. According to this passage, why was the servant with one talent not faithful?
4. Our role as leaders in the church is to steward the church, and in light of our study, steward the mission of the church. What do you believe faithful stewardship looks like?
5. In your life as a leader, spend some reflecting how fear can impact how you lead? If the Spirit is leading you, take some time to pray and confess your fear to Jesus. In your leadership, what is causing anxiety and stress? Jesus invites you to bring it to Him. "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Leadership Discussion

1. Do you feel like we, as a church, have clarity around the mission of Jesus? Why or why not?
2. What have been some of our challenges in keeping clarity around the mission of Jesus as a leadership team?
3. Luke talked about two ditches that churches can find themselves in: Missional Passivity and Missional Assimilation. Which ditch do you think we are prone to? In the history of our church, have there been seasons where we were in one of these ditches? If so, how did we find our way out of it?
4. Luke talked about how in our culture Christians are becoming the rebels or the bad guys. Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
5. As the church faces more pressure from culture, what impact will it have on the mission of Jesus? How can Missional Clarity help as we face this pressure?

The Glory of the Gospel is that when the church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it.

—Martyn Lloyd-Jones



Resources

Total Church

by Tim Chester & Steve Timmis

Being the Bad Guys

by Stephen McAlpine

Uncomfortable

by Brett McCracken

A Non-Anxious Presence

by Mark Sayers

Pre-Session Homework

Read John 3:16.

Spend some time reading this verse over and over. Afterwards answer the following question. Take as much details from the verse as possible to answer them.

1. What does this verse tell us about God?
2. What does this verse tell us about Jesus?
3. What does this verse tell us about us?
4. How would you define and/or explain the Gospel?
5. Answer the following question and be prepared to share them with your team when you get together.
 - What motivates mission in your life?
 - What determines how much you are willing to sacrifice for the mission?
 - What is the mission of Jesus? you lead? If the Spirit is leading you, take some time to pray and confess your fear to Jesus. In your leadership, what is causing anxiety and stress? Jesus invites you to bring it to Him. "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Leadership Discussion

1. As a group, read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15,18-21.
 - In verses 18-21, where is the Gospel in these verses?
 - In verses 18-21, how does the Gospel influence the mission of Paul?
2. Luke asked three questions at the end of the video. Spend some time answering them as a team.
 - What motivates mission in your life?

If you want to convince men to build ships, don't pass out shipbuilding manuals. Don't organize them into labour groups and hand out wood. Teach them to year for the vast and endless sea.

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Once more, he who really has this high estimate of Jesus will think much of him, and as the thoughts are sure to run over at the mouth, he will talk much of him. Do we so? If Jesus is precious to you, you will not be able to keep your good news to yourself; you will be whispering it into your child's ear; you will be telling it to your husband; you will be earnestly imparting it to your friend; without the charms of eloquence you will be more than eloquent; your heart will speak, and your eyes will flash as you talk of his sweet love. Be wise in your generation, and speak of him in fitting ways and at fitting times, and so in every place proclaim the fact that Jesus is most precious to your soul.

—Charles Spurgeon

- What shapes the measure of mission in your life (how much you are willing to sacrifice for the mission?)
- What is the mission?

3. Below are a couple case studies for you to work through with your team.

CASE STUDY #1

John has been a member of your church for years and faithfully involved in different ministries. At a meeting you begin to talk about sensing a need to reach the community around, you notice that John is getting visibly frustrated. After the meeting, you meet up with John to see how he is doing and he says, "Why in the world would we talk about reaching the community around us, when we have so many issues inside the four walls of this church." You ask him to clarify what issues he is talking about and he mentions the short fall in the budget is deeply concerning to him. As you keep chatting, it becomes clear that he thinks you can't begin to reach out until his concerns are met.

- What would it look like to address John's concerns with guilt? With shame? With fear? Now address it with the Gospel.

CASE STUDY #2

Susan and her Husband are volunteers in your Jr. High youth ministry. They have two kids who are both involved in the youth ministry and so they are deeply invested in it. As you begin to reach out to the community around you, you are seeing a number of Jr. High kids coming into the youth ministry from the community. All of these kids have no church background, don't understand or hold Christians ethics but love being at the church and some have even come to faith.

As leaders, you are excited at what it seems like God is doing in and through your church. But not everyone is there. In particular, Susan and her Husband are very frustrated that there are so many non-christians in the youth group and how the youth ministry has changed. They are threatening to not just pull their kids out of the youth ministry, but even leave the church if these non-christian kids aren't told they cannot come.

- What would it look like to address Susan and her husband? How might you use guilt? Shame? Fear? Now address it with the Gospel.



Resources

**Reading the Bible,
Missing the Gospel**
by Ben Connelly

The Gospel Driven Church
by Jared C. Wilson

Gospel
by Ray Ortlund

Gospel Shaped Leader
by Scott Thomas

Pre-Session Homework

1. Complete the following statement: The mission of the church is _____ . In your answer, go into some detail and explain how this would take place in your local context. As much as possible, connect what you write to Scripture that reflects God's desire and vision for the church?
2. What does "being on mission" look like in your life right now? Who is one person that you are sharing the Gospel with? Spend some time praying for them today. Pray that God would give you another opportunity to have a Jesus conversation and that they would come to know Jesus.

Leadership Discussion

1. Start off your time by going around the room and sharing your one person that you are sharing the Gospel with. Share one or two things about that person and have the person on your right pray for them. If you don't have someone you are currently sharing the Gospel with, have the person on the right pray that God would provide an opportunity for sharing Jesus in the next week.
2. Why do you think that mission clarity is so important for us as churches?
3. We defined mission as three key things: Gospel Intentionality, Gospel Word, and Gospel Action. Which one of these do you feel like your church is currently doing well? Which one does your church struggle with? Explain why you feel that way?
4. What are some steps that you, as leaders, can take to see your church engage in the areas of mission that you feel like you struggle at?
5. Why do you think we are often tempted to make social action and evangelism interchangeable?
6. How can we better equip our churches to live with Gospel intentionality?

Every Christian here is either a missionary or an impostor. Recollect that. You either try to spread abroad the kingdom of Christ, or else you do not love him at all. It cannot be that there is a high appreciation of Jesus and a totally silent tongue about him. Of course I do not mean by that, that those who use the pen are silent: they are not. And those who help others to use the tongue, or spread that which others have written, are doing their part well: but that man who says, "I believe in Jesus," but does not think enough of Jesus ever to tell another about him, by mouth, or pen, or tract, is an impostor. You are either doing good, or you are not good yourself. If thou knowest Christ, thou art as one that has found honey; thou wilt call others to taste of it; thou art like the lepers who found the food which the Syrians had cast away; thou wilt go to Samaria and tell the hungry crowd that thou hast found Jesus, and art anxious that they should find him too.

—Charles Spurgeon



Resources

The Mission of God
by Christopher Wright

Gaining by Losing
by J.D. Greear

Total Church
by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis

Tim Keller
by Center Church

Developing Compassion

Pre-Session Homework

Read Matthew 9:35-38.

1. Write out 5 observations from this passage
2. What do you think it means to be a sheep without a shepherd?
3. What is Jesus response?
4. Spend a few mins reading Luke 15:1-7. What do both of these stories tell us about God's heart? What do these stories call us to?

Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.

—C.T. Studd

Leadership Discussion

1. How would you rate your churches compassion for those in your community? 1 = Not so good. 10 = Christ-like. Why?
2. If your community disappeared, how do you think your church would respond?
3. How well do you know the community you are in as a leadership team? Can you answer some of the basic questions about who lives there, what they believe in, and what are their needs? If you don't know it well, what are some steps you can take to grow in your knowledge of it?
4. How often do you pray for your community? What are some actions steps you can take as a leadership team to make sure you are bringing your community before the congregation and God in prayer?
5. At times we can become complacent about the lostness of our communities. How do you, as leaders, fight against complacency when it comes to Gospel urgency?
6. Spend some time in closing praying for those you are sharing the Gospel with and for the community you are sent to. Pray for God to break the church for the lost, for a deep desire to see hearts changed by Jesus, and against complacency.



Resources

Telling a Better Story

by John Chatraw

Jesus Outside the Lines

by Scott Sauls

Equipped and Sent

Pre-Session Homework

Read Mark 1:16-20.

1. Write out four things that stand out to you from this passage.
2. What does it mean to be a disciple? What Scripture helped you come to this conclusion?
3. What are some things that you are doing to grow as a disciple?

Leadership Discussion

1. Tell the group about a how you were equipped as a disciple in your faith. What did it look like? Did someone walk with you?
2. What are some missional methods that you currently are using? How do you know if these methods are effective?
3. What are some other methods that you think might help you and your church to be missional?
4. What kind of equipping do you currently provide? If you don't have any, why not?
5. When it comes to mission in your church, what is you desired outcome? What inputs do you need to work on to achieve that outcome?

Churches that want to penetrate their world with the gospel think less about Sundays morning bang and more about equipping their members to blast a hole in the mountain of lostness.

—J.D. Greear



Resources

The Equipping Group
equippinggroup.com

Evangelism in a Secular World
by Sam Chan

The Unbelievable Gospel
by Jonathan K. Dodson

The Big Story
by Justin Buzzard