

# Love Your City: Becoming a Church That Makes a Difference





# Introduction: A Call to Engage Your City

Jesus called us to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13–16). But too often, we limit “missions” to something that happens overseas, forgetting that our cities, neighborhoods, and workplaces are mission fields.

This book will guide you in adopting a missionary mindset for your everyday life. By mapping your community, building relationships, and praying for others, you can become a church that truly makes a difference.

At the end of each section, reflection questions will help you apply what you've learned.



# Chapter 1: Being Led by the Spirit

Mission begins with the Holy Spirit. He guides, teaches, and empowers us.

## Key Scriptures:

- *John 14:26* – “The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things.”
- *Galatians 5:25* – “If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”

## Application Questions:

1. In what ways do you currently rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance in your daily life?
2. Have you ever felt led by the Spirit to reach out to someone? What happened?
3. How can you develop a habit of seeking the Spirit’s direction before acting?



# Chapter 2: A Missionary Mindset

Missionaries research, pray, and prepare before stepping into the field. But the mission field is already here, around us.

## Where Can You Be on Mission?

On your street.

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In your workplace.

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In your neighborhood.

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In your church.

## Who Can You Partner With?

A friend.

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A small group.

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A collection of groups.

## Application Questions:

1

What are some barriers that keep you from seeing your city as a mission field?

2

What is one practical step you can take this week to engage someone in your workplace or neighborhood?

3

How can you involve others in this mission?

# Chapter 3: Mapping Your City

Understanding your community is essential for effective ministry. Missionaries use three types of mapping:

1. **Geographic Mapping** – Paths, landmarks, districts.
2. **Social Mapping** – Demographics, community needs, stories of the area.
3. **Spiritual Mapping** – Identifying strongholds, spiritual heritage, and who is currently engaging in ministry.

## Application Questions:

1. What areas of your city have you never considered as part of your mission field?
2. What are some community needs you've observed that the church could address?
3. Who is currently doing ministry in your area, and how can you partner with them?

# Chapter 4: Building Relationships

Jesus' ministry was deeply relational. He called people friends, ate with them, and walked alongside them.

## How to Build Relationships:

- See people as image-bearers, not as “projects.”
- Share the gospel naturally in the context of friendship.
- Ask questions and genuinely listen.
- Avoid the bait-and-switch; love people without an agenda.

## Application Questions:

1. Who in your life do you need to be more intentional about building a relationship with?
2. What are some ways you can be a better listener in your conversations?
3. How can you reflect Jesus in your friendships without forcing conversations about faith?

# Chapter 5: Praying for Your City and Friends

Prayer is the foundation of missions.

## How to Pray for Others:

Pray for an opportunity to share Jesus.

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Pray for their salvation.

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Pray for boldness.

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Pray for the right words.

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Pray that the Holy Spirit would speak through you.

## Application Questions:

1

Make a list of five people you can start praying for today.

2

How can you develop a habit of praying for your city and its needs?

3

What obstacles keep you from praying consistently for others?

# Chapter 6: Conversations That Matter

Starting conversations about faith doesn't have to be awkward. Simple questions can open doors.

## Conversation Starters:

"How can I pray for you?"

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"Do you have any spiritual beliefs?"

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"Has anyone ever told you about Jesus?"

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"Do you have a church you attend?"

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"Can I share my story with you?"

## Application Questions:

1

Which of these conversation starters feels the most natural for you?

2

What fears hold you back from starting faith-based conversations?

3

How can you grow in boldness and confidence in sharing your faith?



# Chapter 7: Sharing Truth in Everyday Life

Truth can be shared in simple, everyday ways.

## Ways to Share Truth:

- Reflect on a phrase from Sunday's worship and share it with someone.
- Memorize a scripture and use it in conversations.
- Share a song lyric or thought that brings you joy.

## Application Questions:

1. What's one truth from scripture you can commit to sharing this week?
2. How can you naturally integrate faith into daily conversations?
3. What are ways you can share truth without being forceful?

## Conclusion: Love Your City

Loving your city is not about large programs but about everyday faithfulness. Every conversation, prayer, and relationship is a step toward making a difference.

## Final Reflection Questions:

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**01 What is one major takeaway from this book that you want to apply immediately?**

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**02 How can you encourage your church to engage your city more intentionally?**

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**03 What small habit can you start today to be a missionary in your own neighborhood?**

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# Next Steps

1

**Pray:** Ask God where He wants you to start.

2

**Act:** Start with one step—building a relationship, praying, or mapping your city.

3

**Invite Others:** Encourage a friend or small group to join you in this mission.

**Love your city. Be a light. Make a difference.**

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