

## ***Mission Circles***

A way to connect God's people with God's mission –  
*from everywhere to everywhere!*



## **Leader's Guide**

## ***Mission Circles***

### **Definitions and Meeting Model**

Definition: A Mission Circle is a group of Christians who meet regularly to:

- Engage in a deeper study of God's Mission through the Word;
- Become informed about God's mission at work in other localities through meaningful communication with their missionary;
- Pray for their transcultural missionary (global mission) and for God's mission in their own surroundings (local mission);
- Financially Support the work of a specific missionary, gathering a mission contribution from among the participants at each meeting.

### **Suggested Model for Mission Circle Meetings**

*(this can be adapted according to local customs and criteria)*

SUGGESTED MEETING LENGTH: 65 MINUTES

1.	Opening	Time: 5 min.	After welcoming the participants, the leader or other participant can open the meeting with a prayer. The group may also want to sing some songs.
2.	Study	Time: 30 min.	The meeting continues with the Bible Study. It is important not to extend the length of the Bible Study too much as that wears out the participants and does not leave time for Learning and Prayer. If the assigned Study is not completed, simply save it for the next meeting.
3.	Prayer	Time: 5 min.	The leader or another participant may lead a prayer which reflects on what was discussed in the Bible Study. The group may also want to sing some songs.
4.	Learn	Time: 10 min.	Receive news or updates from your missionary. You could read the latest newsletter or perhaps talk with the missionary.
5.	Prayer	Time: 10 min.	Participants can pray for their missionary, according to local custom.
6.	Support	Time: 2 min.	A contribution is received from each participant for the support of their missionary.
7.	Closing	Time: 5 min.	The meeting may conclude with song, prayer, and/or benediction. Don't forget to set the date and time of the next meeting!

## ***Mission Circles – Bible Study Guide***

1.	Opening	5 min.	Welcome, prayer, song.
2.	Study	30 min.	Bible Study.
3.	Pray	5 min.	Prayer, Song.
4.	Learn	10 min.	Receive news from your missionary.
5.	Pray	10 min.	Pray for your missionary and his/her family.
6.	Offering	2 min.	Offerings are gathered from each participant.
7.	Closing	5 min.	Set the time and place for the next meeting.

### **The guiding principle for the study of God’s mission is:**

God is the Owner of the mission, because He desires “all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). It’s not *our* mission, we are *participants* in God’s mission!

### **Follow these 4 steps to do a 30-minute Bible study:**

#### **STEP 1: The Word of God (“text”)**

Read the assigned Reading. If it is very long, it can be divided up into shorter sections.

#### **STEP 2: Understanding (“context”)**

In your group, discuss the text a little bit in order to better understand what you just read.

- Where is this reading located in the Bible? What happened before or after it?
- Analyze the text: Who is speaking? What is being said? Who was it spoken to?
- Understand the content: Is this a prophecy? A promise? A command? An activity? Or is it something else?

#### **STEP 3: Mission Focus**

Discuss what God is doing (or, what He will do) in His mission to “seek and to save the lost” according to this specific Bible text – personally, locally, and/or globally.

#### **STEP 4: Application**

According to this reading, is there something that we should either do or not do as participants in God’s mission?

BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES FOR MISSION CIRCLE LEADERS

Session	Scripture	Key Mission Verse	Central Thought
1	Acts 1:1-11	“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.” (v. 8)	These are Jesus’ final words before ascending into heaven, and the movement of the Gospel from Jerusalem and Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth is the outline for the book of Acts. To whom was Jesus speaking these words?
2	Genesis 3:1-9	“Where are you?” (v. 9)	God does not leave us lost in sin, but He comes to us. He actively seeks us out. Are we actively seeking out the lost?
3	John 1:1-14	“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.” (v. 14)	The incarnation is God becoming one of us in order to find us and save us. What does it mean that mission work is an “incarnational ministry”?
4	Genesis 11:1-9	“from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the earth.” (v. 9)	By confusing the languages, the Lord divided the human race into peoples, tribes and cultures. How do those differences create a barrier to the communication of the Gospel?
5	Acts 2:1-13	“We hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.” (v. 11)	The barriers to human interaction which were the consequence of Babel are overcome on the day of Pentecost. What is needed for effective cross-cultural communication of the Gospel?
6	Genesis 12:1-3; Gen. 22:16-18	“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (v. 3)	God always has all the peoples from all the nations in view. Jesus is the blessing to the nations, but God has chosen to deliver His blessing through us. In what way can we be a blessing to the nations?
7	Galatians 3:6-14	“in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles” (v. 14)	The blessing of Abraham, first spoken in Genesis 12, finds its fulfillment when sons and daughters of are raised up from among the nations through faith in Christ and the working of the Spirit.

*\* 30 additional mission Bible texts with "key mission verse" and "central thought" are available for Mission Circle leaders. Email [revtino@hotmail.com](mailto:revtino@hotmail.com) to request a copy.*