

ACTS 1:8

Session 12: “My Mission”

Getting Started

Learning Goal: Students will evaluate their personal and their church involvement in the Great Commission, and they will embrace the challenge of Acts 1:8.

What You Need to Know: As Christians, we are to prepare, learn, pray, and give, but we are not required to do so alone. God has provided the Holy Spirit to assist us, and we should be able to count upon other Christians around the world to offer their support.

Key/Memory Verses: Ephesians 6:11-12

Supporting Verses:

- Joshua 24:15
- Zechariah 4:6
- Matthew 9:38
- Luke 1:1-4
- John 4:34
- John 5:30
- John 9:4
- John 17:4
- Acts 2:44-45
- Acts 4:32-37
- Acts 11:19-24
- Acts 14:25-28
- Acts 15:1-3
- Acts 20:24
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- Ephesians 6:10-12
- Ephesians 6:18-20
- Philippians 4:15-19
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2
- James 1:22-23



Supply List

- ▶ Bibles (one per student)
- ▶ Your copy of Learner Worksheet 11-B (for review)
- ▶ Copies of Learner Worksheets 12-B and 12-C for all students
- ▶ Reproduction of Learner Worksheet 12-A
- ▶ Pens/pencils
- ▶ Scrambled-words poster from Session 1
- ▶ Chalk or markers for board
- ▶ Two (unused!) flyswatters (or as many teams as you anticipate for the Connect activity)
 - For Alternate Connect Activity: large piece of paper or poster board, markers, and a stop watch (optional)
- ▶ Video: *Dreamer in Action* (story of Annie Armstrong) (3:50)
- ▶ For alternate challenge activity: A small notebook for each student to be used as a journal each session

INTERNET RESOURCES

Acts 1:8 Challenge – www.ActsOne8.com

International Mission Board – www.imb.org

North American Mission Board – www.namb.net

Southern Baptist Convention – www.sbc.net

Prepare Ahead

- ▶ Reproduce Learner Worksheet 12-A on the board or large sheet of paper.
- ▶ Download video *Dreamer in Action* from www.ActsOne8.com.

Leader Background Study



The last two sessions offer a review of the unit. Read the Leader Background Study for both sessions as preparation for this session.

Read James 1:22-23. How closely does your church resemble the energized church of the New Testament? On a sheet of paper, create two columns. In the left column, list the ways in which your own church and its ministries reflect the mission of the New Testament church. In the right column, list the ways in which your local congregation and its ministries have room to grow. Use the following checklist as a guide:

Ministries through which my church takes the gospel to:

- the ends of the earth
- lost people on our continent
- lost people in our state
- lost people in our community

In which areas does your church demonstrate the most commitment? In which areas does your church need to focus more attention? You may wish to discuss these issues with fellow members of your congregation. Explain that you are preparing a lesson on the church's mission and that you would welcome input regarding what is going well and what could be improved.

Consider, for a moment, what it means to fulfill the commission found in Acts 1:8. How are we to approach Jesus' instructions regarding Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth? In his leader's guide, *The Acts 1:8 Challenge: Empowering the Church to Be on Mission*, Nate Adams asks whether we are to interpret Jesus' words about these locations literally, symbolically, geographically, ethnically, or culturally. His response? Yes! ... to all. He offers a framework for planning our involvement based on the following:

- **Calling.** Ask yourself how God is calling you and your church to take the good news of the gospel throughout the world.
- **Cultures.** Ask yourself in what ways you can reach the various people groups of the world, including those in distant countries. How about those in your neighborhood? How about those in between?
- **Church Planting.** Ask yourself what you can do to support missions efforts and methods being used to establish and nourish new and growing congregations of believers.
- **Cooperation.** Ask yourself how you can better cooperate with the mission of the church through giving, prayer, and sacrifice.
- **Challenges.** Ask yourself what you can do to make sure that you rely on the Holy Spirit to meet the challenges that stand between the church and the dissemination of the gospel.

Does the challenge seem overwhelming? If it were up to each of us, as individuals, to proclaim the gospel throughout the world, as well as within our own communities, we might be tempted to say "impossible," and give up. However, we do not pursue the mission alone. Christians throughout the world—and those within our own Southern Baptist family—stand ready to lend support through prayer and other resources.

Read through the lesson and review as necessary. Make sure you fill out your own copy of Learner Worksheet 12-C ahead of time, so that you will be free to assist students who may require guidance with the activity.

In order to do that, you will need to paraphrase Paul's mission statement as found in Acts 20:24; paraphrase Joshua's mission statement as found in Joshua 24:15; and paraphrase Jesus' mission as found in John 4:34; 5:30; 9:4; 17:4. Finally, you will need to prayerfully consider and write your own mission statement.



Connect: “Memory Verse Review on the Fly, Part 1” (15 minutes)

The last two sessions in this study serve as summary lessons that cover the eight responses to Jesus’ Acts 1:8 challenge to prepare, learn, pray, give, go, tell, send, and multiply. Memory verses for each previous session reinforce the Acts 1:8 commission. This week and next, students will review the verses. You will need to prepare key words ahead of time by writing them on a grid (you may use the whiteboard, chalkboard, or a large sheet of paper). Copy the grid that appears on Learner Worksheet 12-A.



Activity: “On the Fly”

Divide students into two teams (you may divide into more teams if you have a large group). For each question, a representative from each team will take a flyswatter and face the board. **Read** the following passages aloud; when you come to a word that is **bold**, pause and wait for the students to smack the correct word with the flyswatter. The first to hit the word wins a point for his or her team. **Ask** a student to keep track of the score. (If students are unable to supply the missing word, refer them to the corresponding Scripture reference so that they can look up the appropriate verse or verses.)

1. “As they were ministering to the Lord and **fasting**, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me **Barnabas** and Saul for the work that I have called them to.’ Then, after they had fasted, **prayed**, and laid hands on them, they **sent** them off” (Acts 13:2-3).
2. “Then Jesus came near and said to them, ‘All **authority** has been given to Me in **heaven** and on earth. 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 everything I have **commanded** you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age’ ” (Matthew 28:18-20).
3. “He told them: ‘The **harvest** is abundant, but the **workers** are few. Therefore, pray to the **Lord** of the **harvest** to send out workers into His harvest’ ” (Luke 10:2).
4. “Therefore I considered it **necessary** to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance the generous **gift** you promised, so that it will be ready as a gift and not an extortion. Remember this: the person who sows **sparingly** will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows **generously** will also reap generously” (2 Corinthians 9:5-6).



Alternate Activity (Older Students): “On the Fly—Your Way”

Have the groups create their own grids and test the other team(s); use a timer and see which team can answer their words more quickly.)



Coach: “Mapping a Strategy” (30 minutes)

Review last week’s memory verses, Acts 2:46-47. **Invite** students to recite the passage together aloud. **Repeat** as necessary.

Review Learner Worksheet 11-B, Mapping a Strategy. **Make sure** information is complete; **encourage** students to continue supporting one another through prayer and frequent contact via telephone, get-togethers, and e-mails.

Explain that you have covered a great deal of material in just a few sessions, and that in today’s session and in the next session, you will be reviewing important points. At the same time, you will be engaging in new activities so that students will gain deeper understanding of the biblical concepts behind the Great Commission, as well as grow in their understanding of the multiple roles they can play in fulfilling that mission.

Prepare

Draw attention to the scrambled-words poster created at the beginning of these sessions. Point to the word “Prepare.” **Explain** that when we are about to undertake an important task—whether that task is to play a game, perform in a concert, or study for an exam—preparation is key. **Invite** students to share obstacles to good preparation that stand in their way (*answers may include procrastination, not having the right equipment, not having a ride to a practice, not having adequate notes, and so on*).

Point out that several weeks ago, students discussed the importance of preparation in sharing the gospel. **Invite** a student to read Ephesians 6:10-12. **Ask** who or what our adversary is in reaching a lost world (*the devil*). **Invite** another student to read Zechariah 4:6. **Ask** what our primary resource is for reaching a lost world (“*‘by My Spirit,’ says the Lord.*”)

Learn

Remind students that as Christians, we need to be lifelong learners. We need to train others, and allow ourselves to be trained for areas of service; in addition, we need to be educated regarding missions and the needs of missionaries. **Read** (or have students read) the following passages aloud:

- Luke 1:1-4
- Acts 11:19-24
- Acts 14:25-28
- Acts 15:1-3

Ask:

- What did the disciples desire to learn from Jesus?
How to pray.
- Why did the Jerusalem church send Barnabas to Antioch?
To help new converts.
- What did Paul and Barnabas report concerning their missionary trip?
God “had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”
- What caused great happiness among the believers in Phoenicia and Samaria?
They learned that Gentiles were being saved.

Pray

Remind students that they can pray for Christian works and unevangelized peoples at any time. In fact, prayer is the most important activity in which they can engage.

Ask a student to write the following Scripture references on the board in three columns: Matthew 9:38; Ephesians 6:18-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2. **Invite** other students to read the passages aloud. As they do, **ask** students to listen for specific requests in each passage. Then have them list the requests beneath the appropriate passages (*Matthew—a prayer for soul-winners; Ephesians—an admonition to pray in the Spirit; a prayer for all believers; a prayer for boldness in speaking; 2 Thessalonians—a prayer that the message would spread rapidly; a prayer for protection from wicked men.*)

Give

Say that it can be both humbling and inspiring to read about the early church and how its members cared for each other and gave sacrificially to help others. **Invite** students to read the following passages about giving. **Have** students identify the key points of each passage.

- Acts 2:44-45 (*Believers shared with those in need.*)
- Acts 4:32-37 (*They weren’t selfish with their possessions; they shared.*)
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (*Believers begged for the privilege of sharing, even during financially tough times.*)
- Philippians 4:15-19 (*They generously supported Paul, a missionary.*)

Activity: “Life of Annie”

Distribute Learner Worksheet 12-B, which contains a monologue based on the life of missionary Annie Armstrong. Briefly **introduce** Annie, and **invite** a student to read aloud the testimonial while others listen.

Alternate Activity: “Annie in Person”

Ask a student with strong drama skills to review the monologue ahead of time and present the key points from memory (the presentation does not need to be a word-by-word performance.)



Show: *Dreamer in Action* (story of Annie Armstrong) (3:50)

Challenge: “Mission Statements” (15 minutes)

Distribute Learner Worksheet 12-C and pens/pencils. **Allow** students to work in small groups if they wish, with one student looking up each passage and reading it aloud. Students may then discuss what they will write as each mission statement. For the last statement, instruct students to take a few moments to reflect on what they have learned about missions in the previous lessons; they should pray silently regarding their own mission before completing the final assignment at the bottom of the page.

Journaling Option



Instruct students to compose their personal mission statements and be prepared to share in the next session.

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Directions: Reproduce the grid below on a chalkboard, whiteboard, or large sheet of paper. See additional directions in the “Connect” section of the lesson.

disciples	fasting	sparingly	prayed
harvest	necessary	reap	workers
heaven	commanded	sent	gift
Barnabas	Lord	authority	generously

Memory Verses

In addition to setting up the game, copy and post this week’s memory verses, Ephesians 6:11-12: “Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.”

Directions **Annie Walker Armstrong: Missionary**

The Acts 1:8 Challenge: Empowering the Church to Be on Mission *The New Lottie Moon Story*

Mission Statements

Paraphrase Paul's mission statement as found in Acts 20:24.

Paraphrase Joshua's mission statement as found in Joshua 24:15.

Paraphrase Jesus' mission as found in John 4:34; 5:30; 9:4; 17:4.

Now, in the space below, prayerfully write your own mission statement.