FAITH AT HOME
Acts 2:39 Missional Families
LEADER’S GUIDE
7-week study to equip the family to be on mission
For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself. ACTS 2:39

Introduction

Do families in your congregation see their homes or neighborhoods as a mission field? While communities are growing around our churches, attendance on Sunday mornings is suffering. Why is this happening? Could it be that parents are not equipped to engage their homes and communities with the gospel?

In Acts 2, the Bible records Peter’s brilliant sermon on the day of Pentecost. As he was speaking, the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of those who were listening. They anxiously pleaded with Peter, “What must we do to be saved?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized.”

As the people confessed and were baptized, the Lord graciously gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. But Peter did not stop there. He let them know that salvation and the Holy Spirit wasn’t only for them but for their children and for all people (v. 39).

In following the command of the New Testament, the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Resource is intended to equip and encourage families to be missional in their homes and neighborhoods.

This study is designed to help parents discover new ways to be intentional in fulfilling the Great Commission at home and in their communities.

This seven week, easy to use study is ideal for both Sunday School and small group settings.

Join us on the journey to equip parents to live a missional Acts 2:39 lifestyle.

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

This resource was designed by church leaders for church leaders as a way to equip and encourage families to be missional in their homes and neighborhoods.

We recommend that church leaders invite parents with children in their homes to participate in this seven-week study. Each session is designed to function within a Sunday School and/or small group setting and will consist of the following:

- Week 1 — Introduction of the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Study
- Week 7 — Discussion of the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide & Be Faithful Lesson

There are three components to this seven-week study. The Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide, Acts 2:39 Leader’s Guide and weekly videos. The parent devotional guide is intended to help parents as they discover new ways to be intentional about fulfilling the Great Commission in their homes and neighborhoods. The Leader’s Guide is to be utilized by the small group facilitator for organization of the study. There are weekly videos for both the leader and parents.

EXPECTATION OF THE MISSIONAL FAMILY GROUP LEADER

Remember that for many families, this is going to be something completely new in their homes. As a result, parents will probably face some feelings of inadequacy or insecurity and doubt. This is why it is imperative that you are actively praying for and encouraging group members throughout the duration of this study.

It is equally important that you follow up with those in your group after the completion of your time together. An Acts 2:39 missional families mindset is not a box to be checked but rather a lifestyle to be lived which, like any culture, takes time to develop.

As the missional family group leader, it is our prayer that you would also be intentional in identifying which families could be equipped and empowered to lead another group of families through the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide. The more families we have leading other families to embrace an Acts 2:39 missional families mindset, the greater our ability to see the Great Commission fulfilled in our communities.

In the end, love doesn’t just keep thinking about it or keep planning for it. Simply put: love does.

BOB GOFF

MISSIONAL FAMILY GROUP GATHERINGS

In the section below titled Acts 2:39 Missional Families Group Leader’s Study Guide, we have provided a brief Lesson Overview and Key Points for each week to help you facilitate the group’s weekly discussions. This overview is to assist you in preparing families for the upcoming week’s devotions and the next gathering. These overviews and commentaries are not meant to be read aloud word for word. Instead, they are intended to help you guide the group discussions and to equip parents in thinking through what they will be learning.

We recommend that you gather with your missional family group each week for approximately one hour. While you have the freedom to use your group time as you choose, we recommend breaking your gathering time down in the following way:

1. Engage (Connect with your group members)
   a. Talk with families and see how their week has been in general.

2. Encourage (Hold parents accountable)
   a. Talk with your group about their devotional times last week. (Did you do them?)
   b. Did they connect with their neighbors? (What did this look like and what was the result?)
   c. Did they memorize the weekly memory verse?
(Who memorized the verse for this week?)

3. Equip (Help them learn to know and obey the Word of God.)
   a. Discuss what they learned from the scriptural passages they read last week and how that relates to the weekly theme (e.g. Loving God).
   b. Discuss the importance of what they have learned and how that relates to an Acts 2:39 missional families mindset.

4. Empower (Challenge them to fulfill their role of disciple-maker.)
   a. Give an overview of what will be covered in the upcoming week and encourage them in the areas that challenged them last week. Remind them of what it means to have an Acts 2:39 missional families mindset in the home, our responsibility as Christ-followers to fulfill the Great Commission and, most important, the gospel of Jesus Christ and everyone’s eternal need for this good news.
   b. Close in prayer.

The weekly leader video segment is designed to help encourage you as the leader and to help you highlight a particular key point during your weekly teaching time. Go to www.missionalfamilies.org for the weekly leader video segments.

**ACTS 2:39 MISSIONAL FAMILIES PARENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

The Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guides are provided to help equip parents develop an Acts 2:39 missional families mindset in their homes. In Acts 2:39, the apostle Peter responds to the crowd by saying, “. . . the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” (CSB) Peter, in his Jewishness, understood the necessity of a multigenerational effort in fulfilling the Great Commission. Yet, fulfilling the Great Commission begins with our decision to surrender to Christ and then out of that decision flows a lifestyle of following Christ, reaching our neighbors, and leading our family to do the same. As such, an Acts 2:39 missional families mindset embraces and involves a multi-generational approach for making disciples of the next generation.

**THE ACTS 2:39 MISSIONAL FAMILIES PARENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDE LAYOUT**

In an effort to help families continue to grow in their relationship with the Lord and become more confident in fulfilling the Great Commission, we have outlined this study in the following way:

- Week 2: Love God
- Week 3: Love God’s Word
- Week 4: Be Transformed by God’s Word
- Week 5: Love Others – Be Missional
- Week 6: Be Tactful
- Week 7: Be Faithful

Week 1 consists of five devotions for only the parents to read on their own to help them establish a rhythm of Bible reading before introducing the study to their children. The first week also gives an overview of upcoming weekly topics and questions to discuss. Weeks 2 – 7 are intended for the entire family to enjoy reading together and contain questions to encourage conversations. Selected Scripture references and a brief commentary on those verses are provided with each devotion. As your group uses the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide, direct them to use their favorite Bible translation. Encourage families to set aside 5 to 10 minutes each day to complete the daily Bible reading. Help them discover easy ways they can accomplish this task as they “sit at home and when you walk down the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

**WEEKLY CLASS VIDEO**

The weekly video is designed to help encourage your group, especially in the middle portion of the Bible study. It is our hope that those in your group will press on to finish the study with their families. Go to www.missionalfamilies.org for the weekly class videos.

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1 Deuteronomy 6:7
FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS
In Weeks 2 – 7, families are encouraged to discuss the question(s) at the end of each devotional. These questions are intended to foster conversations leading to greater understanding and application of Scripture. The questions are divided into three age groups: younger children (preschool), older children (elementary school) and students (middle & high school). At each weekly group meeting, you will have time to ask parents to share their responses to the Conversation Starters. Therefore, you may want to encourage your group members to make notes or keep a journal of their families’ conversations.

CONNECTING TO YOUR NEIGHBOR ACTIVITY
We have provided a Connecting to Your Neighbor Activity in weeks 2 – 7, in hopes that families will have more time to focus on connecting with their neighbors. We have also provided an additional list of suggestions in Appendix 1 of the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide. You may need to assist parents in properly applying these activities based on the context of the community in which they live (e.g. urban housing, suburban neighborhoods, apartments, condominiums, trailer parks or rural communities). Families who live in apartment complexes may need to apply the Connecting to Your Neighbor Activity differently than those who live in rural areas.

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE
Challenge your group to memorize the Scripture passages listed in Weeks 2 – 7. Remember, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS
We have provided Engagement Tools that coincide with the theme of the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide. In Weeks 2 – 7, lead families in discovering how each tool is designed to help them be more intentional with their prayer focus and conversations. Take some time to familiarize yourself and your group with these tools.

- Weeks 1 & 2: www.BlessEveryHome.com
- Week 6: Adults: 3 Circles – www.vimeo.com/ncbaptistvideotraining/3circles
  Kids: 3 Circles – www.vimeo.com/ncbaptist/3circlesforchildren

“...The more you read the Bible, and the more you meditate on it, the more you will be astonished with it...
CHARLES SPURGEON

Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)
In this initial meeting, take time to introduce exactly what you are challenging parents to do with week 1 parent only devotionals and weeks 2-7 entire family devotionals. Additionally, spend some time getting to know their context, such as their family dynamics and community settings. Keep in mind that many of these parents may not be intentionally seeking to fulfill the Great Commission at home or in their neighborhood, and that this may be a new concept to them. We encourage you to ask the following questions:

1. What is your family dynamic? (Marital status? How many children? Age of children?)
3. What is the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:18-20? (Read and discuss.)

Following this discussion, introduce the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide and share how it can be used effectively. For your convenience, we have provided a general outline below:

1. Distribute the Acts 2:39 Missional Families parent devotional guide to each family.
3. Discuss Week 1 – Preparing for the Acts 2:39 Missional Families parent devotionals
4. When your group begins reading weeks 2 – 7:
   I. Explain the importance of the Family Conversation Starter and how it is intended to work in each family devotional time during weeks 2 – 7.
   II. Review the Connecting to Your Neighbor Activity, and give an example of what this could look like in their given context. Remember, if an activity does not fit the context of a class member’s neighborhood, go to Appendix – I for more ideas.
   III. Discuss the importance of the Weekly Memory Verse and how that corresponds with growing in relationship with Christ.
5. Give your group a preview of the upcoming week’s devotional using the lessons provided in the Preparing Your Group for the Upcoming Week section of the leader’s guide.
WEEK 2

Last week’s look back:

1. Devotional readings:
   a. Did anyone have questions about the reading last week?
   b. How easy, or difficult, was it to complete the devotional readings last week?
2. Would anyone in the group like to share about how the Lord is working through this study in their homes?

Preparing your group for the upcoming week: Love God

This first lesson will be foundational to the entire seven-week study. In this week’s reading, your missional family group will study Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:36-39, Mark 12:28-31 and John 14:15. The goal is to help those in your group deepen their love relationship with the Lord. As their love for the Lord increases, help them develop a sense of urgency for lost people in their homes and neighborhoods.

As you prepare your group for the family devotional times, help them understand the greatness of God through His names. Read the verses listed above. To help you prepare for your teaching time, study the Love God: Lesson Overview and Key Points and ask your members the Group Conversation Questions provided below.

Love God: Lesson Overview and Key Points – Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Moses says in Deuteronomy 6:5, “Love the LORD (Jehovah: the existing One) your God (Elohim: true God) with all your heart, soul and strength” (Summarized from the NIV). The Lord invites His followers to love Him with all that they are and possess, totally surrendering to Him and holding nothing back. The Lord held nothing back when He sent His Son to give true life now and rest in Him for eternity, to anyone who puts their faith and trust in Him.

When we focus our love on Him, our relationship grows deeper, and He uniquely reveals Himself through our situations and circumstances. As we live out our faith each day, the Lord becomes more personal and shows Himself to us in new ways. Worship the Lord with your group by reading the verses below. As you read them, point out the greatness of our God.
WEEK 2

MISSIONAL FAMILIES
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2. “The Lord My Shepherd” (Jehovah-Raah) – Genesis 48:15, Psalm 23:1
7. “The I AM” (The One who always existed, is all powerful and never changes) - Exodus 3:14

The Lord is madly in love with us and wants our surrendered hearts solely devoted to Him. As our love for Him deepens, our spouses cannot help but notice. When God’s Word has authority over our minds, actions and attitudes, our child’s watchful eyes pay attention. When we strive to display our great love for the Lord in every aspect of our lives, our neighbors will be drawn to the One we worship. Therefore, love the Lord with everything you have!

**Group Conversation Questions:**

1. Ask each group member to share the story of how they came to faith in Jesus.
2. From the list of names above, ask your group members: “Has the Lord ever shown Himself to you as ‘The Most High God,’ etc...?”
3. Ask your group: “Based on the way God loves us, how should we love others?”
4. Read James 2:8 and discuss ways we can show love to our neighbors in the coming days.

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**Reminders for the upcoming week:**

1. Daily Devotional Readings
2. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge: Deuteronomy 6:4-5
3. Engagement Tools: www.BlessEveryHome.com
   Encourage everyone in your small group or Sunday School class to go to www.BlessEveryHome.com and sign up to be a prayer warrior in their neighborhood. They will be able to use interactive maps, pray for their neighbors by name, track and make notes each time they care for and connect with their neighbors, keep their neighbors’ prayer requests and celebrate those who receive Christ.

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3 For more names of God go to: www.blueletterbible.org and search using “Names of God.”
Begin by encouraging your group to think missionally inside and outside their homes. This week’s lesson will be focused on loving His Word. Start by reviewing last week’s lesson.

Last week’s look back:
1. Memory Verse Challenge
2. Devotional readings:
   a. Does anyone have questions about the reading last week?
   b. Did anyone try any of the Connecting to Your Neighbor Activities? If so, how did they go?
   c. Engagement Tool: Did you login to www.BlessEveryHome.com?
3. Would anyone like to share about how the Lord is working through this study in their homes?
4. Will anyone share about how the Lord is working through this study in their neighborhoods?
5. Does anyone have questions regarding:
   a. Last week’s theme: Love God?
   c. Family Conversation Starters?
   d. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge?
   e. Engagement Tools?

Preparing your group for the upcoming week: Love God’s Word
In this week’s reading, your missional family group will study Joshua 1:8-9, Hebrews 4:12, Psalms 1:1-6, Psalms 119:105-106 and Matthew 4:2-4. The goal is to help these families deepen their love for God by helping them develop an insatiable hunger for the Bible. As their desire for His Word grows, you will see their hearts transformed and their desire to be missional both inside and outside of their homes soar.

As you prepare your group for the upcoming family devotions, help parents understand their need to surrender to the Holy Spirit. Then help them see how the Holy Spirit uses their love of the Lord to deepen their love for His Word. Study the Love God’s Word: Lesson Overview and Key Points in preparation for your teaching time. Afterward, use the Group Conversation Questions to help apply the lesson to their lives.

Love God’s Word: Lesson Overview and Key Points – Ephesians 5:18
As we build on last week’s theme to Love God, this lesson will help parents see the Bible in an entirely different light. The way we are able to love God is by loving
WEEK 3

His Word. This week your group will read a variety of passages designed to deepen their love of Scripture.

Begin by helping your group understand one of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit in their lives. As believers read their Bibles, the Holy Spirit teaches them. However, every follower of Christ has a responsibility to be in right relationship with the Holy Spirit and live a surrendered life. As we surrender to the Spirit and His teaching, He reveals God’s amazing truth through the reading of His Word. The more they read, the more they learn. When reading and learning God’s Word occurs, the Spirit kindles an unquenchable fire that grows our hunger, gratitude and awe of God and His Son. In other words, He grows our love for the Lord. We call this the read – learn – love cycle.

How can moms and dads be connected to the Holy Spirit and develop an insatiable hunger for God’s Word? There are three important truths to consider:

1. Acknowledge the Holy Spirit as our Teacher

   Outside of the Bible, what is your favorite book? Imagine if the author was seated beside you to answer questions and help you understand their work. No doubt, you would get more from your reading. When a believer reads Scripture, the Author of the Book is not sitting beside you but rather lives inside you. The Bible says, “Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.” Who better to be our teacher. Hebrews 4:12 tells us He knows our thoughts, attitudes, strengths, weaknesses and our sin. He not only knows the mind of God, He knows us better than we know ourselves.

   When you, a Spirit-filled follower of Christ, read the Bible, He speaks directly to your heart and mind. As you study, He is ready to answer any questions and help you understand the Word to transform you — and every believer — into the image of Christ. The Holy Spirit is not interested in believers acquiring a “head-knowledge” of the Bible alone. As important as knowing facts about Scripture is, the Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture in order to challenge, encourage and convict us of our sin.

2. Allow the Holy Spirit to do His Work

   Before we can truly begin loving God and His Word, believers need to understand the Holy Spirit’s role and our proper response to His work in our lives.

   a – The filling of the Holy Spirit is a command. Ephesians 5:18 says, “be filled with the Spirit.” This command is imperative. Imperative means it is not optional. Every believer is commanded to be filled and controlled by the Spirit. This command is passive. This means we do not fill ourselves. The filling comes from an outside source — the Holy Spirit. This command is also in the present tense. This means the filling is a repeated event. Therefore, not to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a grievous sin.

   b – To be filled, there must be a desire to be filled. Jesus said: “If anyone thirst or hunger, he will be filled.” Are you thirsty, or even desperate, for a closer walk with God? Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit controls you, you will have a hunger and a thirst to know and grow in God.

   c – To be filled, you must confess and turn from all the known sin in your life. Confession of sin is critical. Paul says, “Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”

   When we come to be filled with the Spirit, we have to confess our sins before the Lord. We have to say,

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4 1 Corinthians 2:10 (CSB)
5 Matthew 5:6; John 7:37 (verses summarized)
6 2 Corinthians 7:1
“God, if there is any sin in my life, if there’s something I’m doing that isn’t pleasing to You, put your finger on it.” Parents and children need to follow the example of Psalms 139:23-24: “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me.” In other words, show me my sins, Lord, and I will confess them and turn from them.

You can’t be filled with the Holy Spirit while you’re harboring pet sins. Maybe it’s a place you go, a relationship, a form of entertainment or a habit — something you know violates God’s standards. You will never be filled with the Holy Spirit of God until you confess it and forsake it. The Holy Spirit is not just a title. That’s who He is, and He doesn’t enjoy living in an unclean environment. If there is known, unconfessed sin in your life, the Holy Spirit will not take control. “Holiness” and sin are contradictory. The very fact of your sin is evidence that He is not in control.

d – The filling of the Holy Spirit requires surrender. Surrender is more than saying, “I will rededicate my life” or “I will be committed.” When we surrender, we let Him set the terms.

3. Let the Word give you Delight and Joy
When we read God’s Word, the Holy Spirit is eager to teach us. This is His responsibility. Trust it. However, it is our responsibility to allow the Holy Spirit to do the necessary work in our hearts and lives so that we can receive His teaching. Once we have confessed our sins and surrendered to Him, we have positioned ourselves to hear from the very heart of God. As the Spirit teaches, we learn God’s truth and He increases our understanding. Through this process, we see God more clearly and then naturally fall more in love with Him.

Falling in love with the Bible consists of a continuous cycle of reading — learning — loving the inerrant Word of God.

For this reason, Jeremiah said, “Your words were found, and I ate them. Your words became a delight to me and the joy of my heart, for I bear your name, LORD God of Armies.”

**Group Conversation Questions:**
1. Is reading your Bible just a task to check off each day? Why or why not?
2. What are some things we can do on a daily basis that will help us live a Spirit-filled life?
3. How do you think the Holy Spirit and our learning of the Bible are connected?
4. Do you love studying the Bible? If so, what motivates you to read it daily?
5. Read Colossians 3:16. Is this occurring in your life? If so, explain. If not, what is a competing desire of your heart?
6. Would anyone like to share with the group what their daily time in God’s Word looks like?

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This passage is adapted from the Missional Families Leader Guide. All references are from the CSB (Christian Standard Bible) version.
Continue encouraging your group to think missionally. This week’s lesson will focus on being transformed by His Word. Begin by reviewing last week’s lesson.

**Last week’s look back:**
1. Memory Verse Challenge
2. Devotional readings:
   a. Does anyone have questions about the reading last week?
   b. Did anyone try any of the Connecting to Your Neighbor Activities? If so, how did they go?
   c. Engagement Tools:
      i. How is www.BlessEveryHome.com going?
      ii. How is Praying for My Neighbors going?
      iii. How is Praying for the Harvest going?
3. Would anyone like to share about how the Lord is working through this study in their homes?
4. Would anyone like to share about how the Lord is working through this study in their neighborhoods?
5. Does anyone have questions regarding:
   a. Last week’s theme: Love His Word?
   c. Family Conversation Starters?
   d. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge?
   e. Engagement Tools?

**Preparing your group for the upcoming week: Be Transformed by God’s Word**

We are moving into week 4 of the missional family group gatherings and, while your parents may or may not be as far along as you had hoped at this point, make sure to celebrate and encourage whatever growth you are seeing in your group. Encouragement is imperative in their journey to becoming missional families.

In the upcoming week, we will build on the foundation that was established in Week 1. Your group will be reading Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 5:17-18, Galatians 5:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3-11 and 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. These passages will help them begin to understand the power of the Word of God in transforming the life of a believer. They will see the power that the Word of God has to transform their desire — and ability — to live for Christ and to lead their families and neighbors to live for Christ also.
As you equip your group for their family devotional times, emphasize the spiritual growth you have experienced from daily time in God’s Word. To prepare for teaching time, study the Be Transformed by God’s Word: Lesson Overview and Key Points and ask your group members the Group Conversation Questions provided below.

Be Transformed by God’s Word: Lesson Overview and Key Points – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the apostle Paul reveals the profitable nature of spending time in the Word of God. Paul writes these words after sharing with Timothy the difficulties that will come to those who choose to “live a godly life in Christ Jesus.” It is interesting to note that Paul’s solution to the wickedness of the world is for Timothy to hold fast to the “sacred Scriptures.” It is important for parents to understand the value of not only believing that God’s Word is true but also developing a lifestyle of living out God’s truth daily in their homes and neighborhoods.

Paul reveals four truths regarding how God’s Word is profitable and can transform the life of a believer:
1. Teaching — Doctrine or foundational truths such as Creation (Genesis 1-2), the Fall of Man (Genesis 3) and the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15), which guide our understanding of how we are to interact with and live in the world.
2. Rebuking — Conviction that we are not living as God commands, and the prompting that we repent of this revealed sin and believe in the gospel.
3. Correcting — Instructions on how we can return to a right relationship with God and walk according to His commands.
4. Training in Righteousness — Principles that enable us to discipline ourselves to remain on the path God has defined.

Now that you have explained how God’s Word is profitable to them, be sure to make the connection to transformation in the life of a believer. In verse 17, Paul gives a description of one who is in the Word and applying it daily — they will be complete and equipped for every good work. They will be spiritually prepared and ready to do whatever God has called them to do because they have been transformed by God’s Word.

Group Conversation Questions:
1. Do you consider daily Bible study to be a difficult task? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think biblical application is Paul’s solution to wickedness in the world?
3. Of the four truths given above, which do you consider the most difficult to apply? Why? What about with your family?

Reminders for the upcoming week:
1. Daily Devotional Readings
2. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge: Romans 12:2
3. Engagement Tools: Initiating Spiritual Conversations (Appendix – 4)

With this resource, you will help your group members think through how to have natural, unforced conversations with their family members and neighbors that ultimately lead to deeper spiritual discussions. Encourage those in your group to choose questions they are most comfortable asking.

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8 2 Timothy 3:12
9 You could also explain these four truths this way: God’s Word reveals to us the path that everyone should be walking on daily (teaching) and when we are no longer on that path (rebuking). Then, it points us in the right direction to get back to the right path (correcting) and shows us how to stay on this path (training in righteousness).
Now that Week 4 is in the books, continue encouraging your group to love the Lord, love His Word and allow the Word to transform every part of their lives. This week you will lead your missional family group gathering to Love Others – Be Missional.

Last week’s look back:
1. Memory Verse Challenge
2. Devotional readings:
   a. Did anyone have questions about the reading last week?
   b. Did anyone try any of the Connecting to Your Neighbor Activities? If so, how did they go?
   c. Engagement Tools:
      i. How is www.BlessEveryHome.com going?
      ii. How is Praying for My Neighbors going?
      iii. How is Praying for the Harvest going?
      iv. How is Initiating Spiritual Conversations going?
3. Would anyone in the group like to share about how the Lord is working through this study in their homes?
4. Would anyone in the group like to share about how the Lord is working through this study in their neighborhoods?
5. Does anyone have questions regarding:
   a. Last week’s theme: Be Transformed?
   c. Family Conversation Starters?
   d. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge?
   e. Engagement Tools?

Preparing your group for the upcoming week: Love Others – Be Missional
As you prepare your group for family devotional times, help them hear God’s call to love others and think missionally in their homes and neighborhoods. In the upcoming week’s reading, your group will study in their Devotion Guide Acts 1:8-9, Romans 13:9-10, Romans 15:1-2, Matthew 28:19-20, Matthew 5:43-44 and Mark 16:14-15.

As our relationship with Christ deepens, we discover our need to surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit so He can transform us into the likeness of Jesus. To help prepare for your class teaching time, study the Love Others – Be Missional: Lesson Overview and Key Points and ask your missional family group gathering class members the
WEEK 5

Missional Family Group Gathering

Group Conversation Questions provided below.

Love Others – Be Missional: Lesson Overview and Key Points – Acts 2:14-39

In the book of Acts, the church comes to life. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit bursts onto the scene during the Day of Pentecost. When He arrives, He fills all believers with His power. Beginning in Acts 2:14, Peter preaches from portions of Joel and Psalms. His words “cut to the heart”10 prompted those who heard to ask Peter and the other apostles a significant question: “Brothers, what shall we do?”11

1. The Work of the Holy Spirit Through the Word

Obviously, the Holy Spirit was at work that day. The crowds listening were shaken to the core by Peter’s bold proclamation of truth. Their response helps us understand what happened on the Day of Pentecost more clearly. When the gospel is preached, there is conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit. As Peter pointed out in Acts 2:23, the people listening knew they were responsible for Jesus’ death. Yet God was now calling them to salvation. They knew they needed to do something and asked what to do next. What a praise! As believers, Mark 16:15 tells us we also need to proclaim the gospel when the Holy Spirit gives us the opportunity. Whether we’re speaking with someone in the next room or down the street, the Lord is always working to draw the lost to Himself.

2. The Proper Response to the Word

In Acts 2:28, Peter tells his audience to “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (NKJV). Peter gives those seeking the Lord an action plan. Salvation does not just passively happen; you must repent and be baptized. Of course, God is the One who does the saving through the completed work of Jesus’ life, death, burial and resurrection. However, the lost receive the free gift of eternal life by placing their faith in Jesus Christ. Then their faith leads them to the action of repentance and baptism. In the interest of clarity, let’s define the following terms:

a – Repentance – To repent does not mean to feel sorry for your sin. Repentance means to change your mind or direction and embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord because your heart is broken as a result of your sin against God. You are turning from disobedience to obedience to God by living your life according to His Word.

b – Baptism – This was the second directive Peter gave to Christ-followers. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 states: “Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer’s faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer’s death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord’s Supper.” Of course, faith in Christ and a repentant heart are what saves a person. The action of baptism does not, as stated in Luke 23:43. However, the act of baptism symbolizes a person’s desire to follow Christ and obey His Word.

The Intended Recipients of the Word

Peter makes it clear in Acts 2:39 who God has targeted with the gospel. He says, “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar

10 Acts 2:37a
11 Acts 2:37b
off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (NKJV). As people repent and surrender their lives to Jesus Christ, the gift of the Holy Spirit is given to them. Peter points out that the promise of the Holy Spirit is not only for the person who hears and receives the gospel but also to be shared with all people.

Notice the progression in Peter’s instruction. He says, “to your children, and to all who are afar off” (NKJV). For parents, it is only natural to share the good news with the people God has entrusted to us. God has specifically placed their children in their homes and in their care. Therefore, parents are to share the gospel with the people closest to them. At the same time, we are to share God’s story of redemption with the people He has placed within walking distance of our homes, those we work with, extended family, friends and acquaintances.

**Group Conversation Questions:**
1. Are we responsible for the death of Jesus? If so, how?
2. In Acts 2, how did Peter use his knowledge of the Bible (Old Testament) and his relationship with Christ to share the gospel with the crowd?
3. Do you know how to share the gospel? If so, explain.
4. Can you name anyone inside or outside of your home who needs to hear the gospel?
5. How have you used Connecting to Your Neighbor Activity resources in the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide?

**Reminders for the upcoming week:**
1. Daily Devotional Readings
2. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge: Acts 1:8
3. Engagement Tools: Sharing My Story (Appendix – 5)
   Use this resource to help your group members write and share their story of how God has transformed their lives. They will answer important questions based on their personal faith journey. Help them think through their personal story before they came to Christ, their personal encounter with Christ and their changed lives today.
As we move toward the end of the study, be sure to encourage your group by reminding them of their progress since beginning this journey. It is important that you reiterate the four main truths they have discovered and applied thus far: Love God, Love God’s Word, Be Transformed by His Word and Love Others — Be Missional. Emphasize that these truths should be lived out daily if we want to see our homes and neighborhoods transformed by the gospel.

Last week’s look back:
1. Memory Verse Challenge
2. Devotional readings:
   a. Did anyone have questions about the reading last week?
   b. Did anyone try any of the Connecting to Your Neighbor Activities? If so, how did they go?
   c. Engagement Tools:
      I. How is www.BlessEveryHome.com going?
      II. How is Praying for My Neighbors going?
      III. How is Praying for the Harvest going?
      IV. How is Initiating Spiritual Conversations going?
      V. How is Sharing My Story going?
3. Will anyone in the group share about how the Lord is working through this study in their homes?
4. Will anyone in the group share about how the Lord is working through this study in their neighborhoods?
5. Does anyone have questions regarding:
   a. Last week’s theme: Love Others — Be Missional?
   c. Family Conversation Starters?
   d. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge?
   e. Engagement Tools?

Preparing your group for the upcoming week: Be Tactful
With only one week left of the missional family group gathering, be sure to celebrate the journey these parents have traveled during the last five weeks. Some may have traveled further than others, but encourage all parents and affirm them in the growth you have seen. In the beginning of your time together, ask parents to share
some positive things they have seen in their homes and neighborhoods since they started doing the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotionals.

Over the next week, we are going to be looking at the importance of being tactful as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission. Group members will be working through 2 Timothy 1:7-8, Romans 9:33-10:1, Philippians 1:9-11, Matthew 5:9-10 and Colossians 2:6-7. As they read and discuss these passages of Scripture, those in your group are going to see the relationship between pursuing Christ daily and their ability to be tactful in fulfilling the Great Commission. It is by growing in Christ and following the Holy Spirit’s leading that we are equipped and empowered to proclaim the gospel in our homes and neighborhoods effectively.

As you equip your group for their family devotional times, be sure to help them see how each week has contributed to their foundation for Great Commission living and how this week is going to be no different. To prepare you for this week’s teaching time, study the Be Tactful: Lesson Overview and Key Points and ask your members the Group Conversation Questions provided below.

Be Tactful: Lesson Overview and Key Points

Being tactful refers to a person’s ability to discern what to say or do in order to further the potential for gospel conversations. It requires preparation for handling difficult or sensitive situations that will arise when opportunities for sharing the gospel occur. We must not forget that opportunities for sharing the gospel are not always going to be ideal or even safe.12 After commissioning the 12 disciples, Jesus tells them that they are being sent out among wolves and, as a result, they must be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves.13

There are three aspects to consider when it comes to being tactful among wolves:

1. **We are the sheep Jesus sends out among wolves.** We must lead our families in obedience to the Great Commission regardless of comfort or safety.

2. **We are wise as serpents in the midst of the wolves.** We should teach our families wisdom to use words that build relationships rather than tear them apart.

3. **We are harmless as doves in the midst of the wolves.** We strive to live a pure life where, even in the midst of a difficult situation, we are not rude, confrontational or disrespectful. Instead, we are calm, level-headed, considerate and seeking the other person’s good.

If we are going to live out the Great Commission and lead our families to do likewise, tactfulness is something we must develop. Yet, tactfulness is only developed through intentional interactions with others for the purpose of sharing the gospel. It is when we engage those who are lost with the gospel, both in word and in deed, that we will find ourselves in disagreements or come across sensitive situations that require us to be wise with our words and harmless with our actions. Therefore, since families deal with disagreements and sensitive situations all the time, start developing tactfulness in your home with your children.

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12 Use this illustration to share with your group a real-life example of being tactful in sharing the gospel (www.abcnews.go.com/US/faith-stops-florida-robbery/story?id=11288067)

13 Matthew 10:16
**Group Conversation Questions:**
1. Do you think the Great Commission calls us to go into dangerous situations? Why or why not?
2. How does using our words wisely help us build relationships for the gospel?
3. How do our actions affect our opportunity to communicate the gospel to others?
4. Who or where are the wolves that Jesus is sending your family to proclaim the gospel?

**Reminders for the upcoming week:**
1. Daily Devotional Readings
2. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge: 2 Timothy 1:8
3. Engagement Tools: Sharing His Story
   - Sharing His Story is the greatest privilege believers are given. There are many ways to tell someone about Christ. We have access to a variety of great tools. However, we would like you to consider sharing the following websites with your group and help them learn how to share the gospel using the 3 Circles.

   **Adults:** 3 Circles – www.vimeo.com/ncbaptistvideotraining/3circles

   **Kids:** 3 Circles – www.vimeo.com/ncbaptist/3circlesforchildren
It has been seven weeks since you first met with your group and started the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotional Guide. Prayerfully, you and they have grown closer to one another and have seen God do some amazing things. Take time to celebrate the journey they have experienced during the study and emphasize the importance of their continuing this journey for the rest of their lives.

Last week’s look back:
1. Memory Verse Challenge
2. Devotional readings:
   a. Did anyone have questions about the reading last week?
   b. Did anyone try any of the Connecting to Your Neighbor Activities? If so, how did they go?
   c. Engagement Tools:
      i. How is www.BlessEveryHome.com going?
      ii. How is Praying for My Neighbors going?
      iii. How is Praying for the Harvest going?
      iv. How is Initiating Spiritual Conversations going?
      v. How is Sharing My Story going?
      vi. How are the 3 Circles going?
3. Would anyone like to share about how the Lord is working through this study in their homes?
4. Would anyone like to share about how the Lord is working through this study in their neighborhoods?
5. Does anyone have questions regarding:
   a. Last week’s theme: Be Tactful?
   c. Family Conversation Starters?
   d. Weekly Memory Verse Challenge?
   e. Engagement Tools?
6. Watch the weekly video segment “Be faithful.” Go to www.missionalfamilies.org for the weekly class videos.

Encourage your group for the weeks, months, and years ahead: Be Faithful
This is your final missional family group gathering. It is vital that you take this time to encourage parents in their walk with Christ and celebrate the growth they have experienced over the last seven weeks. Take this opportunity to have some (if not all) of them share some of the positive — and negative — things they will take away from
this experience. Ask them to share what they believe could have made their journey more fruitful. Also ask parents to begin praying about leading their own missional family group gathering.

To prepare you for this week’s teaching time, study the Be Faithful: Lesson Overview and Key Points and ask your members the Group Conversation Questions provided below.

Be Faithful: Lesson Overview and Key Points
The goal of the missional family group gathering and weekly family devotions was to equip and encourage families to be missionally-minded in their homes and neighborhoods. We primarily emphasized five key points that are foundational to Christ-followers fulfilling the Great Commission. In this final gathering, review these five points with families and encourage them to continue developing their discipline in each area. Be sure to review all previous lessons to remind yourself of what has been covered, as well as any important points you feel are necessary to explore with parents.

1. Love God — If we miss this first key, then anything we do from this point forward will be done for the wrong reason or we will burn out along the way. Moreover, when we face difficulties in fulfilling the Great Commission, we will be more inclined to quit. Therefore, we must be sure that we are striving to “love the LORD [our] God with all [our] heart, soul, and strength” so that we will find success in what God has called us to do.

2. Love God’s Word — According to a Barna Research study, Bible engagement was the number one spiritual discipline that brought transformation into the life of a believer. Consequently, this second key is where parents must be diligent in continuing to develop this discipline. As they consistently spend time in God’s Word, the Holy Spirit will develop a deeper hunger for God’s Word and, as a result, their love for God will grow. Remind parents of the read – learn – love cycle from Week 3 of the Parent Devotionals.

3. Be Transformed by God’s Word — Ask parents if any of them would like to share how they have experienced the transforming power of God’s Word in their life. Remind them that God’s Word is profitable in equipping them to fulfill the Great Commission in their homes and neighborhoods. As they spend consistent time in God’s Word, they will be ready for whatever it is that God calls them to do in life.

4. Be Missional — It is important to remind parents that being missional is the natural consequence of loving God. There is a natural progression in one’s walk with Christ. When we love God, we will love His Word. Then, as we develop our love for His Word, we will be transformed by His Word. Finally, as our hearts are being transformed, our love for those who are lost and our conviction to share the gospel with them will strengthen, starting with our families and then expanding to those outside of our homes. If we lack desire to be missional, then we need to evaluate our love for God.

5. Be Tactful — This final key is an important discipline that will only be revealed when parents are living out their faith, both in word and in deed. As they engage their families and neighbors with the gospel, they will experience difficult conversations and situations that will require being tactful if they want to be Christ-centered. This is neither easy to develop nor employ, yet, as their love for Christ grows, they will care more about keeping the conversation going than about being right.
WEEK 7

Missional Family Group Gathering

Be sure to communicate what it means to be disciplined in these five key areas. They should strive to see a multigenerational faith legacy that started (or continued) with their faith influencing the next generation in such a way that generations that follow, even those generations that will never know them here on earth, will desire to know Christ and make Him known (Acts 2:39).

What these parents have done over the last seven weeks was more than another small group study. It was an opportunity to begin or continue a faith journey that is part of a movement that began with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Encourage parents to have a God-sized vision for their families and neighbors. May they embrace the calling God has placed on their lives and believe the Holy Spirit has empowered them to fulfill it.

Group Conversation Questions:
1. How has your understanding of having an Acts 2:39 missional families mindset at home changed since you started this study?
2. What do you believe is a “God-sized” vision for your family? What do you believe God has equipped your family to do for your neighbors?
3. What was the hardest thing for you to develop over the last seven weeks that can be a point of prayer for us moving forward? (Write these down.)
4. What is one Great Commission goal you would like to set for your family to achieve in three months? Six months? One year?
5. How were the Acts 2:39 Missional Families Parent Devotionals beneficial to your families? What could we do to get more families to participate in this seven-week study?

A Closing Word

As you dismiss, reassure parents that they can do this and that you will be praying for them as they continue their faith journey. (Implement a prayer calendar to remind you to pray for them.) Also, invite them (again) to pray about leading their own missional family group gathering when your church provides the opportunity to do so. Finally, thank them for their participation and commitment to what was asked of them. As you close in prayer, lift up each family represented by name, as well as any specific requests they mentioned during the Group Conversation time.
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Acts 2:39 Missional Families

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