

Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) Helen Keller, the famed blind and deaf woman who, under the tutelage of Anne Mansfield Sullivan, overcame her disabilities and learned how to communicate and read once said, "the saddest thing in the world is people who can see, but have no vision..." Have you ever been around a person, company or movement that had people you genuinely liked and cared for, but lacked vision for "going forward."
- B) What about you? Are you on a "mission from God?" Why does God have you in this world? Be specific! Try not to give answers which could apply to any person. Why does God uniquely have you in this world?
- C) Habakkuk 2:2 (NLT) says, "Write my answer in large, clear letters on a tablet, so that a runner can read it and tell everyone else." Have you noticed that in the Bible, whenever God spoke to a person, they would write down what they heard? Have you ever written down the things you are convinced God has taught you? Perhaps writing some of the things down God has done or taught you in your life could be a springboard for understanding your "mission." Take some time to jot down some things and share them with your group.
- D) It is not enough to be a part of an organization which has a great mission. If you lack a personal mission -- then you could be missing out on some of the most important things God is doing around you, and in you! Take some time in your group to share what you believe God is placing on your heart when it comes to your unique "mission." As people share, take time to pray for each person and affirm them in what God is doing in their lives. Schedule a time six months from now where your small group will meet again for a meal or potluck, and you will share (again) your mission, but with whatever clarity or changes God has done in your life between now and then. Be sure to write down what you are thinking, so you will be able to see (over time) what God is doing!

A Mission From God

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 30th, 2005 • Pastor Chris Lankford

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~PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 (NASB)**

1) It's All About God's Glory...

- A) From the beginning, God has expressed Himself in missional terms to all people, everywhere. From Adam to David to Jesus to us, God consistently gives people a mission to accomplish which is unique (Genesis 1:26-31; 2nd Samuel 7:1-17; John 10:10).
- B) The will of God (e.g. Galatians 5:22-26) is different than mission. Mission is more characteristic of spiritual gifting (e.g. 1st Corinthians 12:4-11). In other words, mission is like God's "fingerprint" on your life, and (subsequently) your "fingerprint" on God's Kingdom.
- C) The heart of God's will is an expansion of His glory (His innate righteousness and goodness) into every crevice and corner of His creation. Creation (Psalm 19:1) and creatures (1st Corinthians 10:31), and even brokenness (John 11:4 & 40) are all for the expansion of God's glory.

- D) It is the intersection of God's glory being manifest in our lives that we find our "mission from God" (Philippians 2:9-11). Our earthly mission will not be complete until all things are subjected to the glory of God (Revelation 21, esp. vss. 22-27).

2) It Requires YOU...

- A) While we are all called to "do the will of God" (1st Thessalonians 4:3a; 1st John 2:17), we are not all called to do the same things (1st Corinthians 12:14-18).
- B) Because Christians (all of us, Romans 7:14-25) struggle with sin, many are hesitant to get involved. Feelings of inadequacy and futility drive many into becoming "undercover Christians" who are trying to conquer the basics before they get involved in body life (1st Corinthians 12:19-20).
- C) This kind of living amongst Christians leads to divisions in the body of Christ (1st Corinthians 12:25-26). Spectator Christianity and Superstar Christians can produce a malformed body without balance.
- D) The verdict? Long Beach Alliance Church needs YOU! God has designed it that way, and without YOU, we aren't what we are supposed to be. This requires YOU (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- E) It is time to dive into SOMETHING at church for every person who calls LBAC their home church. Mission can only be discovered through immersion in what God is doing (Acts 2:42-47). If you do nothing, you learn nothing. If you do something, You will learn your mission from God.

3) Some "Mission From God" Characteristics...

- A) **Mission is almost always rooted in where we've been.** God told the people to always remember Him (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, 12), and Jesus Christ reminded us that we needed to always remember Him (Luke 22:14-23). Our mission must be consistent with who God is, and where He is taking us.
- B) **Mission is dynamic and fluid.** It is always changing and seldom remains the same. Unlike vision (will of God stuff), mission changes as God develops our "body" (Acts 9; 13).
- C) **Mission leaks.** We need constant reminders about our mission. Without reminders (2nd Peter 2:11-12), newer people miss where God is taking us, experienced attenders tend to revert back to old patterns, and all of us end up in a place where we are asking ourselves, "How did we get here?"
- D) **Mission clarifies.** It helps us understand what we are here to do, and what we are not to do. While the "dartboard" of God is the whole world and infinite ministry possibilities, LBAC's "target" is much sharper and clarifies where we should be aiming (Hebrews 12:1-3).
- E) **Mission needs support.** It is the job of our church leadership (staff team, governing board, elder board) to allow for the unleashing of the mission "components" with clarity and support (Acts 20:27-31).
- F) **Mission requires investment.** As already stated, the mission requires YOU. Not just part, but ALL OF YOU. Some people have said it requires your "time, talents and treasure." Without investment, there is no reward (Matthew 25:14-30).