

<2023 Lent Faith Project >



선교적 삶 블레싱 40일

40 Blessing Days of Missional Life



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Presbyterian Church (USA)

We invite you to these 40 blessing days of missional life.

What do you think of when you hear the word missionary or missionary?

Perhaps you can think of missions as a full-time evangelist who goes to a special person or a distant country.

However, missions are not just stories of distant countries or people far from us. The mission is the very mission of our life, and the mission field is the very place of our life. All areas of our lives, including missionary work, are missionary areas.

For Lent in 2023, we would like to come to this earth, carry the cross, learn the mission of Jesus who accomplished salvation for us, and share "40 Blessing Days of Missional Life." Through this 40-day missional life community, we want to realize that our own homes, workplaces, and places of life are missionary fields, and to find the meaning, specific habits, gifts and, visions of living a missionary life in our daily lives.

The Lord Jesus, invites all members of The Lord Jesus Church to this "40 Blessing Days of Missional Life" and moves the world through the passage of blessings of missionary life through 6 weeks of Sunday sermons, ranch meetings, and life practices. I believe it will be a community.

Let's all go toward a missional life and missional church!

Rev. Hyung Joo Kim



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Based on the book "Surprise the World by Michael Frost"

What do you think of when you think of the word, evangelism? Many Christians think of sacrificing oneself for the benefit of helping poor people in a far away developing world or may feel pressure or guilt for being unable to do something we were called to do as Christians. What does the bible say about evangelism and living a missional life?

According to Colossians 4:2-6, Paul asks for opportunities to share Christ and for the courage to proclaim the gospel clearly. But he doesn't suggest the Colossians pray as much for themselves. Rather, evangelistic believers are to pray for evangelists' ministry, to be wise in their conduct toward outsiders, and to look for opportunities to answer outsiders' questions when they arise.

In summary, Paul teaches that evangelists are to proclaim, and believers are to give answers.

This twofold approach literally transformed the Roman Empire. While evangelists and apologists such as Peter and Paul were proclaiming the gospel and defending its integrity in an era of polytheism and pagan superstition, hundreds of thousands of ordinary believers were infiltrating every part of society and living the kind of questionable lives that evoked curiosity about the Christian message.

These ordinary believers devoted themselves to sacrificial acts of kindness. They loved their enemies and forgave their persecutors. They cared for the poor and fed the hungry. In the brutality of life under Roman rule, they were the most stunningly different people anyone had ever seen.

Some of us may be called evangelists, but most Christians have been called to live questionable lives that move others.

There is a communication theory that says, "when predictability is high, the impact is low." The same goes for Christian outreach. Remember that one of the primary acts of the evangelistic believer is the arousal of curiosity among unbelievers, leading to questions and faith sharing.

Acts of serving by Christians today are relatively commonplace, so they don't surprise the world. If we hear that a Christian business owner has donated money to a cause, or that a church has opened a feeding program or a hospice, we aren't intrigued. Such things are expected.

Therefore, as the early Christians did in their day, we too must strive to live questionable lives that surprise those around us. And by doing so, we must propel ourselves outward into the lives of our neighbors through acts of kindness amidst a world that lacks communication and concern for others.

This is not only a challenge for individual believers but action that must be taken by the community of believers. We invite you to a "questionable life" and a life that "surprises the world."

Through "Surprise the World: Blessing 40 Days," let us be free from the pressure and guilt of not having participated in

missions in a far-off place, but let's learn and practice how to live a missional life every day.

To this end, we will reflect upon five elements BLESS (Bless, listen, East, Serve & Sent) that will enable us to live a missional life.

Bless -- I will bless those around me daily and at least one must be a non-Christian, who is not from our church.

Listen -- I will spend at least once a week meditating on the holy spirit and listening to non-believers.

Eat -- I will have at least one meal with a non-believer during this 40-day campaign.

Serve -- I will spend the campaign's last week providing community service with my small group.

Sent -- Members of my small group will bless each other and send one another out into our daily lives as missionaries.

Now with an open heart, let's launch into our journey of finding regular rhythms to foster a missional lifestyle.



선교적 삶 블레싱 40일
40 Blessing Days of
Missional Life

Week 1 BINDING : Starting a Missional Life

Week 2 BLESS : Invitation to a Life of Blessing

Week 3 LISTEN : Invitation to a Listening

Week 4 EAT : Invitation to the Christian Love-Feast where God's Love is Shared

Week 5 Serve : Missional Life through Service

Week 6 Sent : Toward the Missional



Life Group Meeting (Week 1)

BINDING: Starting a Missional Life

● Enter

In any culture, eating and drinking together has a greater meaning than the act itself. It signifies becoming one by coming together as a community. This is especially true when a community is facing a transformational event. As an example, in movies, we often see a community of soldiers feasting together before a battle.

In the bible, especially in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we see that Jesus eats and drinks with his disciples at the last supper before facing the cross. He unifies his disciples with water and blood and enables them to carry out the gospel of God's Kingdom. Furthermore in John, Jesus lifts up his disciples to God and asks that he make them become one as he and God are one (John 17:16-20). We must also become one in our Lord before we go out into the world to live missional lives.

We have not only been called to be God's children but we have been called to be one community.

● Praise

Standing on the promises (546)



● Scripture

13 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." 16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." 17 "We have here only five loaves and two fish," they answered. 18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

(Matthew 14:13-21)

● Observe

1. What does this act done by Jesus remind you of? How do we know this?
2. Can you imagine the diversity of people who were seated before Jesus?
3. What do you think people experienced when they shared food with one another because of Jesus?

● Apply

1. As we look to today's main scripture (Matthew 14:13-21), how can we apply it to our small group, as we start our journey toward a missional life?

2. Please share the following questions with your small group members as a way to bring us together as one community in the Lord.

- What is your happiest memory?
- What is your saddest memory?

● Preparing for next week

1. Make a list of those whom you want to bless. (Half of the list should be non-believers).

| | |
|---------|----------|
| 1 _____ | 6 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 7 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 8 _____ |
| 4 _____ | 9 _____ |
| 5 _____ | 10 _____ |

2. Think of a non-believer to share a meal with during the next 40 days.

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 _____ | 4 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 5 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 6 _____ |

3. Think of an organization or a volunteer activity to conduct as a small group.



Life Group Meeting (Week 2)

BLESS: Invitation to a Life of Blessing

● Enter

Faith is not a single action, but it is forming a faith system, like forming a habit. We need to form habits that will enable us to live a missional life that surprises the world.

Of the five habits (Bless, Listen, Eat, Serve & Sent), we will start with Bless.

The word Bless has many meanings. Part of the etymology of the term "to bless" is "to add strength to another's arm." What does it mean to add strength to another's arm? Anything that relieves their burden in life. Anything that lifts their spirits or alleviates their distress. It can be a small thing or a large one.

Let's think of the meaning of this word and bless those around us during the next week, including at least one nonbeliever.

● Questions

1. Who adds strength to your arm?
2. What are some ways for us to bless others?

● Praise

There's sunshine in my soul today (428)

● Scripture

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.
Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,
4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the
interests of the others.

(Philippians 2:3-4)



● Observe

According to today's scripture, what must we think about when we are practicing "Bless?"

● Apply

1. Let's think of five ways to bless those around us.

Ex) 1. Smile and greet first 2. Be first to ask how they are doing 3. Being considerate (when there is a debate, when driving, at the grocery store, etc.) 4. Compliments 5. Clean up after others at the end of a meal

2. Start something specific as a means to bless nonbelievers during these 40 days of Blessing.

Ex) babysitting, random act of kindness through paying for a stranger, giving a small gift

● Preparing for next week

Share with your small group about with whom and where you will have your meal, what you will discuss, etc.



Life Group Meeting (Week 3)

LISTEN: Invitation to a Listening Life

● Follow-up of last week

Let's check on how we did with Blessing this past week.

1. Did you bless others in your life this past week? What did you experience through practicing what you resolved to do last week? What was your experience as you practiced what you resolved to do last week?
2. Did you bless an unbeliever(s) last week? What did you experience? How was the experience?

● Enter

There are two things we must listen to in order to live a missional life. We must listen to the Holy Spirit and to non-believers (those who need to meet Jesus Christ). Because the Holy Spirit is foundational to our faith, we should listen to him to live a missional life. It is also that which is emphasized in our faith journey.

In addition to the Holy Spirit, we need to listen to non-believers. We often fail to listen to them because we are burdened by the thought of having to teach or speak to them about God. Missional life begins with listening to the Holy Spirit. Before we teach or force something upon non-believers we must show them what it's like to follow Christ; we need to inspire them and fix all our attention onto them. We invite you to a life of listening to the Holy Spirit and to non-believers.

● Praise

I need Thee every hour (446)



● Scripture

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

(John 14:26)

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry

(James 1:19)

● Apply

1. Let's practice how to listen to the Holy Spirit. There are many ways to listen to the Holy Spirit, but we will focus on listening to him in silence. Take a look at the worksheet and practice the specific methods and train to develop the habit of listening to the Holy Spirit.
2. We will practice as a small group, how to listen to non-believers.

1) Find a partner

2) Interview each other with the questions below or another set of questions.

- Name and unique habits/background?
- What is your hobby? How did it become your hobby?
- What are the three things that you will take to a deserted island?
- If you can relive your life, what are the three things you would do differently?

- What is your most valued possession?
- The most surprising or traumatic experience you have had?

3. Let's share the content of your interviews. Tell your partner's story as if you are the person. For instance, if Sarah interviewed Abraham, Sarah should say, "I am Abraham and this is my story" and share Abraham's story.

● Preparing for next week

1. Practice listening to the Holy Spirit and share the experience with small group members.
2. Think of an unbeliever you do not know well and take the time to get to know them better by listening to him/her.

● Ways to listen to the Holy Spirit ●

1. Set Aside a Designated Time

When people start working out at the gym, many make the mistake of doing too much at once and giving up. What's most important is to set setting aside time and slowly, but steadily chipping away at it. Same could be said about listening to the Holy Spirit. Rather than thinking that you will do this for many hours a day, designate a day and time each week to spend time with God.

2. Eliminate Distractions

Designate a quiet place and avoid any intrusions on the senses of touch, sight, smell, taste or sound. The quieter the place, it should be better to hear the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus taught us.

But when you make your prayer, go into your private room, and, shutting the door, say a prayer to your Father in secret, and your Father, who sees in secret, will give you your reward (Matthew 6:6)

Find a comfortable position in a quiet place. Lacing your fingers together, crossing your arms, or sitting on your hands can help you become less conscious of them. If possible, be prepared to sit for twenty minutes or more. If you stop too soon, you will miss it.

3. Let God In

Don't start your meditation by asking questions or telling the Holy Spirit what you want; rather, start by simply enjoying God's presence. If you are an outcomes-oriented person, you'll be desperate to get to the point and ask the Spirit to grant you knowledge, wisdom, courage, righteousness, or whatever you need in your current circumstance. But before you get that, simply abide in his presence. Let his love wash over you. Use what's called the centering prayer to focus your attention. Some people adapt Luke 18:13: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Other common centering words that can be used are words such as "Father" or "Lord." Note that this is not a mantra; it's a prayer. By repeating it slowly and gently you help to center yourself on hearing God. Finally, don't engage the thoughts that come, but focus on what the Holy Spirit has to say to us.

4. Follow God's Promptings

The Spirit might bring to your mind the name or the face of a person you are to bless or eat with. The Spirit might convict you of sin or encourage you in your faithfulness. If you listen to and follow the promptings of the Spirit, you will be filled with the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Living a missional life means that you are living according to the Holy Spirit. We cannot specifically list how each of us, in our various circumstances, must live a missional life that surprises unbelievers. What's most important is that we listen and follow the Holy Spirit.



Life Group Meeting (Week 4)

EAT:

Invitation to the Christian Love-Feast Where God's Love is Shared

● Follow-up last week

1. Share last week's experience of meditating on the Holy Spirit
2. Share the experience of getting to know someone through asking them questions and listening to them.

● Enter

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God upon this earth. He invited others to that Kingdom and asked for repentance so they may participate in that Kingdom. He preached, taught, healed and exposed the coming of God's Kingdom. And though it wasn't as flashy as demanding repentance and preaching, teaching or healing, there was something else that he did. He traveled far and wide to eat with those who were lost or considered sinners.

He demonstrated great God's Kingdom through seemingly trivial communal meal. People called this the community of the love-feast. Eating together was a show of Christ's love toward the lost souls and his warm and loving interest in them.

A second-generation Korean-American college student who attends the church complained about his first-generation father who calls only to ask, "did you eat?" What he wants to hear is "I love you," or "I miss you." Unfortunately, he was unable to hear the true message of behind his father's question: "I love you!" "I miss you!"

A meal is more than food. A meal is love. Sharing a meal is not only sharing food, but it is also an expression of one's desire to know someone, and to share friendship and love.

A popular Korean TV drama, "Answer 1988" depicts the life emotions of Duksoon's family shared around the dining table. The meals are never fancy, but the dining table serves as an effective medium to interact. The family sometimes argue over food, complain over how things taste, and express love through placing a side dish on one's spoon.



A Korean entertainer was experiencing serious family conflict and contemplated on its causes. Among many reasons, he attributed it to failing to eat at the dining table as a family. Though he had been married for 15 years, he shared less than five meals with his son and daughter. Not only for this entertainer, but for everyone, sharing a meal at the dining table is where hearts connect.

Let's go out to the world and invite those who don't know God to the dining table filled with God's amazing love.

● Praise

Whosoever heareth, shout, shout the sound! (520)



● Scripture

13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. 14 As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. 15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

(Mark 2:13-17)

● Questions

1. When this scripture was written, what did it mean to eat together? Did that meaning change very much since then?

2. What did Jesus mean when he said that the well does not need a doctor, but only the ill, and when he said that he came to get the upright but sinners? How can this be applied to us?

● Preparing for Next Week

1. Eat with an unbeliever and share the experience with your small group.

2. Share with your small group about how you will surprise the world.



Life Group Meeting (Week 5)

Serve: Missional Life through Service

● Follow-up of last week

Share about your experience in eating with unbelievers

● Enter

For the past four weeks, we have practiced making missional life habits that touch the world in our daily lives. Now, with the exercises to complete that habit, we are going to go out to the world with the life groups to serve, and come together to make a specific plan to continue this life.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, which we now believe and follow, was first accepted by the ancestors of faith who lived before us and was passed on to us by continuously practicing missional life within the gospel. And we were curious about their missional life, moved by it, and eventually accepted the gospel. In order to fully spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in this world, we too must not temporarily live a missional life. When we practice it consistently every day, the gospel of Christ will continue to be preached through us.

● Praise

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine (288)



● Scripture

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

(Ephesians 2:10)

● Questions

1. What does Ephesians 2:10 say we were created for?

2. What are the gifts and passions God has given me to do good works?

● Prayer

Pray that I will meditate on the Word today, find the gifts given to me, and use that gift in my life to become a missional life.

● Sharing of the past four weeks

1. What was most enjoyable about the past four weeks of forming habits of living a missional life? What was most difficult?

2. What are some missional life-forming habits we did not practice as a small group these past four weeks that you would like to try in the future?

● Committing and Going Forth

1. Create a list of individual daily habits to practice toward a missional life and share the list with your small group members.

2. Create a list of activities to conduct as a group to promote a missional life

(e.g., create a goodie bag as a small group to be shared with neighbors every quarter; designate an organization to volunteer at twice a year, etc.)

A List of Personal Habits for Missional Life

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Habits of missional life to continue with Life Group members



Life Group Meeting (Week 6)

Sent: Toward the Missional Life

● Follow-up of last week

Share about the habits of missional life that you have practiced over the past week.

● Enter

Thank you for your hard work on the 40 blessing days of missional life for the past 5 weeks. Today, on the last Sunday, we will discover our own mission, declare it, and move on to being sent as a disciple of the Lord. In particular, today, on this Palm Sunday, we have time to share that we, like the donkey used by Jesus, may become a tool of the gospel used by the Lord. Below are the vision statements actually written through 40 Days of Blessing.

"I want to meet the needs of those who are economically and mentally weighed down by the poverty of life so that they can experience the love of Jesus and give them hope. It is my vision to devote my passion to the life of sharing as a means."

"I know that God is using me to provide the emotional, spiritual, and financial resources for my children to thrive in their faith. I know that God has raised me up as a teacher to be a light in dark places and give students a chance for a better life. I am convinced that God wants to use me to provide resources to church leaders so that they can minister with hope and courage without feeling deficient in their ministry."

"As a result of my calling and special gifts, I dedicate my life to building a family that is a model of loving God and faithful faith. I want to help my wife to live with a clear sense of purpose so that she can find a place in her ministry, grow and bear fruit. I will nurture, encourage, and empower our children. I will be committed to expanding the kingdom of God by focusing on Christ-centered local churches and developing a relational support system to mentor and empower leaders. I intend to influence thousands of churches and thousand leaders in my lifetime."

"For the rest of my life, I intend to dedicate myself to building a team that strives to accomplish amazing things for the Kingdom of God. I will contribute to the team with what I have, whether it be finance, public influence, experiential wisdom, or a sense of responsibility. I will do it with the strength, ability, and courage that can only come from the hand of God."

A vision is not the biggest dream we can think of. Vision is God's plan for us. I want to be the time to be sent to my home, work, and the world through the time to discover God's plan for my life and discover my gifts and my vision.

● Praise

Christ for the whole wide world (505)



● Scripture

19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19~20)

● Questions / Finding my Vision

1. When thinking about your future life, the area you want to focus on most is (). What's the reason?

2. People who know me feel that God uses me best when I do (). What's the reason?

3. Among my activities, the one that contributes the most to the kingdom of God is (). What's the reason?

4. I forget for various reasons, but what I really have to do is (). What's the reason?

5. I feel like I want to use my life to () when sharing about ministry. What's the reason?

● Prayer

As we meditate on today's Word, lift each other up to God and pray that we may continue to live the missional life commanded by the Lord in our daily lives.

● Vision Statement

1. Draft a personal vision statement (best understanding of your current life)

- Based on the way God has guided you before, what do you think He has called me to do for His glory?

2. Writing Vision Statement

- Name (Write your name)
- Bible Verses (Write your favorite Bible verses)
- My Vision (Write your vision statement on the next page)
- Share with the Life Group members and pray together

나의 비전 선언문 (Vision Statement)

*** Name:**

*** Bible Verses:**

*** My Vision of Missional Life**

*** My specific Missional Life Plan**



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