



WEEK 3 COVENANT PARTNER CLASS VIDEO SCRIPT

Vow #3 (Mission) By God's Grace, I will prayerfully partner with God in His mission to rescue the world and make followers of Jesus

- I have been saved for a purpose! God has a role for me in carrying out Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)
- I will build relationships with Christians and non-Christians alike, seeking to bring God's light and love to all I encounter (Matthew 22:36-40)
- I will partner with others financially and/or personally to reach the world with God's saving love (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

Outline

- The Great Commission
- Sharing the Good News in your Daily Life
- Volunteering with Impact
- Reaching Across the World

It is my pleasure to join you for this video, discussing vow #3, I will prayerfully partner with God in His mission to rescue the world and make followers of Jesus. I am Lori Boehning, Pastor of Congregational Life, and ... *[add any other brief introduction you like]*.

The last two videos discussed how we are being continually transformed by the Holy Spirit, both as individuals and within a community of believers. In this process, the magnitude of God's grace and the gift of being able to know and serve Him should impact every area of our lives. In particular, as we live out that commitment, we should desire to reflect the light of Christ to our world and share the joy of knowing Jesus with others. That can be very natural for some, and quite daunting for others. This week we'll discuss how we are making or can make that an integral part of our lives.

The Great Commission

In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus commissions His disciples:

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And they saw Him and worshipped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This had to be a daunting challenge, however God empowered them and encouraged them as challenges arose. It is amazing that out of this small group, taking this challenge to heart and following the Spirit's prompting, the early church began in Acts and has now spread worldwide. This happened because Christians throughout the ages have taken up the Great Commission and sought to spread the good news of Jesus' redeeming love.

Take a moment to pause this video and think about how you participate in the Great Commission. When did you last share your faith with others?

We can think this was intended for great evangelists, like Billy Graham, or committed missionaries, like Mother Teresa, who were called by God to full-time service. But it needs to be something we all feel called to do wherever God has planted us: in our neighborhood, workplace, grocery store, gym, or anywhere else we regularly go!

That can be really intimidating depending on the images it calls to mind. It need not be “in-your-face” evangelism, such as street preachers or door-to-door cold calling. In fact, while that may work for a few, there are better approaches to make a lasting change in a person’s life.

God calls us to be a light in our world, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16).

Sharing the Good News in your Daily Life

The most important thing is we must do is to reflect God’s love to those we encounter every day and not be afraid to speak when the opportunity arises. You will find it leads to some surprising conversations. The Holy Spirit will prompt us and the hardest thing is to not be so caught up in what we are doing that we miss hearing Him and lose that opportunity to talk with someone God has brought our way.

It takes intentionality and a sensitivity to the Spirit’s leading to build relationships in your daily life that may lead to opportunities to share your faith. It can be comfortable to focus our friends relationships with fellow Christians, and we need those. However, we encounter non-Christians regularly as we move through our daily activities and with some thought we can find opportunities to widen our circle of friends to include more non-Christians.

Be open to getting to know others. It may take some time to build a trusting relationship where another person may be open to hearing about your faith and how it has impacted your life. Be patient and persist. Then listen for the Spirit’s leading, opportunities for spiritual conversations.

Take a moment to pause this video and think about where you encounter non-Christians most in your daily life. Do you need to find a way to expand your opportunities to meet non-Christians?

If you don’t have many opportunities to build friendships with non-Christians, pray and ask God where He would have you meet non-Christians. Here are some ideas to consider:

- Think about your neighborhood —
 - ▶ Is there a neighbor that would like a walking partner?
 - ▶ Organizing a block party can be a great way to meet you neighbors.
 - ▶ Is there a neighbor that needs help with a particular task?
 - ▶ Is there someone you might invite over for coffee?
 - ▶ How else might you connect with your neighbors, maybe when walking your dog, doing yard work, or something else?
- Think about your workplace —
 - ▶ Who do you regularly chat with? Is it all superficial or can you use that time to get to know them better?
 - ▶ Could you take a short walk with a co-worker during a break once or twice a week?
 - ▶ Is there someone you could have lunch with every week or two?
 - ▶ How else might you connect with your co-workers, perhaps over a shared task, at a social event, or something else?
- Think about your daily activities —
 - ▶ Are there individuals you regularly interact with at the grocery store, gas station, laundromat, or a favorite restaurant? Can you be more intentional about seeing the same checker, service person, or other individual at that place of business repeatedly across several weeks?
 - ▶ Do you go to a gym, dog park, or other place regularly? Who do you interact with? How can you build repeated encounters with an individual to get to know them better?

- Think about a group you belong to or might join —
 - ▶ Interest groups such as a reading group, knitting group, hiking group, sports team, or other common interest group where you would naturally build friendships around that common interest
 - ▶ Community groups such as those sponsored through quarterly city or county recreation postings
 - ▶ Consider volunteering at a hospital or school or on a local government committee

If you want to read more about how people come to Jesus in today's culture, consider reading, *I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Skeptics Taught Us about Their Path to Jesus*, by Don Everts and Doug Schuapp.

Volunteering with Impact

Looking for more structured ways to participate in God's mission in our Valley? There are numerous opportunities to volunteer with local mission organizations where you can meet and impact those you work with or serve. Here are some great options: Medford Gospel Mission, Hearts with a Mission, the Pregnancy Center, Wilderness Trails, Family Nurturing Center an Crisis Relief Nursery, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Youth 71:Five Ministries, and more. You can learn more about these at our local Missions fair or by reaching out to the Mission Commission chair (call the church office at 541-773-8274 for contact information).

You will find highlights in WestLife about local opportunities where you could volunteer in our community or even within the church, such as our own early childhood, children and youth ministries, Washington School, Wood ministry, and more. See the rack of cards in the Narthex, just outside the Gathering Space, or outside the entrance to the Worship Hall. Also feel free to talk with any of our pastors or elders about options and get connected with others who are volunteering in the community.

Reaching Across the World

An easy way to have a broader impact is to support mission organizations through your tithe and gifts to WPC. Our Mission Commission works diligently to vet and support worthy organizations both regionally and across the world. You may also have missionaries or mission organizations that you have connected with that you want to support directly.

God also calls some to be a short- or long-term missionary. WPC sponsors some short-term mission opportunities you may want to consider, such as serving as an adult leader with one of our youth missions or participating an a short-term mission such working for a couple of weeks in the Mathari Valley sponsored through Sanctuary of Hope in Nairobi, Kenya. You'll see information about these opportunities in WestLife.

If you are feeling called to be a missionary (whether short- or long-term), please speak with one of the pastors. They can connect you with short term mission participants and retired full-time missionaries in our congregation that can provide guidance as you prayerfully consider God's leading in this area.

Closing

Thanks for watching this video! Your next step is to participate in the Week 3 discussion. You should get an email and/or text reminder. In preparation for that discussion, please spend some time reflecting on the four questions that came out of this video in the Week 3 Handout.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion Slide & Handout

- 1. When did you last share your faith with a others? Is there an instance you would be willing to share with the group?*
- 2. Where do you regularly encounter non-Christians in your daily life? How can you use those encounters to build friendships that may lead to sharing your faith?*
- 3. Is there a community group, a local mission organization, or an individual God's placed on your mind, where you could invest in building a friendship that may lead to sharing your faith?*
- 4. What is your biggest challenge to sharing your faith with a friend? How can we help you overcome that challenge?*