

# Evangelism and Global Mission



# **Evangelism and Global Mission**

Evangelism Course

**Church of the Nazarene**

Mesoamerica Region

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General Coordinator for the Evangelism Course



## Evangelism and Global Mission

A book in the School of Leadership series  
Evangelism Course

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# Table of Contents

Lesson 1	Evangelism Around the World	9
Lesson 2	God's Mission in the Old Testament	17
Lesson 3	The Great Commission	23
Lesson 4	Ministry of Compassion	31
Lesson 5	Beyond the Local Church	39
Lesson 6	The Call to Holiness	47
Lesson 7	The Call to Be a Pastor or a Missionary	55
Lesson 8	The Church's Global Perspective	63



# Introduction

The School of Leadership book series is designed to provide a tool for the church to train and educate its members so they can actively participate in Christian service according to the gifts and calling (vocation) they have received from their Lord.

Each book provides study materials for a course of the School of Leadership program that is offered by the Nazarene Higher Education Institutions of the Mesoamerica Region of the Church of the Nazarene. Most of the key leaders from our schools (presidents, directors, academic vice presidents and directors of decentralized academic studies) actively participated in the program design.

The School of Leadership has five core courses common to all ministries and six specialized courses for each individual ministry. After completing the series, the respective theological Institution gives the student a certificate (or diploma) in Specialized Ministry.

The general objective of the School of Leadership is “to work with the local church in equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, giving them solid, theological, Biblical knowledge and developing them through the exercise of their gifts for service in their local congregation and in society.” The specific objectives of this program are threefold:

- Develop the ministerial gifts of the local congregation.
- Multiply service ministries in the church and community.
- Raise awareness of the vocation of professional ministry in its diverse forms.

The objective of the book series entitled Evangelism is to train those who are gifted in evangelism and desire to participate in the Great Commission, but who do not yet have professional ministerial education. Missionaries, pastors and lay people throughout the Mesoamerica Region have written the lessons of these six books and the desire of the authors is that each student would receive an enriched vision of the Great Commission and the training to win others for Christ. We desire that God would be glorified through the courses and that each student would grow in their preparation and service as an effective worker in his kingdom.

A special thanks to Dr. Ruben E. Fernandez, Education and Clergy Development Coordinator, Dr. Monica Mastronardi Fernandez for her dedication as General Editor of the project, Rev. Simone Mulieri Twibell for her assistance, and the team of writers and designers who collaborated to publish these books. An additional thanks to the teachers who will share these materials. They will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people throughout the Mesoamerica Region.

Finally, I give thanks to the Mesoamerica Regional Literature team for the publication and distribution of these materials, and to Dr. L. Carlos Saenz, Mesoamerica Regional Director, for his continued support in this task, which is the result of his conviction of the important need for the church to be comprehensively trained.

I pray for God’s blessing for all the disciples whose lives and Christian service will be enriched by these books.

**Dr. Bernie Slingerland**  
Coordinator of Evangelism Mesoamerica Region

# What Is the School of Leadership?

The **School of Leadership** is an educational program for lay ministry in different specialties to engage in the mission of the local church. This program is administered by the Theological Institutions of the Church of the Nazarene in the Mesoamerica Region and taught both at these institutions and in the local churches enrolled in the program.

## Who Can Benefit from the School of Leadership?

It is for all the members of the Church of the Nazarene who have participated in Levels Saving Grace and Sanctifying Grace - Growth in Holiness of the discipleship program A Journey of Grace, and who, with all their heart, wish to discover their gifts and serve God in His work.

## The Plan - A Journey of Grace

In the Church of the Nazarene, we believe that making disciples in the image of Christ in the nations is the foundation of the missionary work of the church and the responsibility of its leadership (Ephesians 4:7-16). For this, at all levels of the church, the implementation of progressive discipleship is promoted as “A Journey of Grace” (John 14: 6), a lifestyle of discipleship. The School of Leadership is part of the “Sanctifying Grace - Ministry Development” section, and is designed for those who have gone through the “Prevenient Grace” and “Saving Grace” sections of the discipleship path.



The work of discipleship is continuous and dynamic; therefore, the disciple never stops growing in the likeness of his Lord. This growth, when healthy, occurs in all dimensions: the individual dimension (spiritual growth), the corporate dimension (joining the congregation), the holiness in life dimension (progressive transformation of our being and doing according to the model of Jesus Christ) and the service dimension (investing our lives in ministry).

**Dr. Monica Mastronardi de Fernandez**  
Managing Editor, The School of Leadership Book Series



# How Do I Use This Book?

This book contains eight lessons of the School of Leadership program, along with activities and final evaluation of the course.

## How are the contents of this book organized?

Each of the eight lessons of this book contains the following:

- ▶ **Objectives:** These are the learning objectives the student is expected to understand at the end of the lesson.
- ▶ **Main Ideas:** A summary of the key teachings of the lesson.
- ▶ **Development of Lesson:** This is the largest section because it is the development of the contents of the lesson. The lessons have been written so that the book can be the teacher, and for that reason the contents have been written in a dynamic form and in simple language with contemporary ideas.
- ▶ **Notes and Comments:** The information in the margins is intended to clarify terms and provide notes that complement or extend the content of the lesson.
- ▶ **Questions:** Sometimes questions are included in the margin that the teacher can use to introduce or reinforce a lesson topic.
- ▶ **What did we learn?:** The box at the end of the lesson development section provides a brief summary of the lesson.
- ▶ **Activities:** This is a page at the end of each lesson that contains learning activities, for individuals or groups, on the subject studied. The estimated time for implementation in class is 20 minutes.
- ▶ **Final evaluation of the course:** This is the last page of the book and once completed the student must remove it from the book and hand it in to a course instructor. The final evaluation should take about 15 minutes.

## How long is each course?

The courses are designed for 12 hours of class over 8 ninety-minute sessions. Each institution and each church or local theological study center will coordinate days and times of the classes. Within this hour and a half the teacher or the teachers should include time for the activities contained in the book.

## What is the role of the student?

The student is responsible for the following:

1. Enroll on time for the course.
2. Buy the book and study each lesson before class time.
3. Arrive for class on time.
4. Participate in class activities.
5. Participate in practical ministry in the local church outside of class.
6. Complete and submit the final evaluation to the teacher.



## What is the role of the teacher of the course?

The professors and teachers for the School of Leadership courses are pastors and laity committed to the mission and ministry of the church and preferably have experience in the ministry they teach. The Director and/or the School of Leadership at the local church (or theological institution) invites their participation and their functions are the following:

1. Be well prepared by studying the book's content and scheduling the use of class time. When studying the lesson, you should have on hand the Bible and a dictionary. Although the lessons are written using simple language, it is recommended that you "translate" what you consider difficult in order to help the students understand. In other words, use terms that they can better understand.
2. Ensure that the students are studying the material in the book and achieving the learning objectives.
3. Plan and accompany students in the activities of ministerial practice. The local pastor and the director of the respective ministry must schedule these activities. These activities should not take away from class time.
4. Take daily attendance and grades in the class report form. The final average will be the result demonstrated by the student in the following activities:
  - a. Class work
  - b. Participation in ministerial practice outside of class
  - c. Final evaluation
5. At the end of the course, collect the evaluation sheets and hand them in with the form "Class Report" to the local School of Leadership director. Do this after totaling the averages and verifying that all data is complete on the form.
6. Professors and teachers should not add tasks or reading assignments apart from the contents of the book. They should be creative in the design of the learning activities and in planning ministry activities outside the classroom according to the reality of their local church and its context.

## How do I teach a class?

We recommend using a 90-minute class session as follows:

- **5 minutes:** Review the topic of the previous lesson and pray together.
- **30 minutes:** Review and discuss the lesson. We recommend using an outline, chalkboard, cardboard or other available materials, using dynamic learning activities and visual media such as graphics, drawings, objects, pictures, questions, assigning students to submit parts of the lesson, and so on. We do not recommend lecturing or having the teacher reread the lesson content.
- **5 minutes:** Break either in the middle of class or when it is convenient.
- **20 minutes:** Work on activities in the book. This can be done at the beginning,

middle or end of the review, or you can complete the activities as you proceed in accordance with the issues as it relates to them.

- **20 minutes:** Discussion about the students' ministry practice that they currently do and that they will do. At the beginning of the course you will need to present the schedule to the students so that they can make arrangements to attend the ministry practice. In the classes when the students discuss their ministry practice, the conversation should be focused on what they learned, including their successes and their errors, as well as the difficulties they encountered.
- **10 minutes:** Prayer for the issues arising from the practice (challenges, people, problems, goals, gratitude for the results, among others).

### **How do I implement the final course evaluation?**

Allocate 15 minutes of time during the last class meeting for the course evaluation. If necessary, students may consult their books and Bibles. Final evaluations are designed to be an activity to reinforce what was learned in class and not a repetition of the contents of the book. The purpose of this assessment is to measure the understanding and evaluation of the student concerning the class topics, their spiritual growth, their progress in the commitment to the mission of the church and their progress in ministerial experience.

# Ministerial Practice Activities

The following are suggested activities for ministerial practice outside of class. The list below includes several ideas to help teachers, pastors, directors of local School of Leadership groups and local ministry directors. From the list you can choose the activity best suited to the contextual situation and the local church ministry, or replace these with others according to the needs and possibilities of your context.

We recommend having at least three ministerial activities per course. You can put the whole class to work on a project or assign group tasks according to interests, gifts and abilities. It is advisable to involve students in a variety of new ministry experiences.

## Suggested Practical Ministry Activities for the Course

### Evangelism and Global Mission

1. Study the needs of the community surrounding the church by visiting the people in their homes, and asking them, “What are your needs?” and “What can the church do to serve you?”
2. Learn about the Missional Zones in your country, and do a brief presentation at a missions service or in a class for adults and/or youth on the impact the areas have had in reaching people for Christ (Lesson 1).
3. Make a small, biographical review on someone who stands out because of his or her holy life and compassionate service in the history of the Christian Church (Lesson 6), and present it in a service, workshop, or class. For example: Mother Theresa of Calcuta, Martin Luther King Jr., John Wesley, Corrie Ten Boom, Rees Howells, etc.
4. Organize an event in order to kick-off a few weeks of fasting and prayer, asking the Lord to raise up pastors and missionaries in the local church and district.
5. Organize a compassion activity to support a need of the people in the community (cleaning the streets, open lots, or plazas; repairing or painting houses or schools; helping students with homework, repairing homes of the elderly, etc.) (Lesson 4).
6. Survey the congregation in order to see what people have pastoral or missional calls. Then organize a breakfast or coffee meeting with them inviting as well a representative from a Seminary and/or the District Director for Theological Education, so they can be well informed on how to prepare themselves formally (Lesson 7).
7. Organize sales or work projects (like washing cars, etc.) to raise money for the Seminary or educational institution in your area as a support to the scholarship fund for students with pastoral or missional calls.
8. Collaborate with the Nazarene Missions International ministry in your local church, to organize one or more services where offerings for World Evangelism Fund (WEF) are taken. Help with the event and share information on topics such as unreached world areas and the challenges for Nazarene missionaries around the world (Lesson 8).



*Lesson 1*

**EVANGELISM**  
**AROUND THE WORLD**

## Objectives

- To understand that global evangelism involves all of us.
- To be aware of the evangelism strategy used in the Mesoamerica Region.
- To identify possible missional zones in our area of ministry.

## Main Ideas

- Even though not all of us are called to “go,” we are still responsible for being involved with global evangelism through prayer.
- Lately, there have been very good results due to the creation of the Missional Zone project, which has reached thousands of people for Christ.

**Bernie Slingerland**, author of this lesson, has served as the Coordinator of Evangelism in MAR since 2002. Under his leadership, 153 missional zones, 723 new organized churches, 6,157 missions, and 12 new districts have been established under his leadership.

For more information on the statistics of the Jesus Film, visit [www.JFHP.org](http://www.JFHP.org)



## Introduction

It was said to be a movie that would help churches bring people to Christ, but no one thought it could possibly reach as far as it has. Dr. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC), started this project in 1978, which culminated with the production of the Jesus Film. After adjusting the movie and exploring ways to make it available, CCC decided that the best way to do this was to partner with churches and/or denominations around the world.

CCC contacted Dr. Louie Bustle, who served as the Global Missions Director for the Church of the Nazarene for many years, in hopes of forming an alliance with the denomination. At first, Dr. Bustle was reluctant, but after a while, he understood how beneficial a partnership with CCC would be for the Church of the Nazarene. In 1997, the Harvest Partners project was approved, and became the tie between CCC and the Church of the Nazarene. In other words, this organization would raise the funds to support the teams that would be projecting the Jesus Film and to cover other needs. Brian Helstrom was designated as the Executive Director and Dr. Bustle as President.

After 15 years, the partnership continues to be solid, and the Church of the Nazarene has more than 619 Jesus Film teams in more than 135 countries. Up until October 2015, Jesus Film teams have reported the following:

72,136,279	- evangelical contacts
13,792,930	- decisions for Christ
6,064,104	- people given initial discipleship
54,474	- preaching points

Dr. Bill Bright had the vision that God wanted to plant five million churches in ten years. He fasted and prayed concerning this vision and for what he should do. Just like with Moses, he did not enter the Promised Land: Dr. Bright did not live to see the vision become reality. However, because he shared the vision with friends and Christian leaders, they continued the task even after his death.

In order to involve church pastors/planters from all over the world with this vision, Global Pastors Network (GPN) was formed. In 2005, it became

a movement that united international leaders to plant churches on a global scale. These non-profit partnerships were key for attracting denominations and organizations to support Christ's cause.

“There are more people making decisions for Christ today than in any other moment in history,” affirmed Stephen Douglas, current CCC president. In today's age, thanks to technological advances, mediums of communication, and transportation, the gospel message can move much faster than it ever has before. Glory to God!

## A Mission By Everyone and For Everyone

*Evangelism is God's plan for redeeming people through the people themselves.*



We serve a missionary God who wants to save humanity. We can see in the Scriptures that God has not given up on humanity. God created the world, and even after mankind's fall, he wanted to save us (Genesis 3). When God reencounters a son or daughter that is lost, he wants to involve him or her in the Great Commission to reach the world. This is what Jesus did, and what real disciples do.

To be a disciple means to be a part of the Lord's Great Commission. This is like being part of a rescued group that will not stop searching for other people lost in the forest, the ocean, or wherever they are. We need to always be looking for lost people who can be saved. What is the urgency? Today we still have the window of opportunity God has given to humanity, and we need to take advantage of it. Hell exists and it will be the destiny of those who are not saved through faith in Jesus Christ. Only those of us who are saved will have a special place Jesus prepared for us in Heaven. We will live in his presence for all eternity, and we will praise him forever!

Worship of Jesus Christ is evident in the Christian faith. We were created to praise him (Rev. 4:7-11). He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. All things are under the dominion of his authority. That is why he has given us the Great Commission in order to participate in his world-rescuing operation.

For many people, life has little relevance: we live and we die; there is nothing before or after it. Isn't that depressing? In relation to this, the materialistic consuming philosophy tells us our life has value in terms of what possessions we accumulate. The weird part is that no one can take their possessions with them after death. Others say, "I have the right to live and die the way I want to!" What these people are really saying is that they are their own god. However, none of these philosophies bring happiness to the people who believe them.

The problem with a lot of people is that they do not know why they are here. They have a feeling of dissatisfaction and hopelessness deep inside of them. People ask themselves, "How should I live?" Many opt for this

*“There are more people making decisions for Christ today than in any other moment in history”  
(Stephen Douglas).*

*“My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?”  
(John 14:2).*

*“Here is a test to find whether your mission on Earth is finished: If you're alive it isn't”  
(Richard Bach, The Bridge Across Forever: A True Love Story).*

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What would you do to awaken a church that is indifferent to the Great Commission?

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**William Carey** (1761-1834) is considered the father of modern missions. He arrived in 1792, at the age of 32, as a missionary in India, where he worked tirelessly for the conversion of the unbelievers. In the year 1800, he baptized the first convert from Hinduism. He never returned to England. His greatest achievement was translating the Bible into Bengali, Sanskrit, and other languages and dialects.

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**Loren Cunningham** answered God's call when he was 20 years old and then founded Youth with a Mission (YWAM), a movement that is one of the biggest missional organizations dedicated to sending teens to the mission field.

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option: "Live today, enjoy today, because we don't know what will happen tomorrow!"

This discouragement reaches the lives of many Christians: those who believe the world is ending, that there is nothing we can do to change it, and our only hope is in Heaven. We find ourselves in a reality in churches where no one has brought even one person to Christ, and where there is no interest in saving the world. The focus of many Christians is "me." The Church becomes a "social club" where we hang out with our friends. Even though the Great Commission is present in the words in hymns and worship songs, it seems like the message does not penetrate the ears of these churches. The members of these churches live in apathy and complacency. Is there something we can do about changing the reality we see in these churches?

## Participation in Global Evangelism

*Now we will learn how we can participate in global evangelism.*



How can we participate in global evangelism and be a part of what God is doing around the world? This is not going to happen if we just sit still. When William Carey knew what God wanted him to do in India, he got on a boat, and went straight to work. It is time we get to work, too. The following is how we can participate in global evangelism:

**1. Pray that God will open our eyes to see the needs:** The first thing we need to do is observe what God is doing around the world. In order to do that, we need to take time to learn how God is moving in other world areas, and pray for missionaries serving in those places.

We should also research to see what God is doing in our context. We pray at the same time to ask God how we can be united in the new thing he is doing. Walk through your neighborhood and observe what God is doing around you.

**2. Pray that God will give us a vision:** Secondly, we pray, asking God to show us his plan, and how he wants us to get involved. God truly wants to show us what he wants to do through us, and he will reveal it if we are faithful and wait for his answer in prayer. An example of this is Dr. Loren Cunningham. He prayed and waited all night for an answer from God. That night, he was guided to start a School for the Nations, and send boats to help people in crisis around the world. That was the night that the Youth With A Mission movement was born, which has carried out projects in more than 220 countries.

**3. Pray to receive a plan on how to make that vision a reality:** When we pray, God shows us what we need to do; obedience to the vision received is key if we want to be part of God's plan. Sometimes, God asks us to do things that require a lot of courage and faith. This is what happened when Dr. Paul Cunningham was a small-town pastor in Olathe, Kansas. In the General Assembly in 2009, in Orlando, FL, USA, he said, "God told me to

take out a loan to give for our annual contribution for the global evangelism fund, when the small church I was pastoring was hardly surviving.” God made this little church grow from 46 members in 1964 to more than 2,500 members in 1993 when he retired.

Once the revelation is received, we are responsible for obeying and taking the necessary risks to see the work God is doing. Waiting for an answer and vision from God is essential before making plans and acting. If God tells us to do this or that, then we need to do it! Stop making excuses! Let’s do our part now!

A missionary in the Church of the Nazarene, Rev. Howie Shute, told the Central District in Ethiopia, “We must start with the new vision.” He started a small group of leaders, but the movement exploded, and they planted about 1,000 churches. We need to take that step and start! This decision needs to be made today.

## Missional Zones

*Next, we will read some stories about evangelism in our region.*



The MAR Region of the Church of the Nazarene (Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean) needed some help for planting churches in new geographical zones. The region is divided in fields and then into districts that can have from 5 to 200 churches. In the last couple years, new districts have been formed, which is very good, but it became evident that there was a lot of space between churches in districts; this meant there was a lot of uncovered territory and populations that were not being reached. Mobilizing the districts has not been easy, since many leaders think their responsibility is to maintain already-existing churches. We need to change this mentality and be proactive in order to help people change their erroneous way of thinking, being guided by the Holy Spirit to reach and extend ourselves to new zones in the districts. This is what we call the Missional Zone project.

In Haiti, in a training event in 2011, the Missional Zone project was initiated. The hope was to find one or maybe two Missional Zone planters (MZPs) that would be sent out. After seeking God and explaining the project, God called eleven people to be Missional Zone planters. Five months later, five more MZPs were added to give a total of sixteen planters who were willing to do the job. In 2012, those planters began between ten and thirty new preaching points.

Beyond the mountains of Haiti lies the Dominican Republic. In this country, after a little bit of training, the project grew to a new level. Initially, there were only five MZPs, but the number grew to twenty. In only a couple days, these planters started the work in new communities. These MZPs continue to develop groups of churches that are impacting other big and small communities in their respective countries.

*Dr. Paul Cunningham served as a pastor for almost 30 years at Olathe First Church in Olathe, Kansas, USA (1964-1993) and as General Superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene between 1993 and 2009.*

*Rev. Howie Shute served as a pastor and evangelism leader for the Church of the Nazarene in New York and Colorado between 1994 and 1997. Then he served as a missionary between 1997 and 2012 in five countries in the Horn of Africa where hundreds of churches were planted.*



Now, let's take a look at the progress of the region due to the Missional Zone project:

Year	Completed Projects
2008	1
2009	9
2010	43
2011	73
2012	107
2013	123
2014(mayo)	141

What are the keys to success for missional zones?

The MAR Region oversees 30 countries; 16 of them are currently involved in the Missional Zone project. About 1,000 preaching points have been registered, and more than 40,000 people have made the decision to follow Jesus Christ. More than half of them are disciples in the churches that were just planted (2011-2012). This is an example of how God is using this strategy for global evangelism, because, as Luke 10:2 says, “*The harvest is plentiful, he said to them, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send workers out into his harvest field.*” God is sending workers into his vineyard through the prayer of his children around the world.

## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

In the immensity of the task to evangelize the whole world, God has called us to be participants through prayer. In our region, evangelism has had good results through the Jesus Film and through Missional Zones, thanks to the obedience of many disciples who are involved in this task.

# Activities

Time



## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make a list of steps you need to take in order to participate in global evangelism.

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2. What impact has the Jesus Film had in your area? Do you have a story or testimony to share with the group?

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3. In your own words, write a definition of Missional Zones.

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4. In groups of 3 or 4, make a list of missionaries that have been sent from your district and region. Take time to pray for these missionaries.

5. The following activity is for the whole class: Download a geographical map from the Internet of your district. Mark the borders of your district, the location of the churches, and then mark the areas where the Church of the Nazarene is not present. Pray that God will send Missional Zone planters to these areas.





*Lesson 2*

**GOD'S MISSION  
IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

## Objectives

- To recognize that God is the God of grace and mercy.
- To understand what Israel's role is in God's mission.
- To compare Israel's participation with that of the Church in God's redeeming plan.

## Main Ideas

- The Old Testament reveals a missionary God who is interested in involving his servants in his redeeming mission.
- Since Old Testament times, God has wanted his people to be holy and to be a light to the nations.

**Rhonda Slingerland,** author of this lesson, and her husband Bernie have been missionaries in the Mesoamerica Region (MAR) since 2002. They have two daughters and live in Panama City where she works as the Regional Coordinator of Finances for the MAR Regional Office. She practiced as a lawyer for nine years in Colorado before answering the call to full-time missions.

## Introduction

Our God is a missionary God. From Genesis to Revelation, God's ongoing work is evident in history as he seeks people out in order to redeem humanity. Our God's nature is love that shows grace, compassion, and mercy that reaches everyone. Some might think that in the Old Testament, this love was only directed at one patriarch or another within the nation of Israel, but this is not the case.

There is a story of a missionary who visited a Muslim woman in a jail in Brazil. She started to read the Bible as well as read the Koran. After advancing in her reading of both books, she asked God to reveal the true God, since both books talked about Abraham and Jesus, but the focuses were different. God answered her prayer, and revealed to her that Jesus Christ is the way. She started to feel God's presence beside her, and she started to pray that God would help her to understand his plan for her life. In that jail, the missionary God had sought this woman, even when she was unaware of it. When she got out of jail, she started to share her testimony in various places, saying how God had manifested himself through his Spirit.

Since the very beginning of history, God has been seeking the lost. In this lesson, we will find out more about the missionary God the Old Testament reveals to us.

## A Missionary God

*Now, let's examine some key passages.*



After Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin entered the world, God immediately put his redeeming plan into action. In Genesis 3:15, God says, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Some biblical interpreters say these words reveal the first promise about the birth of a Savior. In that time, at the dawn of humanity, the Creator promised that one day a descendant of woman would crush the head of the serpent (Satan). From the very beginning, the rescue plan's purpose was to bring humanity into communion with the Creator.

When humanity continued to increase in its rebellion, God's plan of redemption was challenged. So God chose a man and his family who were still faithful to him and saved them from the destruction of the flood. After the flood was over, God promised to never destroy the world in the same way, and so he made a pact with Noah and, through him, with all humanity. *"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth"* (Genesis 9:16).

Noah's sons scattered and repopulated the earth; while some of his descendants chose to follow God's paths, others decided not to follow him. Many years went by, and God called Abram to whom he made a promise and also changed his name from Abram to Abraham. When God called Abraham, he promised him that his descendants would become a great nation. *"...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"* (Genesis 12:3).

Through the years, God renewed his pact with Abraham, and he promised him that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky! (Genesis 15:5). It was through Abraham's son, Isaac, and from Isaac's son, Jacob (whose name God changed to Israel) that the nation of Israel came from Jacob's twelve sons. God renewed his pact with each of these patriarchs. The book of Genesis is full of wonderful stories of the love God had for each of them and the provision he offered them.

As we continue with the story of Israel in the Old Testament, we can see how God used Joseph (son of Jacob) so that they would go to live in Egypt and escape the famine in Canaan. However, as time passed, the Egyptians enslaved them. Therefore, God called Moses to free his people from Egypt. On the way to Canaan, they spent many years in the desert where they learned to be a nation, know God, seek his direction, and live under his protection and care. After God rescued them from Egypt, they took possession of the land he had promised them. Eventually, they chose a king to reign over them, and they turned their backs on God. In that time, God worked through prophets who preached his word, calling the people of Israel to turn back to God. This message of salvation was not just for them, but also for all the other people groups in the land: they could turn from their lives of sin and be found by God. This is how the prophet Zechariah puts it, *"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you'"* (Zechariah 8:23). The psalmist also exclaims, *"I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples"* (Psalms 57:9).

God asked his prophets to preach his word concerning other nations. A notable example of the salvation message not being limited to only the nation of Israel is in the book of Isaiah, *"So the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and in that day they will acknowledge the Lord. They will worship with sacrifices and grain offerings; they will make vows to the Lord and keep them... In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria.*

*The meaning of the name Abram is sublime father. Abraham means "father of the multitudes" (Genesis 17:4). This Hebrew word is composed of Ab or Aba which means "father" and am which means "people." In addition, his wife's name was changed from Sarai which means "my princess" to Sara which means "princess of multitudes" (Genesis 17:15-16).*

*What is the danger for the Church if the people start thinking they alone are God's chosen people, just as Israel did in its time.*

*The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. The Lord Almighty will bless them, saying, 'Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance' (Isaiah 19:21, 23-25).*

Like this passage in Isaiah, there are many examples in the Old Testament that illustrate that God has always wanted all nations to come to know him and have a relationship with him, not just the chosen people. *"Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22).*

## Missionaries to Other Nations

**God called his servants to proclaim his Word.**



*"If you take missions out of the Bible, you won't have anything left but the covers"*  
(Nina Gunter).

In order to carry out his mission, the missionary God from old times has called his servants to go and share his Word. It was not too long ago that God called me when I was a well-employed lawyer in Colorado, United States, to leave my career and serve as a missionary. With my husband, we left our country and went where God sent us. My family decided to go in obedience to God's calling on our lives, because we understood that God wanted to use us to continue spreading his redeeming plan to other people.

That is how God did it in the days of the Old Testament: *"I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations"* (Isaiah 66:19).

The most notable missionary in the Old Testament is Jonah. He believed that the grace of God should only be for Israel. However, God showed him that his mercy and grace extends to the evil and mundane population of the city of Nineveh. *"And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"* (Jonah 4:11).

*"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light"*  
(John Keith Falconer).

We can see God's mission throughout the entire Old Testament in accordance to his plan to bless the nations of the world. God called Israel to be the light of the world, to be a lighthouse, guiding humanity to Him.



# Israel is Called to Be a Light to the Nations

Now, we will learn the function of the nation of Israel as a chosen people.



A lighthouse is a tower that contains a system of lamps and lenses; lighthouses are usually located along the coast or by reefs to warn boats of danger or to show the way to calmer waters. If the light at the lighthouse quits functioning, it becomes a useless building.

In accordance with his missionary heart, God chose Israel as an instrument. He chose them to be a lighthouse, a nation that served as a guide for all nations, showing the way to God. *“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites” (Exodus 19:5-6).

The purpose of a priest is to work as a mediator. God called Israel to be a holy nation, set apart from sin. This nation had the special purpose of being a mediator, of serving as priests for the rest of the world. While talking to Israel, as God’s servant, the prophet Isaiah said the following as he prophesied the coming of the Messiah, *“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness”* (Isaiah 42:6-7).

In many cases, the message of God’s justice was communicated to the nations through Israel. One example of this occurred during the conquest of the Promised Land. *“When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below”* (Joshua 2:11).

In other cases, Israel failed, but God never gave up. *“I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes”* (Ezekiel 36:23).

God is a missionary God who wants to offer salvation to all humanity. His salvation message is proclaimed throughout the Old Testament. His desire is for all people to serve him. *“Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder”* (Zephaniah 3:9).

Lighthouses are rarely found in our countries now: what other image comes to mind that could illustrate our call to be light in a dark world?

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).



## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

The God of the Old Testament is a missionary God and the message of redemption and salvation is for all humanity. God has always chosen people to reflect his holiness and love in a fallen and lost world, so they can be like lighthouses, showing the way in the dark.



# Activities

Time



20'

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In your own words, explain what it means to be a people chosen by God.

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2. What would you tell a person who believed that the God of the Old Testament is not the same God of mercy we see in the New Testament?

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3. Write a list of objectives for the ministry in the church, according to the verses in the Old Testament and 1 Peter 2:9. Complete the columns starting with verbs, like "proclaim the good news."

Exodus 19:5-6	Isaiah 42:6-7	1 Peter 2:9

4. What does this lesson tell you about your calling, mission, and personal purpose?

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5. Illustrate by drawing or by graph, something that transmits the idea of being a light to the nations. Think about an image that will make sense to people in your church, something familiar and known in your context.



***Lesson 3***

# **THE GREAT COMMISSION**



## Objectives

- To be motivated to participate in the Great Commission.
- To know the three requirements needed to participate.
- To evaluate these requirements in my life.

## Main Ideas

- We are responsible for sharing the good news, just as others shared this message with us.
- The Great Commission calls us to obedience so that others can attain salvation and eternal life just as we have.

## Introduction

**Rev. Edilio Balbuena Baez**, co-author of his lesson, has served on the Mesoamerica Region for 38 years as a pastor, lawyer, and psychologist in the Dominican Republic. Three churches and six missional zones have been founded under his leadership, and his church has grown through evangelism, Jesus Film, Each One Win One, and Compassionate Ministries.

**Simone Twibell**, co-author of this lesson, is a professor of Missiology at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, USA. She and her husband Andrew served on the Mesoamerica Region as missionary volunteers between 2012 and 2015, organizing and leading Jesus Film Teams.

The first man, Adam, was made in the image of God. Genesis 1:27 says that God created humans in his image. As descendants of Adam, we all receive the special inheritance of being made in the image of God. God gave Adam authority over all things in the Garden of Eden.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve lacked nothing since they had everything in abundance. God's presence moved in the garden. They talked to God, face-to-face, and above all else, they had eternal life (death was not their destiny). But sin twisted this relationship, and God expelled humans from the Garden of Eden to where they would have to face death, suffering, and obtain food only through hard work. 1 Corinthians 15:22 says, "*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*" Through his son Jesus Christ, God makes a way to restore the lost relationship between humans and their Creator. This is the good news! God does not want anyone to perish! (2 Peter 3:9).

This is the good news that the Lord commands every believer to share. Jesus himself commissioned his twelve disciples, sending them out to evangelize, and this legacy has been passed down through generations of disciples. We are also called to tell the world that there is the hope of salvation and eternal life in Christ, and that Jesus Christ came to seek and save all who are lost (Luke 19:10).

The "Great Commission" is the most important mission that Jesus Christ has given us. Sharing the good news of the gospel consists in announcing that Jesus Christ is the only salvation plan from God. Acts 4:12 says, "*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*" John 14:6 also says, "*Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'*"

The Word announces that Christ is not just an option out of many for attaining salvation; he is the only way to heaven. We have the chance to share this news of hope for as long as we are alive!

# A Mission with Great Purpose

**Evangelism is God's plan for redemption through his people.**



*It is so exciting to see someone come to the feet of Christ, because it reminds us of the spiritual experience we had when the Lord entered our hearts.*

It is so exciting to see someone come to Christ's feet because it reminds us of the spiritual experience we lived when the Lord entered our hearts. It is our job to share the plan of salvation by proclaiming the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel message consists of showing the reality of God's compassion towards a lost world and helping people understand their need for salvation.

For many years, I worked as a chaplain in a Medical Services Christian Center, and I enjoyed the satisfying experience of sharing the gospel everyday with people who came in search of physical healing. What was so interesting about it was that people came for physical healing and found spiritual healing. I shared with people everyday who came in for surgery, and I watched how they paid attention to the Word of God. Sometimes, people came with family problems and found a solution.

One day, I had a very interesting experience. After I finished preaching, a teenager came up to me and told me, "Pastor, you just saved my life." I did not understand what she meant until she went on to explain, "Today I was going to kill myself, but I was listening while you shared the gospel and Christ entered my heart and saved me." The power of the Word freed this young woman from death.

James 5:19-20 says, "My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins." Just as someone told us about the Word of God, eternal life, and the gift of salvation, God counts on those of us who have been transformed by his grace to proclaim this message to all those who are still lost in their sin so that they can come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way as their Lord and Savior.

*According to the Great Commission, can we say that the Christian life is transmitted contagiously? What is your opinion?*

## Deciphering the Great Commission

**Next, we will find out exactly what the Great Commission says.**



Matthew 28: 19-20 is where we find the passage known as the Great Commission: "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."

Let's look at the text in the original language (Koine Greek). The first part in Greek looks like this:

## πορευθέντες οὖν μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη

### **Ethnic group:**

*a group of people who belong to the same race, generally speak the same language, and share the same culture and religion.*

The literal translation would be something like this, “when you go, therefore, make disciples of all ethnicities and of all nations.” The only imperative verb is “make disciples” (μαθητεύσατε); therefore, the emphasis in the Lord’s command is not on the verb “go,” but on the verb “make disciples.”

Jesus’ command consists of making disciples in all the nations and in our everyday life. Even though the mission extends to all nations, it had started at home. In other instances, Jesus sent the disciples to their own towns. “Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel” (Matthew 10:6); “He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel’” (Matthew 15:24).

But now Jesus tells them to not just go to Israel, but to all nations (πάντα τὰ ἔθνη). Jesus’ desire to include all of humanity in his kingdom is evident, because Jesus Christ’s command extends the salvation plan to all people, since he had already taken the message to the people of Israel.

In verse 18, we can see that the authority of Christ is fundamental for our call to make disciples. “All authority on heaven and earth is given to me...” and verse 20 promises that Christ will be with us as we carry out this task. We are not called to work alone. “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (v. 20b).

The process of making disciples is also referred to in the passage using the verbs “baptizing” and “teaching.” These verbs also have the same emphasis as the principal verb. The first step in being a disciple is sharing about having accepted the commitment to follow Christ and showing this through being baptized. The second step refers to a complete transformation of our souls to be in the image of Christ, a change that happens step by step by putting all of our lives under the lordship of Jesus Christ. This second step is when the new disciple learns from other disciples who are mature in their faith.

Evangelism without discipleship cannot be efficient; it is like planting a flower and letting the sun scorch it or refusing to water it. For a plant to grow in a healthy way, there are certain elements that must be present. In the same way, for a new believer to grow and become solid in his or her faith, he or she needs to be baptized and go through a learning process so he or she can learn to follow Jesus’ example. This is what Jesus Christ has instructed his Church to do in the Great Commission.



# Let's Obey Christ's Command

**Next, we will learn what we need to do in order to carry out the Great Commission.**



As we saw before, all of Jesus' disciples are called to participate in the plan God has for saving humanity. Therefore, what do we need to do to get involved in this important mission?

**1. Be full of the power of God.** Acts 1:8 says, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Some Christians try to share the gospel, but they lack the power of the Holy Spirit. That is why they do not have much fruit in spite of all their efforts. Before presenting the gospel to others, we need to be full of the Spirit of God.

**2. Pray for the lost.** Acts 6:4 says, *"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."* In John 17, Jesus prayed for the disciples that were with him and for the ones in the future. Prayer is fundamental because it not only prepares the heart of the ones who are going to hear the message, but it also prepares our hearts and synchronizes us with the heart of God. This means to have complete dependency and trust in Him. This relationship needs to be cultivated through prayer and intercession. Prayer prepares the heart of the listener just as it prepares the heart of the one sharing the Word. Prayer is the most important ingredient in evangelism.

**3. Know the audience.** We need to ask ourselves the following: who are the people to whom we are speaking? We need to adapt the way we share the message depending on the listeners. You need to know the setting/audience; for instance, if you are going to share the gospel with a group or just one person. For example:

**With children:** If the preacher were talking to children, it would help to know some things about a child's mind in order to know how to properly share with them. Illustrations are necessary to represent the Bible story to kids.

**With teens:** For an audience of teenagers, the gospel needs to be shared in an attractive way, so that they will want to follow Christ. It is important to share a message of hope, benefiting from the optimism teenagers have. It is imperative to connect the message with the impulse they have for action and the need to be with friends, like presenting the answer of the gospel to problems in the community. The preacher will need to show his or her love for the teens and that he or she accepts them as they are: idealists, restless, insecure, etc. That is the only way to get to the heart of teenagers and bring them to Christ. Never make the mistake of attacking them; rather, encourage, stimulate, and attract them to high standards and ideals.

*If we can say that we are saved by faith in Christ and that we have become children of God, then it is also true that He has sent us, because He has a mission for each one of us (Andrew Robert).*



# Activities

Time

20'

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Evaluate your own evangelistic work in reference to the three requirements in this lesson for fulfilling the Great Commission by completing the following phrases:

a) I am sure that I am full of the Holy Spirit because...

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b) I have the assurance that I need to be full of the Holy Spirit because...

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c) I need to improve in the following areas in my prayer life...

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d) I recognize that I need to pray more often for those who do not know Jesus. Therefore, from here on out, I will...

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e) In order to be more effective in presenting the message, I need to...

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2. Think about a local church. What is the function of each person in the church in accordance with the Great Commission? Choose from the functions listed below and write them next to each person or group of people.

*Functions: testifying, presenting the gospel, baptizing, teaching, counseling, teaching others to serve, giving offerings, praying, inviting people to evangelistic activities, teaching others to live in holiness, correcting, comforting, among others.*

- Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

- Church Board \_\_\_\_\_

- Teachers \_\_\_\_\_

- Preachers/ Evangelists \_\_\_\_\_

- Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

- Worship Ministers/Band \_\_\_\_\_

3. Divide the class into two groups. The first group will write three reasons why we need to use the time and resources of our church to teach new disciples with a progressive discipleship program. The second group will write three reasons why some churches do not set aside time and resources to disciple new believers with a progressive program. Share your ideas with the class at the end.

4. Divide the class into three groups. Each group will choose a type of audience (children, teenagers, or adults), and will prepare a brief presentation of the gospel based on John 3:16 for the particular audience selected.







*Lesson 4*

# COMPASSIONATE **MINISTRIES**



## Objectives

- To be conscious of our responsibility to respond to the needs of others.
- To know the steps needed for meeting those needs.
- To evaluate our commitment to serve the community.

## Main Ideas

- Compassion is the lifestyle of Jesus' disciples.
- Compassionate ministries were conceived in God's heart, and they grow with the knowledge of Jesus' good news.
- Every Christian leader needs to have a compassionate heart.

## Introduction

**Paquita Bido de Balbuena**, author of this lesson, serves as the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Coordinator in the Central Field on the Mesoamerica Region. She has served in the Dominican Republic for 20 years, and through compassionate ministries, she has contributed in the organization of a new church.

**Phineas Bresee**, (1838-1915) pastor, General Superintendent and founder of the Church of the Nazarene. He was a humble, passionate, sensitive, perseverant, and committed person with a vision. A spiritual and charismatic leader with profound convictions.

Compassion was conceived in God's heart, who gives us the example of Jesus as the role model of a servant. Jesus gave himself sacrificially and did all he could to help those in need. In the Church of the Nazarene, compassion is at the center of what we do and are. The Nazarene Ministry of Compassion exists in our church in order to spread the gospel to all people through words and actions. Compassion is a medium we use to take God's truth to people, and it is the tool that imprints God's love in the hearts of the listeners.

On an extremely wintry night after a strong evangelistic message was preached that seemed to not affect anyone, Phineas Bresee was the only one to get down on his knees at the altar. There, in front of the congregation, Bresee prayed and received the blessing of the "baptism of the Holy Spirit," even though, he later admitted, he did not completely understand what he had received. However, there was one thing he was sure about: the experience of that night had satisfied his every need.

The Ministry of Compassion is based on a biblical foundation, and it calls people of holiness to get involved in serving the poor and rejected in our communities. Before becoming instruments for service in the world, we need to go to the Master, and seek his divine presence until we are full of the Holy Spirit. Once we are equipped with the power of God's supernatural love, our responsibility is to maintain an intimate relationship with Christ, who will lead us towards a wholesome, intentional, and compassionate way of service to the lost and needy.

Phineas Bresee showed God's compassionate love for people who lived on the streets, struggled with addictions, were enslaved to violence, hunger, and sickness. Just as Jesus was called to teach, we are called to teach the people in our communities that there is hope and an opportunity for an authentic, healthy life in Christ. Our priority is to identify these needs around us and serve people, living as disciples modeled after Christ.

# The Call to Serve Others

In this section, we will see how compassion is our vocation as Nazarenes.



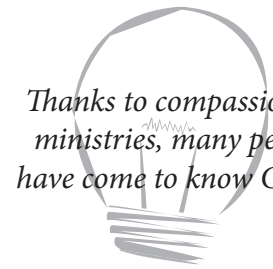
The word compassion comes from the Latin *cumpassio*, which is equivalent to the Greek *συμπάθεια* (sympathy), which literally means, “to suffer together.”

In the gospels, we can see how Jesus interacted with the people that followed him. Luke 9:11 states, “...but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.” He spoke to them kindly, teaching them about the kingdom of God and healing their illnesses. Jesus took charge of healing people of their physical, emotional, and spiritual ailments; in other words, he took care of the entire person.

We can see that Jesus chose and trained his disciple by example so that they would continue his work. It was the disciples that saw the suffering of the multitudes (they were hungry, it was late, and maybe they did not have the strength to go on), and they had compassion on the people and they wanted to alleviate their pain (Luke 9:12). What could they do? How could they respond to the discovered needs? Naturally, they went straight to Jesus, thinking surely he had the answer. But what Jesus told them was that it was time for them to act: “You give them something to eat” (Luke 9:13a). This answer made the apostles grow in leadership: it was time to act, to serve, and to share God’s love with the multitude that surrounded them.

In the Covenant of Christian Conduct in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene 2013-2017, we find the following declaration:

*“The Church of the Nazarene believes this new and holy way of life involves practices to be avoided and redemptive acts of love to be accomplished for the souls, minds, and bodies of our neighbors. One redemptive arena of love involves the special relationship Jesus had, and commanded His disciples to have, with the poor of this world; that His Church ought, first, to keep itself simple and free from an emphasis on wealth and extravagance and, second, to give itself to the care, feeding, clothing, and shelter of the poor and marginalized. Throughout the Bible and in the life and example of Jesus, God identifies with and assists the poor, the oppressed, and those in society who cannot speak for themselves. In the same way, we, too, are called to identify with and to enter into solidarity with the poor. We hold that compassionate ministry to the poor includes acts of charity as well as a struggle to provide opportunity, equality, and justice for the poor. We further believe the Christian’s responsibility to the poor is an essential aspect of the life of every believer who seeks a faith that works through love. We believe Christian holiness to be inseparable from ministry to the poor in that it drives the Christian beyond their own individual perfection and toward the creation of a more just and*



*Thanks to compassionate ministries, many people have come to know Christ.*

equitable society and world. Holiness, far from distancing believers from the desperate economic needs of people in this world, motivates us to place our means in the service of alleviating such need and to adjust our wants in accordance with the needs of others”(p. 42, Part III, Paragraph 28.3).

## Satisfying Needs

**Next, we will see the process for meeting the needs in a community.**



It has been said that Francis of Assisi quoted this phrase, “Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.” Compassion, like a way of life, shows the gospel in its most concrete form, just like with the disciples when Jesus commanded them to feed the crowd.

Even though the apostles were twelve very different people, Jesus sent them to serve together (Luke 9:1-6). They had to figure out how to deal with doubts, insecurities, fears, and anxieties. The Lord sent them to carry out a job that was different from what they regularly did, but they, determined to be obedient, continued and put God’s word in action.

In the passage about feeding the 5,000 in Luke 9:10-17, we can see the process the disciples went through and the principles that would be useful for us to be able to show Jesus Christ’s compassion in our communities:

**1. Know the community and its needs:** The verse Luke 9:10 affirms that when the apostles returned from their mission, they told Jesus “all” that they had done; then Jesus took them to Bethsaida, because he wanted to be alone with them. Through the experience, the disciples were able to walk through the communities and find out the needs of the people. Getting to know the people in the community we want to serve in, asking questions about their current needs, learning about their culture and dreams is the first thing we need to know before we, working together, can find solutions and short, medium, or long-term answers.

**2. Assume our responsibility:** After facing reality, there is nothing left to do but take on the challenge. The Lord commands us, too, to “...give them something to eat” (Luke 9:13). In order to express love in a practical way, we need to find resources that correlate with the needs expressed by our neighbors. In the same way that the disciples took on the challenge to satisfy such massive needs, we need to be open and ready to serve, taking advantage of the opportunities available to us.

**3. Give to grow:** When we serve in Christian love and in an intentional way, we grow and can develop our spiritual gifts and strengthen our compassionate lifestyle habits. The communities we serve will also experience growth. For instance, if there is a family in need of food, we can find a way to gather a basket of food that will satisfy their physical needs as well as give us a chance to share God’s compassionate love with them and share

**St. Francis of Assisi**, (1182-1226). Born in Assisi, Italy, of a high-class family, rejected a life of luxury and worldly sins. He began a spiritual movement of renovation in the Roman Catholic religion that gave birth to the Franciscan order. His principles on life and service to neighbors were composed of God’s love, humble living, and joy from living in company with other Christians.

the Word of God from John 3:16. Then we can pray for them and tell them about our church as a community of faith, where we support each other in companionship through worship, prayer, and studying the Word of God.

**4. Obey by meeting the challenge:** Before Jesus took the responsibility of finding the answer to mitigating the people's hunger, he left the challenge to the apostles, who were to assume the task of looking for the necessary resources. They faced the challenge and decided to seek something that would answer the need in the crowd. Looking among 5,000 people is not an easy thing; surely it would have been easier to give excuses instead. God does not promise that the job will be easy, but he will give us the energy and will provide the resources we need to overcome the challenge he has given us.

**5. Multiply the resources:** Many times, we look at the resources we have and do not recognize them for what they are or appreciate them; we simply believe that we have very little and that it would not be enough to solve the problem. In my experience, I have learned we only need to bring the little that we have and put it in Jesus' hands so that he can multiply it. He takes care of the rest. The Bible is clear and full of challenges, promises, affirmations, and miracles. In the same way that Jesus multiplied the bread and fish, he will multiply and bless our efforts, no matter how meager they may seem.

*"Preach the gospel always,  
if necessary use words"  
(St. Francis of Assisi).*

## Compassion as a Door for Evangelism

*Here we will learn how the Compassionate Ministries opens hearts to the gospel.*



Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) projects are a great tool for starting the work of a church in a community. That is why it is important to know the variety of ministries NCM is doing around the world in order to share the hope that Jesus gives. Projects like these are directed towards common needs that people have. These are some examples of projects being carried out to respond to needs in distinct communities:

- Child Development Centers (CDC)
- Weekend for prayer for children at risk
- Advocate and promote children's rights
- Community medical clinics
- Response to disasters based on needs
- Water purification
- Agricultural development, poultry projects, breeding fish, etc.
- Art and music academy
- Environment care
- Hygiene, dental, etc. clinics
- Educational talks for families

There are many churches that are already working on satisfying the (spiritual, educational, physical, social, emotional, material) needs of the children and families in the community. Children are especially vulnerable

and cannot wait. These churches are helping children and adolescents have better lives, and someday become people God will use.

It is true that people in need will always exist in this world; Jesus warned us when he said, *“The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want”* (Mark 14:7a). But this cannot be an excuse for the church to look the other way; on the contrary, we need to be the hands of Christ in every moment and place. Firstly, we need to pray, secondly, obey, and thirdly, give and participate.

According to your personal opinion, why do Christian compassion works make non-Christians' hearts more receptive to the gospel?

Something similar happened with the disciples. They were returning from a mission, in which they had been instruments for many miracles including healings and freeing the demon possessed, but when faced with the feat of feeding 5,000 people, they would rather not be responsible for the problem. They asked Jesus to *“Send the people away...”* (Luke 9:12). When they tried to get rid of the people, Jesus did not let them. Our Lord showed them how to be compassionate of people and that is why he said, *“You give them something to eat...”* (Luke 9:13). That was when Jesus also gave them a plan. He told them to organize the people into groups, and then he multiplied some loaves and fish that came from the generous hands of a child. The disciples obeyed, and as a result everyone ate and was satisfied, and twelve basketfuls were left over!



## Showing Compassion in the Dominican Republic

Now we will see an example of how this is put into practice in a country.



**1. Holistic Child Development:** The objective of this program is to serve children in the following ways:

- *Spiritual*: A devotional is presented to the children daily, presenting Christ as their Savior.
- *Physical*: Homework help is offered and a nutritious lunch provided.
- *Emotional*: Character-building, conduct, and behavior are a focus in children and adolescents. They are taught to be sociable and to know their duties and rights. Medical appointments are offered annually, and medication is offered depending on the needs.
- *Environmental*: They are taught to take care of their body's hygiene, surroundings, and to be careful with creation. Recycling projects are implemented, such as reusing plastic.

**2. Disaster Response:** This is a very important area, considering the fact that the Dominican Republic is a tropical country. Because of its location, it is exposed every year to hurricanes between June 1 and November 30. When these phenomenon affect communities, people need food, beds, clothing, medicine, and, in many cases, help from Work and Witness teams for the reconstruction of destroyed homes.

**3. Education for Holistic Child Development in the community:** One of the goals is to promote holistic health using available resources. In order to do this, workshops or educational conferences are offered for the prevention of diseases.

**4. Social transformations:** The focus is on developing communities through education and preaching the Word of God as a principal character transformer. Jesus is presented as their personal Savior, and they are motivated to join a church as a living community that loves God and promotes his kingdom. Workshops or conferences are offered on family care and respect towards parents, towards children, and between spouses.

We can all be instruments for blessing others in the hands of Jesus Christ! Even though we cannot solve all problems at once, we can focus on one that is a priority. In order to do so, it is important to dialogue with the people in the community with the goal of finding a solution to their needs. In addition, it will be crucial to develop a team by coordinating with other ministries in the church and then become involved in community development and transformation for the glory of God.

*In 2015, the poverty in the Dominican Republic extended to 40% of the population; 12% more than the average in other countries in the continent that have it at 28%.*



## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Each Christian has the capacity to show their love for God by satisfying the needs of people in practical and visible ways. Through the Ministry of Compassion, we can find different venues of service, and as a result, communicate the message of the gospel not just through words.



## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Is your church currently serving the community with some project? If so, answer the following:*

- a) Is this project answering the current needs of the community?*
- b) Is this project designed based on talking with neighbors?*
- c) Are there other needs in the community that require immediate attention?*

2. *If your church is not currently serving the community, answer the following:*

- a) What are some of the needs you have observed?*
- b) What resources does your church have now that could meet these needs?*
- c) In what practical ways can we show God's love through compassion?*

3. *In groups of 3 or 4, discuss and answer the following questions. Then share your answers with the rest of the class.*

- a) Is it biblically correct to only tend to the needs of people already in the church with compassionate projects (like medicine, food baskets, etc.)? See Acts 4:32-35 as a reference.*
- b) How much do our acts of service and love for others matter to God? Is there a connection between our actions towards the poor and the disposition the Lord has in meeting our own needs when we pray? See Acts 10:4 as a reference.*



*Lesson 5*

# BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH



## Objectives

- To accept the challenge to get involved in local and global evangelistic work.
- To understand that evangelism needs to go beyond our local context.
- To learn the steps for carrying out an efficient evangelistic project.

## Main Ideas

- Jesus' evangelism model shows that people can go and reach people outside of the church.
- There are certain strategies we can implement that relate to the Great Commission that will help to improve our evangelism ministry and its impact.

### Reverend Maria Antonia Ponce Espinoza

author of this lesson, has served as District Superintendent in Central Nicaragua since 2009. Three missional zones, six organized churches, and fifteen mission-type churches have been founded, and five preaching points have been established under her leadership. She previously served thirteen years in pastoral ministry.

Remembering how Christ came into our lives is our best motivation for sharing this experience with the people around us. It also drives us to guide them to know God and completely surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The following has been the experience of the author writing this lesson: "Each time I remember the way Jesus came into my life, the gospel and how it taught me to commit myself to God, the best way I have found to thank God for calling me his daughter is by sharing the gospel at any time and place. I continue to talk about Jesus in the streets, hospitals, prisons, and in neighborhoods with social problems, instead of just inside the walls of the church. The Lord uses me by putting his words in my mouth and each person that comes to accept Jesus fills my life with joy. I always want to share with others about what was given me when I needed it most."

The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome, saying, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15).

What a beautiful message from the apostle! The invitation is for each and every Christian today. Are we willing, as a church, to leave our comfortable situations and go out and evangelize?

## Biblical Foundation

*Evangelism is the fundamental ministry needed for a church to grow.*



The church prepares us day to day through sermons, Bible studies, and other types of teaching in the hopes that we will have the tools we need to take the good news to others. Theological education is now so easily accessible that no one can say they have not been able to prepare themselves theologically to knowledgeably share the Word, instead of giving an empty message without biblical content or deep study of the Word.

Evangelism is an invitation to extend the kingdom of God here on the Earth; each of us has received this invitation from Christ himself in various passages in Scripture. We will analyze some of these passages:

1. In Matthew 28:18-20, we find Jesus' words for the Great Commission, *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.'"* The invitation comes directly from the lips of the Savior, since he is the one who wants his sacrifice and the benefits of accepting him to be for all humanity, not just a select group. It is important to highlight Jesus' words when he said, *"...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* He is not asking us to do something difficult—it is not hard to talk about something you know plenty about and that you strive to, as a committed Christian, to live by every day.

2. In Acts 21, Luke narrates the apostles' work, who by land and by sea did not cease announcing the gospel to unbelievers and encouraging believers. They did not need to be in church buildings to spread the gospel; even Paul's conversion served as a base for announcing the good news. These believers were willing to face battles and go through obstacles of all kinds in order to be able to announce the good news wherever they went. Are we ready to do the same?

3. In 2 Timothy 4:5, the apostle Paul writes, *"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."* This letter teaches us that the task is personal. If we have believed in Christ, we can talk about him and share the good works he has done in our lives and in the lives of others who have believed in his name. The person who evangelizes is not just listened to because of what they say but how they live, so it is crucial that the people being sent to evangelize have a good testimony so that the unbelievers will want to be like them.

On one occasion, the author of this lesson met a man who went to his oldest sister's house every day at lunchtime. She would feed him, and he would take advantage of the time to talk about the Word of God. Her children and husband were always at the table with them too. The Word did not return void, because one day, more than half of the listeners made decisions for Christ. They continue to this day to serve God faithfully and share his love with others. This man intentionally sought out a time when they were all together to eat, and then introduced a topic of conversation that was far from boring; it became something interesting that everyone gave opinions about. The best part is they all benefited from it for eternity.

The disciples in the Early Church were willing to face problems and go through obstacles of all kinds in order to be able to announce the good news everywhere. Are we ready to do the same?

*"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry"*  
(2 Timothy 4:5).

*Next, we will examine some strategies for evangelism.*



It is important to have a biblical strategy for evangelistic work that can be developed step by step. The following are four key stages for effective evangelism:

## **1. Decentralizing the church.**

The pastor and the leadership in the local church need to break away from having all the ministerial work and activities inside the church building. In order to do so, we need to follow the plan that Jesus left us: *“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where was about to go. He told, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves’”* (Luke 10:1-3).

Jesus did not just think about the lost among the people of Israel. He sent them out two by two. Christ’s plan yesterday and today is to send his disciples to touch the lives of as many people as possible. Jesus had prepared them and they were ready to share his Word.

Maybe we think that the place where we live is already completely touched by the gospel because there are churches other than our own. However, our radius for action is the world and this world that needs Christ is out there. If we still do not believe that, test it and visit a hospital waiting room. There we will probably find family members of someone who is injured or sick and has no hope according to science. These people have great need of a comforting word. We can go to communities near prisons and find family members who are suffering because of just or unjust incarcerations of loved ones. It is in cases like these when the church that goes out of its four walls has the chance to feel the joy of sharing comforting words with the suffering.

The streets in our cities are full of people who are hopeless, but we have Jesus who is the only one who can give these people hope. So, why are we quiet? Why are we keeping this magnificent gift from God a secret from those who have never heard about it?

## **2. Equip willing Christians for ministerial work.**

The goal is to equip disciplers, but in order to do so, we need to know the people who serve in the local church. Our goal while equipping these disciples will be for them to take the gospel from person to person, not to provide them with knowledge for attacking the faith or beliefs of others (like sects sometimes do in some contexts), but for them to know our doctrine well and to assume responsibility to share the good news with others. When

**Strategy:**  
*a technique and sets of activities designed for reaching a goal.*

we are sure that our beliefs are based on the truth revealed in Scripture, we will have greater conviction and authority for inviting others to follow Christ, joining us as members in the congregation to which we belong.

It is important to train people so they can evangelize beyond the church, in the local community as well as with neighbors, friends, and family members. The training can be in the form of an evangelization workshop teaching how to evangelize and use the EvangeCube or any other tool to facilitate the communication of the gospel. The training should be practical and simple, and should happen before taking action so that people feel ready and have more confidence in carrying out the task.

### 3. Establish goals.

Each church's goal should be in accordance with the number of people willing to become evangelists and disciplers. The goals are established by the local evangelism committee as well as the evangelizing team. It is good for each person to establish a personal goal as well, so everyone is reaching for a goal as they all work together.

In the author's experience, a good strategy is to have an evangelism meeting in homes every three months. It is carried out by mobilizing the evangelizing groups, each made up of three people, who share in these homes on the weekends, with the goal to reach at least two people for Christ in each meeting. If this goal is reached, each team will have reached eight people after a year (two per quarter). If we have four groups of three, our goal would be to have 32 people who will have been born again after a year's time. It is important to point out that many others will receive the Word, but not all will join our church.

### 4. Plan evaluation meetings.

Meetings for evaluation should be set for every three months with the local Evangelism Committee and all the evangelists and disciplers. In the evaluation, these kinds of questions should be answered:

- What are some of the challenges we have faced?
- How have we responded to these challenges?
- What kinds of support can we give to the rest of the evangelizing team?
- In what areas do the evangelists need the evangelism council to support them?
- Who has had trouble with his or her task and what difficulties are being faced?

This evaluation will allow the plan to be relaunched as well as verified to make sure the method in use is the correct one. If it should be improved, this should be done without discarding the strategy that Jesus left us as a model. We need to go to homes and places where the sick people are located, searching for the suffering and offering them the salvation plan.

*“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”  
(Ephesians 4:11-12).*

# Taking It a Step Further

## WEF:

*The World Evangelism Fund (WEF) consists of the offerings collected by the Churches of the Nazarene around the world.*

## **Evangelism needs to be “glocal.”**

Once we mobilize a group of leaders in the church who go out of the four walls of the church and evangelize, we need to be taking it a step further. The following challenge will be to teach the congregation that we are all collaborators in a great plan of redemption that God has to save the entire world. Our objective will be to involve the congregation in becoming collaborators as “glocal” evangelists, that is, globally and locally simultaneously. We can do it in the following way:

*All of us in the congregation are collaborators in the great plan of redemption that God has to save the entire world.*

**1. Pray for global evangelism.** Pray for the missionaries and the churches around the world as they face obstacles placed by the enemy, and pray for the financing of new works.

**2. Give to the World Evangelism Fund (WEF).** Participate with offerings and donations so that the people all over the world can be reached for Christ. This offering is very important and needs to be raised by all Nazarene Churches around the world for global evangelism.

**3. Participate by going on mission trips.** When we travel to different places, we see the needs of other communities and we can see more clearly the global situation in order to know how to pray and how to give. These trips do not necessarily have to be to other countries; we can start in our own provinces, cities, or towns in our own country.

*When there are very few unbelievers attending services at a church, what is the future that awaits this church if it does not leave the church walls to evangelize?*

## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Pastors and leaders in the church are responsible for training and mobilizing people in the congregation, so that they can go share the salvation message with the lost who are on the streets, in homes, in hospitals, or in jails. Evangelism of the local church should reach beyond the nearby community, and include doing everything to participate in the great plan God has for reaching the entire world.

# Activities

Time



## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. How has this lesson challenged you?

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2. What adjustments should you make in your life in order to be an evangelist?

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2. In groups of three or four, answer this question: What are the advantages and opportunities that evangelism in homes can offer to reach people for Christ?

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4. In the same groups, read an online newspaper and discuss the situations the world is facing today. Take time to pray for global evangelism and for missionaries in other countries.







*Lesson 6*

# THE CALL TO HOLINESS



## Objectives

- To realize that a holy life is God's plan for his children.
- To understand the growth process that leads to living a holy life.
- To comprehend the relationship between a holy life and evangelism.

## Main Ideas

- The Bible reveals that God wants to have an intimate relationship with us, and it teaches us the importance of living in holiness so that others can come to know God.
- The sanctification doctrine is the center of Wesleyan theology, and it should be the center of our lives as well.

## Introduction

**Reverend Maria Antonia Ponce Espinoza**, co-author of this lesson, has served as District Superintendent in Central Nicaragua since 2009. Three missional zones, six organized churches, and fifteen mission-type churches have been founded, and five preaching points have been established under her leadership. She previously served thirteen years in pastoral ministry.

**Simone Twibell**, co-author of this lesson, is a professor of Missiology at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, USA. She and her husband Andrew served on the Mesoamerica Region as missionary volunteers between 2012 and 2015, organizing and leading Jesus Film teams.

When visiting a Nazarene Church in any country, we find the distinctive logo of the denomination with the call to be holy. One of our traditional hymns says, "Holiness unto the Lord is our watchword and song." Holiness should be the distinctive characteristic in all of us who have become part of the Church of the Nazarene. The holy life is lived in communion with God: it is the union between the Christian and Christ, sharing his divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).

It is more than a "watchword" or motto: it is an everyday lifestyle, practiced both inside and outside of the church building. It should be the natural expression and evidence that God has caused a fundamental change in our lives. This transformation reflects a relationship of loving God and our neighbors.

The word that is translated as "holy" in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew "*kadosh*," which means separated; set apart; physical, moral, and spiritual purity. In the New Testament, the Greek word is "*hagios*," which can be defined as: separated, consecrated, or set apart. Holiness is one of God's attributes, and he wants to share it with all of those who have submitted to his will. Just as we can see in the meanings of the word in Hebrew and in Greek, holiness is a perfect communion between human beings and God. It is a relationship that is perfected through a life of obedience, consecration, and total dependence on God. This relationship leads us to embrace God's plan for saving a world contaminated by sin. A holy life implies setting oneself apart from all sin and seeking a life of interior and exterior purity.

It is important to remember that, even though people focus on appearances, God focuses on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Who is more holy? A woman who uses no make-up, wears a skirt, and does not cut her hair, but judges the woman who does? Or a woman who uses make-up, wears pants, and cuts her hair in a modern fashion, but seeks to be more like Christ in her attitudes towards others? Sometimes, it is easier to look at appearances and judge people based on what we see; when in reality, justice belongs to the Lord who is the judge. Holiness should not be understood in external ways, but as an internal state that is reflected through outward behavior towards

others and oneself. In few words, holiness is not about appearances, but it is about a lifestyle that pleases God. God is pleased with the person who loves God and others as he or she loves himself or herself.

## Biblical Foundation

*Now we will see what the New Testament tells us about holiness.*



The holiness doctrine is one of the central truths revealed by the Word of God in reference to God's will for his children. Let's look at some passages where we can find teaching about this life of holiness:

1. Hebrews 12:14 says, *"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."* When we come to Jesus in response to the gospel, it is because we long for our lives to be changed. Those who refuse Jesus do so most likely because they are comfortable with the lives they are living. In the letter to the Hebrews, it is clear that a holy life is a requirement for having eternal life with God. This verse clearly says that a holy life is required for communion with our heavenly Father, and that it is God's will for all his children.

2. In Matthew 5:44-48, Jesus says, *"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."* This command from Jesus to his disciples refers to practicing a love for our neighbors that is different, a love that can only come from having God in our lives. God's love does not discriminate against people. Jesus tells us that God's children love others with the same love that God shows to all.

3. The apostle Peter teaches in 2 Peter 1:3-10 that God has prepared the way for his children to live far from sin, defeating all evil desires that come from our human nature, so that *"you may participate in the divine nature."* For this to be possible, Peter says we need to be constantly growing in faith, purity, knowledge of God's will for our lives, self-control, patience, devotion to God, and love for others. Later, Peter says that when Christians cultivate these qualities, they become productive for God's kingdom. At the end of this passage, the apostle reminds us that we are all called by God, who chose us to be holy and to be his instruments.

The apostle Peter's experience at Jesus' side taught him that the only way to live a life of holiness is to stay close to Jesus each day.

*"We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devotement to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect. It is wrought by the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit, and comprehends in one experience the cleansing of the heart from sin and the abiding, indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering the believer for life and service" (Section X of the Articles of Faith of the Church of the Nazarene Manual 2017-2021 p. 31).*

# What Should We Do to Be Holy?

*Now we will learn the three steps in the trajectory towards holiness.*



We have seen that a holy life is God's will for his children. Therefore, let's look at what this growth process consists of for living a life completely consecrated in obedience to God.

*To be like Christ means to come to his feet, seeking him, having the same interest for others that he had, who taught, healed, and shared the good he had with those who came to Him.*

## **1. Realize that we are called to love like Christ.**

An elderly Christian woman over ninety years old, instead of staying home resting, has devoted her time for over fifty years to caring for her grandson with cerebral palsy. The child has total dependence on his Grandma. For the last twenty years, this woman has faithfully attended church services, participated in cell prayer groups, and other evangelistic activities. If someone stops at her house, it is normal to find her reading her Bible. She leaves earlier than most from the church services to go to the streets and talk to alcoholics about God's love. She does not neglect her grandson. Even though the child is heavy, she moves him, feeds him, and suffers with him when he complains about any pain (since he cannot speak). The most interesting part of the story is she never complains about the difficult things she has to do. The love of Christ Jesus can be seen in her. It is moving to see her, every day, looking for how to feed her grandson and sharing what she gets with him. She has succeeded in transmitting the love she has for God in caring for her grandson.

This marvelous woman is a living example of what it means to be holy. She does not give just a little of her time, sleep, or comfort, but gives it all without neglecting the salvation she has received. She has discovered that salvation produces love in our lives. Just like this woman, God has chosen and called us, his people, to announce his truth with joy. Being like Christ means going to his feet, seeking him, and having the same interest in other people as he did when he taught, healed, and shared the good he had with those who came to him.

## **2. Be full of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Scriptures are a mirror we should look in every day with the goal of recognizing the attitudes that do not correspond to the life Jesus has shown us. Jesus made the decision to live as a servant, and he showed us that it is possible to live in a world full of evil without losing the distinctive attribute of God's children: a life of purity. Many say that they are Christians, but their attitudes do not say the same thing, because they are like those who do not believe. People watch us and if Christ truly lives in us, they will see him in us in what we do and how we do it.

There is no other manual besides the Bible that can teach us how to attain holiness. Jesus taught us that only when we are filled with the Holy

*"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him"*  
(C.T. Studd).

Spirit can we live a life of purity and love (Ephesians 5:18). Only when we receive the fruit of the Spirit can we be holy. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit”* (Galatians 5:22-25).

The fullness of the Holy Spirit is received when we desire with all our hearts to give our lives as instruments for God’s use in this world. Unconditionally surrendering our lives to Jesus is the requirement for receiving the fullness of God’s love; that is why the apostle Paul says, *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship”* (Romans 12:1).

In the early Christians’ experiences in the book of Acts in chapter 2, we can see that the fullness of the Spirit occurs as an answer to the fervent prayers of his children. The Holy Spirit is received through faith, but it is an experience that needs to be cultivated by living in obedience to the Word. Jesus prayed to his Father, interceding for his disciples at all times, so that they would live in holiness and obedience to God’s will revealed through his Word. *“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified”* (John 17:15-19).

### **3. Fight against all that opposes God’s will**

With the goal of living a life of holiness and being able to convince the world that God is truly alive and is love, we should have a lifestyle that battles against the evils in society and opposes the enemy’s plans. First of all, we should say no to sin and to the things of this world, putting God’s kingdom first in our hearts. Secondly, it is important to take part in the spiritual battle that leads to freedom through prayer against any modern form of slavery, like drug trafficking, addictions, love for money, and any form of evil that brings suffering to humanity and distances the Savior’s love. Finally, we should be conscious of what damages the environment by not participating in campaigns for contamination, and do everything possible to stop the systematic destruction of God’s marvelous creation. Since holiness is internal and external and is cultivated by maintaining an intimate relationship with God through prayer and studying the Word, it is necessary to live in accordance to his will and reject all that opposes the extension of his kingdom.

**Consecration:**  
*a prayer of dedication and commitment that a Christian prays when he or she surrenders his or her life completely for God to use in accordance to his holy purposes.*

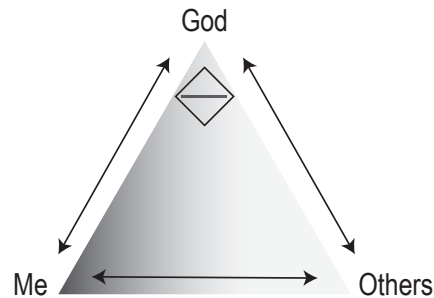
# Holiness and Evangelism

## How is holiness related to global evangelism?



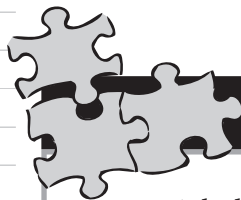
Do you think there is some connection between the lack of holiness in Christians and the lack of interest in evangelism?

A life of holiness is a life that cultivates a healthy relationship with God, with others, and with oneself. Living in holiness is loving God with all of one's heart, loving oneself with a healthy self-esteem, and loving others as God loves them. The closer we are to God in our relationship, the closer we are to the people we are with (as shown in the graphic below). However, we cannot love God without first loving ourselves. When we love ourselves correctly, we understand that loving God is the best thing we can do for ourselves. And when we love God correctly, we understand that loving others is natural for God's children.



Do not go until you are full of the Holy Spirit; but when you are full of the Holy Spirit, do not stay (P. J. Titus). (paraphrased translation).

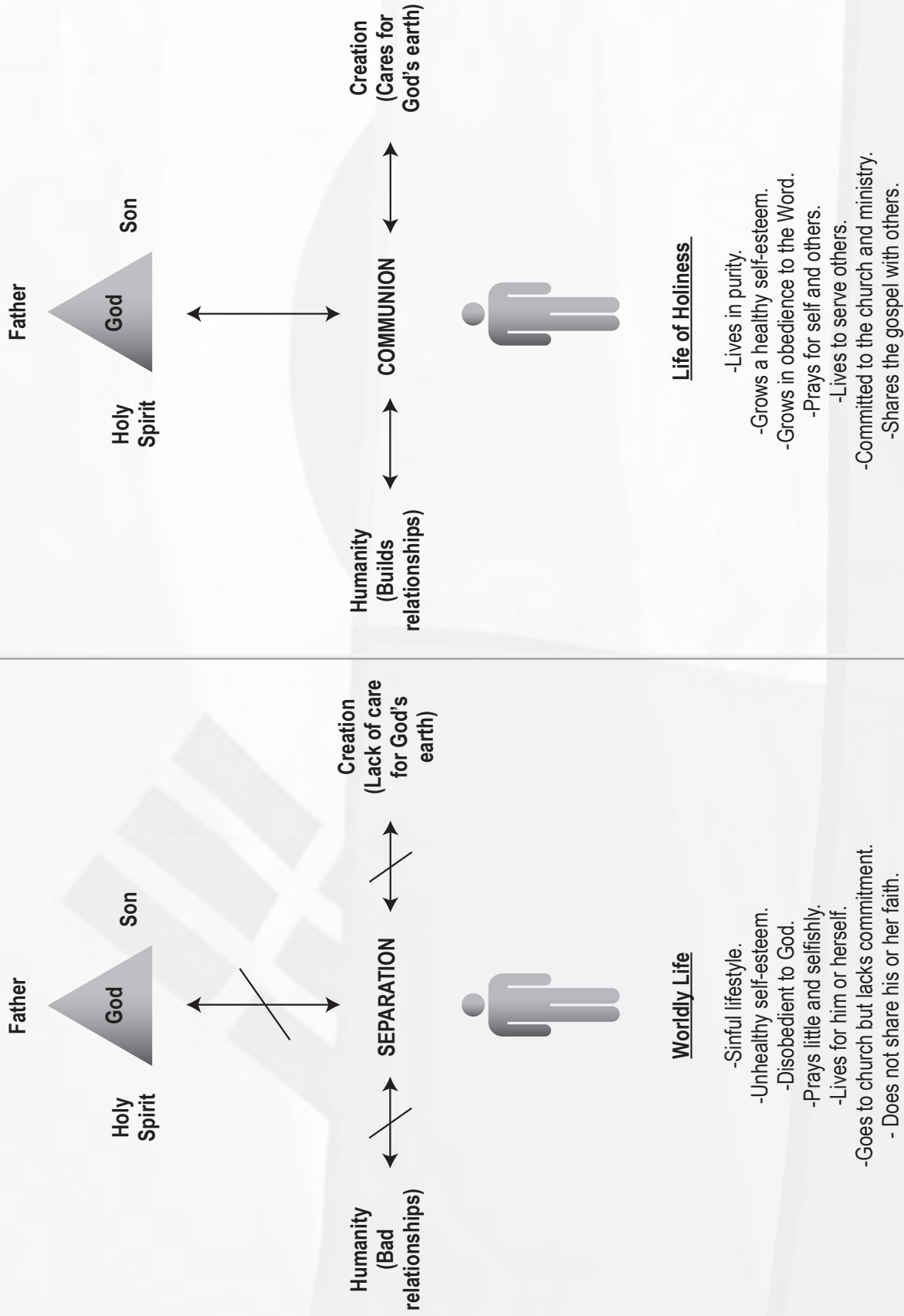
If we truly love God, we will want our lives to be completely pleasing to him. The Father's biggest desire is to fill us with his holy love, so that we can see lost people and God's creation with his eyes. When we love just as God loves, we will worry about and get involved with improving the wellbeing of God's creation, and will take time to share the gospel. It is easy to think of holiness as something internal and as a characteristic of internal purity. But holiness as a separation from the world does not allow us to stay as we are; it draws us closer to the Father's heart so that we can love others and choose to act so that others can know God. Holy lives lead us to sharing Christ with those who surround us and also support the ministry of the church around the world.



## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

A holy life is a life full of God's love, separate from sin, close to Christ. Being holy like God is holy is living full of the Holy Spirit and sharing God's love with everyone we can.

## Comparison Between the Worldly Life and the Sanctified Life





# Activities

Time

20'

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In your own words, define a holy life.

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2. In the graphic which compares the worldly life and a holy life, which of the two sides is more like your life right now?

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3. What changes do you need to make in order to grow in the sanctified life so that God is reflected in your daily life and draws those who do not know Christ to him.

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4. According to the lesson we studied, what should a person do to be full of the Holy Spirit?

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5. In groups of three or four, explain the relationship between a life of holiness and evangelism by drawing or making a visual aid.

6. Make a small biographical summary of one of these people, and explain why they are known as "holy."

- Mother Theresa of Calcutta
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- John Wesley
- Corrie Ten Boom
- Rees Howells
- Other



*Lesson 7*

# THE CALL TO BE A PASTOR OR A MISSIONARY



## Objectives

- To understand the purpose of God's call to his people.
- To define what is included in a pastor/missionary call.
- To identify my personal call.

## Main Ideas

- The purpose of the call is for us to take part in God's work of redemption.
- The pastor/missionary should cultivate certain characteristics in order to efficiently fulfill his or her call.

## Introduction

The apostle Paul tells King Agrippa about his call:

*"On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'*

*"Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'*

*"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'*

*"So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles" (Acts 26:12-23).*

In this passage, we find the Apostle Paul sharing his testimony about the work the Lord did in his life when he was heading to Damascus. That is where he had his personal encounter with the risen Christ, a crucial experience, that changed his way of thinking and his outlook on God's will. Up to that point, he had served God as a good and faithful Pharisee, but it was all wrong. Paul's perspective on God and his life purpose changed completely. Christ called him and sent him as a witness and minister to his own people, Israel, and to the Gentiles.

The author of this lesson is **Rev. Ulises Daniel Solis Jimenez** who has served as a missionary on the Mesoamerica Region since 2003. Through his ministry, six new churches and fifteen missions have been planted in the region.

In the same way, God calls all of his people. That is why, in this lesson, we will study the how and the why of God's call to each of his children.

## The Purpose of the Call

***God calls us to be "priests" and take the gospel wherever we go.***



In Acts 26:21-23, we read that God is the one who calls and sends Paul as a minister of the gospel to evangelize Jews and Gentiles. This divine commission has some special characteristics:

**1. God wants his disciples to announce the gospel to the lost.** This is why we are called. Throughout the Bible, we can see that the first call Jesus commanded his disciples and the church to fulfill was the Great Commission: preaching the gospel to everyone and making disciples. He wants us to be his witnesses.

**2. God calls us to intentionally preach his Word.** God wants to use us to open the eyes of the blind. Satan has spiritually blinded many people, and it is only through knowing the living Word and the work of the Holy Spirit that people can react and return to God through Jesus Christ. The Spirit is the one who convinces the world of its sin, and the one who makes it possible for a person to see his or her ruined condition. Only preaching the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit can free human beings from the power of sin, and lead them to live a new life in Christ Jesus.

**3. God wants all people to receive forgiveness for their sins through faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior, and Sanctifier.** God sent his Son even while we were still his enemies. He showed his love for us when leaving his only son to die on the cross for us (Romans 5:8). Later, he showed us the way to be saved: whoever accepts the message of salvation, repents from their sin, and makes Christ their Lord and Savior begins a new life, receives forgiveness, and is received as a child in the family of God. The salvation experience also means joining a new people, the Church, a people who praise and are consecrated in service to the Lord.

The purpose of the Church's divine calling and of each its members is to preach the gospel to everyone. This calling is not just for those who have a call to be a pastor or a missionary; it is for all of the Lord's disciples. 1 Peter 2:9 says, *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of his wonderful light."* All of God's children are "priests," called to proclaim the marvelous works of he who called us from darkness to light.

When we understand who it is who calls us to do this task, a passion will ignite within us for evangelism. This is why the Early Church grew: they did not cease preaching Jesus Christ in every time and place (Acts 5:42).

*God calls all of humanity to repentance. He has a general call for his people to serve in holiness, and a special and individual call to all his children to communicate the message of Jesus Christ's salvation, taking advantage of the spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has given each of us.*

# Obedience to the Call

*“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us’ ”*

**God calls, we go.**



Every real servant of the Lord should be alert and listening for God’s call to the ministry as a pastor or a missionary. We can summarize it in these words, “When God calls, it is the human being who needs to respond.” We can clearly see that this same thing happened when God called the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8) as well as what we saw with the apostle Paul. It is marvelous to “hear” his testimony when he says, “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.” Paul says that he made the decision to obey the call and to consecrate his entire life for this ministry. The success for any ministry depends on the servants living a life of total consecration in continual obedience to God’s will.

*What are the conditions of God’s call according to Romans 12:1-2?*

*One individual life may be of priceless value to God’s purposes, and yours may be that life”*  
(Oswald Chambers, azquotes.com).

Now then, who today needs to make the decision to go to the mission field to spread the gospel, challenging people to repent and turn to God with all their hearts? What did Paul do after his call to be a pastor/missionary? He spread the gospel in Damascus, Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and to the Gentiles. This is the job description for a pastor/missionary: leave your homeland and go to serve in the mission field. To do evangelism work in your own culture and in other cultures is the essence of being a missionary.

*“I have no right to boast just because I preach the gospel. After all, I am under orders to do so. And how terrible it would be for me if I did not preach the gospel! If I did my work as a matter of free choice, then I could expect to be paid; but I do it as a matter of duty, because God has entrusted me with this task”*  
(1 Corinthians 9:16-17, Good News Bible).

The message has not changed: we are called to preach the message of repentance and to guide people in the process of conversion and discipleship. Repenting from all of our sins is one of the Lord’s requirements, since sincere repentance is essential for beginning a life of obedience. The life of a repented person, thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit, has genuine evidence of a change in the person’s soul, something everyone around that person can see. God continues to call workers to announce the good news of the gospel to listening ears. To all of us who have accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are given a huge responsibility: we are entrusted with the message of salvation and one day, we will have to give an account for this massive task we have been given (1 Corinthians 9:16-17).

## The Character of the Pastor/ Missionary

**Those who are called should have certain characteristics.**



All pastor/missionaries should have certain characteristics; some of these characteristics that directly relate to evangelistic work are mentioned below:

- a) **Be full of God’s power and have a heart purified of all sin.** The fullness of the Spirit is an indispensable requirement for fulfilling this ministry. The big impact of the apostle Paul’s ministry is due to the fact that he had a personal encounter with the risen Christ, and he was





# Activities

Time



## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In order to do God's will, every disciple needs to listen to God's voice. Read John 10:27-28, and explain what you understand about hearing the voice of God.

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2. God calls all of his people with a special purpose. Read the following passages and then explain what God's call is to all his children.

Romans 1:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:28 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 1:2,9 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:21 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 3:9 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Answer this question using the following passages: What was included in Jesus' personal call to his disciples?

Matthew 9:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 13:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 28:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_

4. After studying this lesson: What do you understand about the call the Lord has for your life?

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## Lesson 8

# THE CHURCH'S GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



## Objectives

- To examine the history of evangelism in our denomination.
- To understand our Lord Jesus Christ's command to make disciples as we move into the future.
- To take on the challenge to evangelize to the very ends of the earth.

## Main Ideas

- The Church of the Nazarene has been called to take the gospel to the very ends of the earth, and as a result the ministry has expanded all over the world.
- The 21st century presents itself as a new missional challenge that we need to face with faith and commitment.

**Oscar Alberto Roa Muñoz**, co-author of this lesson, serves as a pastor in the Fifth Church of the Nazarene in Managua, working with families and compassionate ministries. He has pastored two churches in eight years and currently serves as Evangelism Coordinator in the Central District in Nicaragua.

**Simone Twibell**, co-author of this lesson, is a professor of Missiology at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, USA. She and her husband Andrew served on the Mesoamerica Region as missionary volunteers between 2012 and 2015, organizing and leading Jesus Film teams.

## Introduction

What is the purpose of the Church of the Nazarene? This question probably generated discussions between the founders of our church 100 years ago. Today, it continues to be a valid question, and it will continue to be asked by future generations of Nazarenes. What is our perspective of the church for the 21st century? How can we prepare ourselves and how can we respond to the challenge of taking the message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth? How will we move forward with a coherent ministry, articulated by the Holy Spirit, in a variety of cultural contexts where we are making Christlike disciples?

A society's global perspective influences the reality of a local society. In the same way, the church's global perspective affects its conduct, decisions, and experiences in the local church. The local church exists within a global church and that is why it is important for it not to operate in an isolated way, but to operate within the larger system. The missional vision of the global Church of the Nazarene, supported by each local church around the world, has been able to enter over 150 world areas for the glory of the Lord.

## Our Inheritance: The Connecting Point

*In this section, we will see that our roots from the past continue to produce fruit today.*



The Church of the Nazarene has been a church with a global vision since the day it was founded, reaching peoples and cultures with a variety of languages and dialects. The Church of the Nazarene's *Manual* declares this in its first pages: "The Church of the Nazarene's mission consists of responding to Christ's Great Commission of 'making disciples of all the nations' "(Matthew 28:19).

It is evident that our mission is to respond to Christ's call and to spread the good news to every creature. Sometimes, we think this mission should be carried out by missionaries or by us only when we go on a missions trip to another place. However, the call is to all those who are Christ's disciples, and it is for all people, far or near.

On one occasion, a man came to the house of the author of this lesson to fix something. It was his second time to come and repair something, but this time, he was notably sad and so the following occurred: I asked him how he was, and he rapidly mentioned that he was not feeling well because he had gone through a divorce not too long before and his teenage daughter, who was living with him, had become very rebellious. He finished his work and seemed to be in a rush because of the way he quickly picked up his things and left. I missed the chance I had of sharing the gospel with this man because I did not want to have a conversation with him that he might not have wanted to have at that moment. A couple weeks later, I found out that the man had committed suicide. I cried often, because I felt a profound sense of shame on my soul, especially because I did not have the opportunity to tell him that Christ loved him and he could find hope in him.

There is no way to guess what is happening in the heart and mind of another person, and that is why we need to love each other boldly and take advantage of the possible chances we have to share Christ's love with others. Let's remember that our identity is in Christ, and that he is the one who equips us to be able to do it. Ever since that day, I have never refused a chance to talk about Christ or to offer help and advice to any person when I find out that they are far from God.

The Church of the Nazarene has always had it as a vision to share Christ's love with others. Since the very beginning of its history, global evangelism has become a distinctive characteristic of our denomination. The Church of the Nazarene's vision has always been to go all over the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Thank God for the vision of our founding leaders!

## Our Present Role: The Development of a Vision

*Now we will learn about how we can participate today in that vision.*



We are a church that is distinguished by not only our theological beliefs but also by the particular way in which we contribute to God's kingdom here on earth. By making Christlike disciples in the nations, we are facing tremendous challenges as Nazarene Christians in different cultures and contexts. How do we respond to the present challenges in a global context of poverty and of constant growth of religious intolerance? What answer do we offer as a Christian people of holiness and mission-mindedness?

Let's consider some statistics in our world, and what the Church of the Nazarene is doing in response to the Great Commission:

1. Of the 6.8 trillion who live on the earth today, almost two trillion have never heard of Christ.
2. Eleven percent of the global population are committed believers, 22 percent are nominal believers, 37 percent are people who have been evangelized, and 30 percent have not been reached yet.

*The Statement of Mission in the Church of the Nazarene is to make Christlike disciples in the nations (Manual of the Church of the Nazarene 2017-2021, p. 5).*

*In your opinion, what is the most important inheritance our Nazarene predecessors have passed on to us?*

*If we value the gift of salvation, we will do all we can to make sure that the same salvation is available to every nation, tribe, and tongue on Earth*  
(Wayne Myers, paraphrased translation).

*What is the danger of multiplying disciples without teaching them to be and live like Jesus?*

3. In the world area known as the “10/40 Window” there are 56 countries in which 2.6 trillion Buddhists and Hindus reside and 4.2 billion Muslims live as well.

<http://pt.slideshare.net/FMAlmeida/perspectivas-globales>

4. There are 243 world areas, and the Church of the Nazarene is working in more than 159 of them and has 2.1 million members. There are other places where the Church’s presence is identified as “creative access areas” since because of governmental issues, the country cannot be named.

The challenges for the Church today are numerous and diverse. We live in a changing and complex world, where the pluralist and post-modern environment presents new problems to resolve in cultural, social, and political areas. The present challenges are what refine us as metal in the fire, and a vibrant future awaits us as Jesus Christ’s church. No challenge should detain the church from its mission, since God’s will has not changed and he “...desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

In all of its history, the Church of the Nazarene has been an effective tool in God’s hands so that people, in all parts of the world, will come to know the truth and be transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. The current missions declaration of our church is simple: “making Christlike disciples in all the nations.” We have dedicated ourselves to this purpose over the years and this should be the vision of each Nazarene as well. This vision should be born of a personal encounter with Christ and is nurtured by a heart that is passionate for his work. It is only through the fire of the Spirit that we can understand God’s compassionate heart, who desires for all to be saved and to live in communion with him.

## The Response to the Challenge of this World

*Next we will see what our church is doing.*



We have a rich inheritance, a historical legacy, and a strong commitment to our Lord’s mission to go to “...the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8) to proclaim the good news of the gospel. The Church of the Nazarene has always been an international family. God has given us a missional vision and the tools to carry it out, which can be seen in the way our church has responded and continues to respond to the Great Commission.

The Global Missions Department is sending out and economically supporting hundreds of missionaries today who work alongside thousands of our local churches to carry the message of holiness to every corner of the earth. Nazarene missions are structured into five regions worldwide with a regional director in each one under the supervision of the Global Missions Department. These regions are Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Mesoamerica, and South America.

Global Missions has many divisions and ministries for equipping the Church's members around the world. The following are among these ministries:

- *Global Missions Literature*: literature in various languages, principally in these five main languages of the Church of the Nazarene: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Korean.
- *Compassionate Ministries*: assistance in disasters, crisis management, child sponsorship, food and clothing programs, projects that provide long-term solutions.
- *Nazarene Missions International*: education, prayer, and offerings to support.
- *Global Missions Communications*: radio, video productions, and Internet.
- *Ministerial Education*: ministerial preparation for pastors and laypersons.
- *Work and Witness*: direct experience with short-term missions.
- *Missionary Team*: volunteers serving in mission assignments.
- *Teens in Missions and Teen Services*: short-term youth ministries.
- *Jesus Film Harvest Partners*: share the gospel through the Jesus Film.
- *Evangelism*: reach the lost for Christ and guide them towards discipleship.

A global challenge demands global answers from the church, and our task is, therefore, to involve all the members from the local churches. Our history reminds us that the youth have been a fundamental part of the expansive development of the Church of the Nazarene; that is why it is so important to continue encouraging and integrating our youth in the Great Commission.

Another factor that has been important in our missional history is the generous support of Nazarenes all over the world with offerings for the World Evangelism Fund (WEF).

*The Jesus Film ministry has produced more than five million decisions for Christ and about 8,000 new church missions since 1998.*

*God's purpose is that people of every tongue and language worship him. We still cannot sing together a hymn of adoration to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords with all the families on earth participating. So, we cannot sit back and cross our arms.*

## Who Has Not Heard?

Countries with the greatest population of non-Christians:

China  
India  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Bangladesh  
Pakistan  
Nigeria  
Turkey  
Iran

## Who Needs to Hear?

The largest people groups with the fewest evangelized persons:

Bengali (Bangladesh)  
Han (China)  
Bhojpuri Biharji (India)  
Punjabi (Pakistan)  
Awadi (India)  
Turco (Turkey)  
Urdu (India)  
Orisi (India)  
Maltil (India)  
Birmano (Myanmar)

*We can send workers to the ends of the earth, baptize, and teach everything; however, if we do not make disciples, we have failed in the task of the Great Commission (Kerry A. Olson, paraphrased translation).*

Education has also been a key element for fulfilling the Great Commission. The Church of the Nazarene has understood the need for competent ministers in congregations who, in addition, count on a leadership group with pertinent abilities so as to face the ministerial challenges that confront us all. That is why our educational institutions around the world have as a goal to offer a well-rounded education that will develop not only the knowledge, but also the character and ministerial abilities of people the Lord has called. Our programs for theological education prepare our leaders at all levels and for varied ministries in the local church and on the mission field.



## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

From the very beginning, the Church of the Nazarene has been faithful to its calling to spread Biblical holiness through evangelism and discipleship. However, even though we have had good growth, we still are not finished with the task.

# Activities

Time



## INSTRUCTIONS:

*1. Research: What countries in the 10/40 Window has the Church of the Nazarene not yet entered? What challenges do churches face in those areas?*

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*2. Research: When did the Church of the Nazarene enter your country? What is its history there? How many churches does the denomination have in your country today?*

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*3. In groups of three or four, answer the following question. Based on the Global Missions ministries mentioned in this lesson, in which of these have you participated? Tell a brief story about your experience.*

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*4. In the same groups, respond to this question: How can we collaborate so that the vision of the members in the local church can be more global?*

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# Final Evaluation

Time

15'

## COURSE: EVANGELISM AND GLOBAL MISSION

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church or Study Center: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of this evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

1. *What is the relationship between compassion and evangelism?*

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2. *What are key componets of the pastor-missionary call?*

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3. *How did this course help you grow in your holiness experience?*

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4. *What did you learn in the practical ministry component of this course?*

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5. *In your opinion, how could this course be improved?*

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