

Session 4: Developing a Mission-Minded Heart

Mission vs. Missions

God's mission: God's desire to make His name great so that people from every nation, tribe, and tongue might know and worship Him.

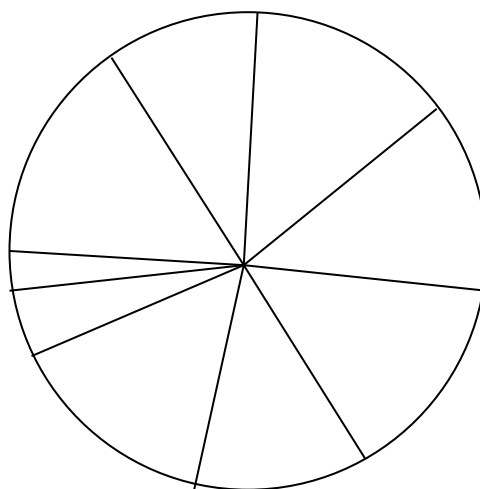
Missions: the local and global activity we do to help carry out God's mission.

A Piece or the Core?

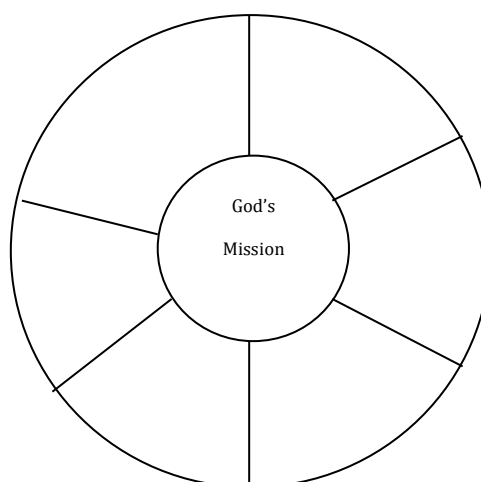
We want our kids to do missions, advancing God's kingdom both locally and globally, but we are not trying to develop activity-driven hearts.

But our goal is bigger than that. We want God's mission to be at the very core of who they are. It should influence all aspects of life, regardless of where they are or what they do in life.

Viewing *missions* as one segment of the Christian life:



Viewing *mission* as the core of our Christian life:



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Developmental Stages

As Christian young people become adults, their life choices are influenced by their developmental years, especially by the nature of the foundation they received up to age twelve.

Children develop in four key ways: physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

As parents, we should ask, “What can I do at each age to help children grow up knowing the person and purpose of Christ?”

Things to Keep in Mind

- Children across the globe develop in similar ways. However, factors like culture, family environment, and genetics can cause variations.
- Some children will develop faster than others; some will take more time. Feel free to adjust suggestions on the development chart based on where your children are.
- As you try new things, you will discover if your children need to slow down and start with simpler tasks, or are ready to move ahead into deeper levels of learning and experience.
- Continue to build upon whatever you do so you are always challenging children to go deeper and grow in their relationship with God and their understanding of the world He so loves.
- The goal is to help each child embrace God’s mission in a way that is understandable for him at his age and developmental stage.
- In your activities, aim for consistency more than quantity. This is about building habits.
- Remember that each life stage is an opportunity for children to say “yes!” to God in new ways as they develop and grow in their faith.
- If you have children in different age groups, it is important to remember that you will likely never have a Bible lesson or devotional that will connect with every child every time.
- Sometimes you will have devotional times that connect more with your youngest children. These times may include lots of music, dancing, playing, and simple Bible themes.
- To include older children, have conversations with them later that go deeper on the topic.