



LESSON PLANS



Students & Adults
FIRST PRIORITY

We are
Mission  **!**

BIBLE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Do you ever wonder what it would be like if every Christ follower took ownership of reaching their neighborhood for Christ?

God has placed you where you are to proclaim His excellencies to all around you. From diaspora to cowboy churches, from special needs to teenagers, Kentucky Baptists are His people, shining the light of Christ in the darkness.

He has commanded each of us to go and make disciples, we are to teach His commands in our Jerusalem, Samaria, and Judea.

Would you say you are intentionally living "on mission" today? When you think about lostness in Kentucky, does it burden your heart and cause you to share the gospel more readily? God's call to be on mission with Him is a call to obedience. Will you answer His call and make Kentucky your mission field?

We are Chosen. We are Commissioned. We are MissionKY.

SESSION GOALS

Our goal for this session is to help believers examine their hearts and live on mission just like Jesus. By reading what Jesus says in 1 Peter 2:9 and applying it to our current context, we are better able to serve others under the same directive. As we read these passages we will notice that these verses describe ordinary people being used by an extraordinary God. These are our neighbors, friends, & family shining the gospel of hope in the darkness of a fallen world. As you pray for the featured ministries for this year's offering, pray for those who are moved to serve in their local neighborhoods. Pray for those who are impacted by missions and ministry efforts that they would experience personal transformation as they witness Jesus' love in action.

PREPARATION

Consider the audience you will teach with this Mission Study. You can use the material with any student or adult group. You might even consider including other churches in your area or planning an association-wide gathering. Your goal is to help equip believers and churches to engage in missions serving, missions discipleship, missions giving, and missions praying as a result of your time together.

Set a goal for your church offering. Challenge church member to give sacrificially. Use multiple avenues for disseminating the information about the office and any events your church will have to share the stories celebrating the life transformation that occurs through these ministries.

Decide on a time to gather for the study. Publicize in your church, community, or association. Invite those attending to bring a Bible. Order Week of Prayer material from kywmu.org/ebo. You will want to order enough Prayer Guides and envelopes for everyone who will attend the Mission Study.

Read the Mission Study and make sure you are familiar with the content.

Pray for those who will attend.

Be prepared to pray for missionaries at the event. You can find the missionary birthdays in the Missions Mosaic magazine available from wmustore.com. You can also find their names listed online by visiting wmu.com/prayercalendar. Kentucky Baptist Missionaries can be found at kybaptist.org/interseed. Plan a time during your Missions Study to pray for the missionaries serving around the world.

BEFORE THE EVENT:

- Pen/Pencils, highlighters, and 3x5 index cards for participants.
- Make sure you have the Eliza Broadus Offering Prayer Guides for each person.
- Look over the discussion questions from the Bible Study and decide how you want the group to participate. Make copies for each table or have questions written on a whiteboard or large post-it paper (for walls).
- Download and preview the video for First Priority - Tri County and prepare to show during your study.

BIBLE STUDY

PREPARE

- Bible
- Journal
- Pen/pencil
- Highlighter
- Index Card

GET STARTED

We are chosen. We are commissioned. We are missionKY. What does it mean to be chosen by God? What does it mean to be commissioned by God? What does it mean to be on mission with AND for God?

As image bearers created in the imago dei, image of God, we have been chosen to fellowship with Him through the sacrificial, penal substitutionary atonement of His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. Fellowship with Christ takes place by joining in sufferings for one cause, the cause of Christ. Amidst our sufferings, we are called to praise Him and share His excellencies wherever He sends us. We are commissioned to GO and take part in the missio dei, the mission of God. We do this through the local church and the cooperation of local churches together. We are missionKY.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

Take your index card and copy this verse down. Carry it with you and place the verse in visible places throughout your day. When you have a moment, practice memorizing this verse. May the words of your mouth and meditations of your heart be acceptable unto God.

STUDY AND LEARN

❖ ***Main Idea: The Great Commission will never be fulfilled without the suffering of Christ and His chosen people.***

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

Look at 2:8. The stumbling of faith occurs because of disobedience to God's Word. Scripture says that they were destined to stumble, further depicting the depravity of man. Paul reminds us in Romans that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Where does verse 8 fit in the narrative with verse 9?

Look at 2:9. In your text, circle "But you." This is an imperative contrast from the preceding verse. There is a shift in our position in verse 8 to verse 9. God is the shifter of our position from one in judgment to one of privilege before the throne of God. What is the cause of the transfer of position? The plan of God of His people called unto salvation! There is now unity with Christ in the second birth, the spiritual birth of people He calls and knows as His own.

Take out your highlighter and highlight the four different privileges we now have because of Christ: 1. Chosen race, 2. Royal priesthood, 3. Holy nation, 4. A people for His own possession.

This is a great privilege to belong to God's people! God is fulfilling His promises to Israel, Isaiah 43:21. God's people reflecting Israel is a symbolic representation of the restoration that is to come. This royal priesthood is now the church of Jesus, Revelation 1:6. We belong to God by His grace and His grace alone. His grace is sufficient for us.

Created in His image, we are now called to proclaim His excellencies! Praise is both worship AND evangelism. One cannot worship without sharing the metanarrative of Scripture: creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. Christ died, buried, and resurrected!

However, Peter reminds us that this world is enveloped by suffering, and just as Christ suffered, we too will suffer. God is not hindered in the face of persecution, but moves greatly in the midst of such suffering. The Great Commission will never be fulfilled without the suffering of Christ and His chosen people. In all things, rejoice in suffering, Colossians 1:24! We have a testimony because God has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light! Proclaim His loving kindness and tender mercies to those today! In your Jerusalem. In your Judea. In your Samaria. And to the outermost parts of the world. Go! Just as we have been commanded to...GO!

You are chosen. You are commissioned. We are chosen. We are commissioned. We are missionKY.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

❖ First Priority Club - *Show Featured Ministry Video*

The purpose of every First Priority club is to reach middle and high school students with the hope of Christ. This ministry unites the student club with local churches throughout southeast Kentucky, so

that every student will hear the Gospel from a peer. First Priority is specifically designed for middle and high school students that have a desire to be discipled by local church leaders to learn how to share the Gospel and their testimonies effectively with their friends. Students that have made decisions and/or have made salvation decisions, will be partnered with local church pastors and leaders for follow-up. This ministry has seen over a hundred salvations and have also distributed nearly a thousand Bibles to students across their clubs.

For more information on First Priority club, go to www.studentsreachstudents.com

QUESTION PROMPTS

- How has Christ brought you out of darkness into marvelous light?
- How does being chosen by God give you confidence to share the Gospel with others?
- Have you faced persecution or suffering in your walk with Christ? How does this charge you to further share the Gospel and remain faithful to the commandments from the Lord?

APPLY

- **Student Application:** Joining First Priority club as a student is a likely practical first step of action. As a student, you will be discipled and equipped to have the tools to effectively share the Gospel with your peers with boldness and confidence. Authenticity and vulnerability are vital in communicating the Gospel with this generation, and this can start with you sharing the Gospel with your peers. As Peter tells us to *proclaim the excellencies of the Father...* your opportunity to proclaim Jesus to your peers is here.
- **Adult Application:** First, pray for boldness for these students in sharing the Gospel with their peers, as they may face the fear of rejection or embarrassment. Secondly, contact this organization to take part in leading a First Priority club, mentoring students, and/or equipping them with the necessary evangelism tools to share the Gospel with their peers. Last, raise the funds necessary to support such a ministry and fund the Bibles given to teenagers across Kentucky.
- **Both:** Read a missionary biography to learn and be encouraged by the faithfulness of committed followers of Jesus in the face of persecution and sufferings.

PRAY

*Lord, thank you for claiming us as your chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, and people of Your own. We acknowledge that this is nothing of our doing, but a position we hold based on your accomplishments and your sufferings. Lord, thank you for your grace and your mercies that are new to us every day. Father, we praise you for your goodness. Teach us to share your excellencies in both word and deed. Lord Jesus, we pray for the **First Priority Club**, the lives that this ministry is touching, and the lives that this ministry will continue to reach. Thank you for calling us to join in on this mission of God. Make us more like Jesus. Amen.*

Writer Bio - Jenna Curtis



Jenna is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and a seminary graduate from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She received her Master of Divinity in Missiology and is now serving on staff at South Central Baptist Association as the Missions Mobilization Coordinator. Jenna was also a Kentucky WMU Scholarship recipient. She is engaged to her fiancé, Barry, and they serve together at their local church, Glendale at Cave Mill in Bowling Green, KY.