

# MISSIONAL FORMATION

**"THE BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF SALVATION IS THAT OUR LIVES BECOME SWEEPED UP INTO SOMETHING LARGER AND GREATER THAN OURSELVES, INTO GOD'S PURPOSES FOR THE WORLD. IN OTHER WORDS, THE RECEIVING OF SALVATION AND THE CALL TO MISSION ARE NOT TO BE CONCEIVED SEQUENTIALLY, AS IF ONE FOLLOWED THE OTHER. RATHER, TO RECEIVE SALVATION IS, TO BE CALLED INTO SOMETHING LARGER AND GREATER THAN WE ARE, TO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S SAVING PURPOSE AND PLAN FOR THE WORLD. THAT IS WHY THE GOSPEL IS PRIMARILY ABOUT GOD, AND ONLY SECONDARILY ABOUT US."**

Inagrace Dietrich



# MISSIONAL FORMATION

Missional formation = focusing our passions and gifts on the mission of God & his kingdom

## Definition

- The process whereby God focuses your heart, passion, gifts, experiences, and energies in a direction that intersects with the mission of God and his kingdom.

## BIBLICAL SNAPSHOT

### Genesis 1

...31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### Genesis 2:19

So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

### Genesis 3:9

But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

### Genesis 12:2

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."

### Jeremiah 29:7

Seek the *shalom* of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its *shalom* you will find your *shalom*.

### John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and lived among us

### Mark 1:14-15

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

### John 20:21

"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

### Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

### John 5:17&19

"My Father is still working, and I also am working." "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise."

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## **Luke 10:1-12**

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

# STATIO

The monastics have a practice called **statio**. It's the simple practice of stopping before and after any new task or movement. It's a pause for a moment to be present to what God has done, is doing, and is about to do.

Missional Formation is all about God's Kingdom, His activity, and work in our world. We start with the assumption that God is present and at work before we ever show up. Statio is an act of our will. It directs our intention and attention to God. It also aids in our discernment of God's activity. We practice paying attention and searching for God in every place, person, and conversation.

Simply pause for a moment and reflect on the gifts and presence of God in the last activity you participated in, and pray that you will be attentive to God's presence in the next moments.

JOANN CHITTISTER

"If I am present to this child before I dress her, then the dressing becomes an act of creation. If I am present to my spouse in the living room, then marriage becomes an act of divine communication. If I am present to the flower before I cut it, then life becomes precious. If I am present to the time of prayer before I pray, then prayer becomes the juncture of the human with the Divine. We have learned well in our time to go through life nonstop. Now it is time to learn to collect ourselves from time to time so that God can touch us in the most hectic of moments."