

Chapter 3: Own the Mission

Dig Deeper:

Read Romans 12:1-9

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his servicing; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 1 Cor. 12:4-11

This week we are going to do something a bit different. You should have brought along the Spiritual Gifts Analysis test either completed or ready to complete. Identifying gifts is a critical step in your family's pursuit of "the mission."

After you have completed the test, be sure to have your children take it, or else for younger children, answer for them to the best of your ability. It is likely that you will have to begin serving in some different capacities with your children in order to recognize some of their strengths and gifts.

Group Interaction:

- What are your gifts and strengths for ministry? Do you find yourself gravitating toward serving in those capacities in your family and church?
- Share ideas with the group of ways that your family has lived out the mission together in ways small or large.
- What is the difference in the outcome of serving within your area of gifting as opposed to not?

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- Do you think it is up to individuals and families to find/make a mission/vision to serve in, or do you think God will bring one to you? Or a little of both? Share from your experiences.

Bring it Home:

Try to discern the primary gifts of each of your children this week (have older children take the test). How might you facilitate them using their gifts...

- For the family
- For the unsaved in their circle of influence/friends?
- For their personal community?

This week, I will provide verses for you to share with your family, and I will let you come up with your own discussion questions, since you've had practice and an example!

Jesus taught His disciples to SACRIFICE...

Day 1: Read Matt. 10:37-38

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Day 2: Read Luke 14:33

"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."

Day 3: Read Mark 1:17-20

And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

Day 4: Read Matt. 19:21-22

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

Day 5: Read Matt. 19:27, 29

Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" [Jesus answered] "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life."

Day 6: Read Matt. 26:6-13

Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at the table. But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, "Why this waste? For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me. For you

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always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me. For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

Day 7: Read Matt. 16:25-26

"For whoever wishes to save his soul will lose it; but whoever loses his soul for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"