

DEFINITION**MISSION****/ˈMISHən/**

the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith

SCRIPTURE**Matthew 28:19-20**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

BIG IDEA

All of us at some point in our lives have asked the question, "why am I here?" It's a very human instinct to seek out and strive to understand our purpose. It's no wonder that Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Life* is the best-selling hardcover nonfiction book in history. There's value in discovering and understanding our purpose. But our "mission" is different from our purpose and it's important to understand the distinction between the two. Let's break it down this way. Our purpose is WHY we're driven but our mission is WHAT drives us. Our purpose and our mission stand alone as separate yet compatible and synergistic ideas. While much of society emphasizes the benefits of leading a purpose-driven life, it's crucial that we are mission-driven as well.

As Christians, we are marked with a mission to "go into all the world, teaching all nations." The Message Bible paraphrases this scripture by commissioning us to share Jesus with everyone we meet, and to mark them with baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are marked by a mission to mark everyone we meet with the Gospel!

This "Great Commission" is modeled in the life of Paul the Apostle. After a dramatic conversion, he wholeheartedly embraced his purpose of taking the Gospel to all the known world while being mission-driven to impact the lives of everyone he met with the transformative love of Jesus Christ. He was relentless in his teachings to the early church, carefully helping to reframe their worldview, providing instruction and admonition as necessary. He devoted one-on-one attention to those he was discipling and raising up to succeed him.

Maybe you've been ignoring the call on your life to be a missionary, a pastor or run a life group. You've been silencing that voice in your head to witness to your neighbor or your Facebook friend about Jesus. You've been focusing on your career, your family life, and fulfilling your purpose. The truth is, a life in Christ means we all have an underlying mission, a burning desire, to share the Gospel with everyone we meet. God has created a space for you to be His witness right where you are, and your mission field is right there within your sphere of influence. Let's be purpose-driven people, by all means. But let's never lose sight of our mission—the Great Commission to which we were called—and win our world for Jesus one heart at a time.

CONVERSATION

In a few words either write or share what you feel like your purpose is in life.

Example: My purpose is to inspire and equip people to reach their full potential by creating growth opportunities.

WEEK 9

MARKED BY MISSION



If your purpose is your “Why” and your mission is the “What” take your purpose statement above and share WHAT you will do to accomplish that purpose. For example: lead a life group, gather a team at work, disciple your children, volunteer in the community.

If God has called all of us to be marked with his mission to reach the world, what steps do you need to take in order to fulfill that mission.

WEEK 9

MARKED BY MISSION



TAKE AWAY

In the busyness of life, we can easily lose sight of the final words that Jesus spoke to his disciples. Remember the 4 ALL'S from Matthew 28:18-20.

"All authority"

To go to "all nations"

To communicate "all his teaching"

Empowered by his presence "all the time"

When was the last time you invited someone to church, witnessed to a friend, or truly disciplined someone? Sometimes the Great Commission can either seem too great to accomplish or become just another scripture you heard since childhood. Today ask God to burn this command in your heart and ask him to give you a fresh passion to win souls, disciple others, and see lives transformed.

Vision + Passion + Mission = The Great Commission

WEEK 9

MARKED BY MISSION



NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.