

# SIMPLE WAYS TO BE MISSIONAL



**MyVerge**  
[my.vergenetwork.org](http://my.vergenetwork.org)

# Simple Ways To Be Missional

Use this free resource, Simple Ways To Be Missional, with your small group, staff team, or Missional Community to begin to take simple steps towards engaging others with gospel intentionality.

Whether you're a church planter, small group leader, disciple-maker, Missional Community leader, or pastor, this guide is full of ideas that will help you multiply the gospel in your context.

This free resource includes articles from leading practitioners and authors, and includes the following:

- **25 Simple Ways To Be Missional In Your Neighborhood**  
by Josh Reeves
- **30 Simple Ways To Be Missional In Your Workplace**  
by Josh Reeves
- **10 Simple Ways To Be Missional** by Tim Chester
- **8 Ways To Easily Be Missional**  
by Jonathan Dodson
- **4 Ways To Become a Missional Community** by Matt Carter
- **25 More Ways To Be Missional In Your Neighborhood**  
by Josh Reeves
- **4 Skills To Make And Multiply Disciples** by George Patterson
- **20 Simple Ways To Be Missional In Your Community and City - Part 1** by Josh Reeves

## 25 Simple Ways To Be Missional In Your Neighborhood

- Josh Reeves -

I have found that it is often helpful to have practical ideas to start engaging the people around me. Most of the things on this list are normal, everyday things that many people are already doing. The hope is that we would do these things with Gospel intentionality. This means we do them:

- In the normal rhythms of life pursuing to meet and engage new people
- Prayerfully watching and listening to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working.
- Looking to boldly, humbly, and contextually proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

Below is a list of my top 25. Not all of these are for everyone, but hopefully there will be several ideas on the list that God uses to help you engage your neighbors.

1. Stay outside in the front yard longer while watering the yard
2. Walk your dog regularly around the same time in your neighborhood
3. Sit on the front porch and letting kids play in the front yard
4. Pass out baked goods (fresh bread, cookies, brownies, etc.)
5. Invite neighbors over for dinner
6. Attend and participate in HOA functions
7. Attend the parties invited to by neighbors
8. Do a food drive or coat drive in winter and get neighbors involved
9. Have a game night (yard games outside, or board games inside)
10. Art swap night – bring out what you're tired of and trade with neighbors
11. Grow a garden and give out extra produce to neighbors
12. Have an Easter egg hunt on your block and invite neighbors use their front yards
13. Start a weekly open meal night in your home
14. Do a summer BBQ every Friday night and invite others to contribute
15. Create a block/ street email and phone contact list for safety

16. Host a sports game watching party
17. Host a coffee and dessert night
18. Organize and host a ladies artistic creation night
19. Organize a tasting tour on your street (everyone sets up food and table on front porch)\
20. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
21. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
22. Start hosting a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
23. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
24. Volunteer to coach a local little league sports team
25. Have a front yard ice cream party in the summer

# 30 Simple Ways To Be Missional In Your Workplace

- Josh Reeves -

Many times it's difficult to find practical ways to be a blessing in your workplace. Rapid pace, mounting deadlines, or co-worker conflict can often derail even the best of intentions to say and show the love of Jesus at work.

Here are some very practical ideas for blessing others in the workplace:

1. Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with other co-workers and learn their story.
2. Get to work early so you can spend some time praying for your co-workers and the day ahead.
3. Make it a daily priority to speak or write encouragement when someone does good work.
4. Bring extra snacks when you make your lunch to give away to others.
5. Bring breakfast (donuts, burritos, cereal, etc.) once a month for everyone in your department.
6. Organize a running/walking group in the before or after work.
7. Have your missional community/ small group bring lunch to your workplace once a month.
8. Create a regular time to invite coworkers over or out for drinks.
9. Make a list of your co-workers birthdays and find a way to bless everyone on their birthday.
10. Organize and throw office parties as appropriate to your job.
11. Make every effort to avoid gossip in the office. Be a voice of thanksgiving not complaining.
12. Find others that live near you and create a car pool.
13. Offer to throw a shower for a co-worker who is having a baby.
14. Offer to cover for a co-worker who needs off for something.
15. Start a regular lunch out with co-workers (don't be selective on the invites).
16. Organize a weekly/monthly pot luck to make lunch a bit more exciting.
17. Ask someone who others typically ignore if you can grab them a soda/ coffee while you're out.
18. Be the first person to greet and welcome new people.
19. Make every effort to know the names of co-workers and clients along with their families.
20. Visit coworkers when they are in the hospital.
21. Bring sodas or work appropriate drinks to keep in your break room

- for coworkers to enjoy. Know what your co-workers like.
22. Go out of your way to talk to your janitors and cleaning people who most people overlook.
  23. Find out your co-workers favorite music and make a playlist that includes as much as you can (if suitable for work).
  24. Invite your co-workers in to the service projects you are already involved in.
  25. Start/join a city league team with your co-workers.
  26. Organize a weekly co-working group for local entrepreneurs at a local coffee shop.
  27. Start a small business that will bless your community and create space for mission.
  28. Work hard to reconcile co-workers who are fighting with one another.
  29. Keep small candy, gum, or little snacks around to offer to others during a long day.
  30. Lead the charge in organizing others to help co-workers in need.

# 10 Simple Ways To Be Missional

- Tim Chester -

- 1. Eat with other people.**  
We all eat 3 meals a day. That's 21 opportunities for church and mission each week without adding anything new to your schedule. And meals are a powerful expression of welcome and community.
- 2. Work in public places.**  
Hold meetings, prepare talks, read in public spaces like cafes, pubs and parks. It will naturally help you engage with the culture as work or play. For example, whose questions do you want to address in your Bible studies – those of professional exegetes or those of the culture?
- 3. Be a regular**  
Adopt a local café, pub, park and shops so you regularly visit and become known as a local. Imagine if everyone in your gospel community did this!
- 4. Join in with what's going on**  
Churches often start their own thing like a coffee shop or homeless program. Instead, join existing initiatives – you don't have the burden of running it and you get opportunities with co-workers.
- 5. Leave the house in the evenings**  
It's so easy after a long day on a dark evening to slump in front of the television or surf the internet. Get out! Visit a friend. Take a cake to a neighbor. Attend a local group. Go to the cinema. Hang out in a café. Go for a walk with a friend. It doesn't matter where as long as you go with gospel intentionality.
- 6. Serve your neighbors**  
Weed a neighbor's garden. Help someone move. Put up a shelf. Volunteer with a local group. It could be one evening a week or one day a month. Try to do it with other members of your gospel community so it becomes a common project. Then people will see your love for one another and it will be easier to talk about Jesus.
- 7. Share your passion**  
What do you enjoy? Find a local group that shares your passion. Be missional and have fun at the same time!
- 8. Hang out with your work colleagues**  
Spend your lunch break with colleagues. Go for a drink after work. Share the journey to work.
- 9. Walk**  
Walking enables you to engage with your neighborhood at street level. You notice things you don't in a car. You are seen and known in the neighborhood.
- 10. Prayer walk**  
Walk around your neighborhood using what you see as fuel for prayer. Pray for people, homes, businesses, community groups and community needs. Ask God to open your eyes to where He is at work and to fill your heart with love for your neighborhood.

# 8 Ways To Easily Be Missional

- Jonathan Dodson -

Missional is not an event we tack onto our already busy lives. It is our life. Mission should be the way we live, not something we add onto life: “As you go, make disciples...”; “Walk wisely towards outsiders”; “Let your speech always be seasoned with salt”; “be prepared to give a defense for your hope”. We can be missional in everyday ways without overloading our schedules. Here are a few suggestions:

## 1. Eat with Non-Christians.

We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbors over for family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and put the focus on conversation. When you go out for a meal invite others. Or take your family to family-style restaurants where you can sit at the table with strangers and strike up conversation. Cookout and invite Christians and non-Christians. Flee the Christian subculture.

## 2. Walk, Don't Drive.

If you live in a walkable area, make a practice of getting out and walking around your neighborhood, apartment complex, or campus. Instead of driving to the mailbox, convenience store, or apartment office, walk to get mail, groceries, and stuff. Be deliberate in your walk. Say hello to people you don't know. Strike up conversations. Attract attention by walking the dog, taking a 6-pack (and share), bringing the kids. Make friends. Get out of your house! Take interest in your

neighbors. Ask questions. Pray as you go. Save some gas, the planet, and some people.

## 3. Be a Regular.

Instead of hopping all over the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, eating out, and coffee, go to the same places. Get to know the staff. Go to the same places at the same times. Smile. Ask questions. Be a regular. I have friends at coffee shops all over the city. My friends at Starbucks donate a ton of left over pastries to our church 2-3 times a week. We use them for church gatherings and occasionally give to the homeless. Build relationships. Be a Regular.

## 4. Hobby with Non-Christians.

Pick a hobby that you can share. Get out and do something you enjoy with others. Try City League sports. Local rowing and cycling teams. Share your hobby by teaching lessons. Teach sewing lessons, piano lessons, violin, guitar, knitting, tennis lessons. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Be winsome. Have fun. Be yourself.



**5. Talk to Your Co-workers.**

How hard is that? Take your breaks with intentionality. Go out with your team or task force after work. Show interest in your co-workers. Pick four and pray for them. Form mom groups in your neighborhood and don't make them exclusively Christian. Schedule play dates with the neighbors' kids. Work on mission.

**6. Volunteer with Non-Profits.**

Find a non-profit in your part of the city and take Saturday a month to serve your city. Bring your neighbors, your friends, or your small group. Spend time with your church serving your city once a month. You can do it!

**7. Participate in City Events.**

Instead of playing X-Box, watching TV, or surfing the net, participate in city events. Go to fundraisers, festivals, clean-ups, summer shows, and concerts. Participate missionally. Strike up conversation. Study the culture. Reflect on what you see and hear. Pray for the city. Love the city. Participate with the city.

**8. Serve your Neighbors.**

Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, fixing a car. Stop by the neighborhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Ask your local Police and Fire Stations if there is anything you can do to help them. Get creative. Just serve!

Don't make the mistake of making "missional" another thing to add to your schedule. Instead, make your existing schedule missional.

## 4 Simple Ways To Become a Missional Community

- Matt Carter -

Missional communities will vary across contexts, but they must be rooted in gospel; identity first, then methods and theory. What we've found is that if Christians love the gospel, they'll be willing to do incredible things for the sake of making Jesus known to those around them. At The Austin Stone, we are playing this out in both groups from traditional bible studies and groups being launched as missionary teams into the harvest.

Our methods come from our ultimate aim of conformity to the life of Jesus, not necessarily to a certain pattern or formula for Christian living. Our target in sanctification must be determined by our Christology – basically, “What is Jesus like?”

Traditional American piety typically aims at developing the inner life and leaving the outer life to church events. We're trying to lead our MCs to grow both inwardly and outwardly as a group.

As we look at Scripture and also at how our people are wired, we've conceived of a few simple practices that have been especially helpful for groups that are transitioning from a Bible study or small group mentality. Each is an expression of what a MC should be doing in the natural rhythms of life.

For the outward focus of our groups (the missional part of missional community), there are two primary practices we suggest:

1. Regularly engaging in a “3rd Place”, somewhere neutral and natural that your group regularly gathers to enjoy each other and cultivate what Hugh Halter calls “inclusive community.”
2. Seeking opportunities for Service, which happens when groups seek opportunities to meet the needs of and bless people in their pocket of town or around the city. In other words, serving the “least of these.”

As we engage one another in these places, we prayerfully and intentionally start inviting our lost friends to join us and provide space for them to belong before they believe. In this way, the community apologetic is beginning to be lived out through creating a natural place where those outside the community of faith can meaningfully experience the life of Christ lived out amongst those who believe in Christ.

For the inward focus of our groups (the community part of missional community), there are two primary things we ask of our groups:

3. Rather than depending on professionals, we want groups pastoring each other in the mess of life. This is really just a function of believers on mission living more life together. Depending on the situation, we may need to comfort, rebuke, encourage, forgive, etc. This isn't always easy, but we see the gospel on display as group members begin to die to self and love each other more.
4. Finally, we're often asked the question "where do I go deep?" LTG's (Life Transformation Groups) are something you'll recognize from Neil Cole. LTG's are groups of 2 or 3 people committed to confession, Scripture, and praying for lost friends. This is the place for important high-bar personal depth, and accountability to discipleship that is based on our obedience, not simply growth in knowledge.

Finally, we value a regular Missional Community Meeting that serves both the outward and inward depth. It's a time for the group to share a meal together and hold a "low-bar"—no minimum amount of Bible or theology required to participate in meaningful discussion—Bible study. We hope that the relationships we cultivate with those far from God would make this their next step with us toward consistent engagement with the life of our community.

As we have begun to live these practices out, we become more convinced there is no magic formula. These are simply tools for groups to use, not to measure themselves by. We have seen, however, that as these practices are adopted within groups, the mission will enrich the community and the community will reinforce the mission.

## 25 More Ways To Be Missional In Your Neighborhood

- Josh Reeves -

Not all of these are for everyone, but hopefully there will be several ideas on the list that God uses to help you engage your neighbors:

1. Cook an extra casserole and give it to a neighbor
2. Buy an extra dozen donuts and give them to a neighbor
3. Start a compost pile and allow neighbors to dump their compost
4. Host a coffee and dessert night
5. Organize and host a ladies craft night
6. Organize an effort for neighbors to help take care of elderly in neighborhood
7. Become a regular at your neighborhood pool/park
8. If you have a skill, let neighbors know that you can use it to help them for free
9. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
10. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
11. Start hosting a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
12. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
13. Collect good will store items and offer to take them to goodwill
14. Have a front yard ice cream party in the summer
15. Start a sewing group
16. Go Christmas caroling in your neighborhood (invite neighbors in on it)
17. Throw a July 4th block party
18. Start a neighborhood Facebook/ Twitter/Google + group
19. Ask longtime residents to help you learn about the neighborhood
20. Offer to babysit neighbors kids so they can have a date night
21. Find out your neighbors birthdays and take them a card and baked goods on it
22. Setup a meet your neighbors night with drinks in your driveway/front yard
23. Ask your HOA or apartment complex if they need help with anything
24. Host a regular Saturday morning breakfast potluck
25. Host a sports game watching party

## 4 Skills To Make And Multiply Disciples

- George Patterson -

### **Skill 1: Evangelizing like the apostles did**

Work in homes of persons of piece: yield control; avoid extraction. Tell the historical gospel events (Jesus' Great Commission in Luke 24:46-48). Pray for healing in the name of Jesus (Jesus' Great Commission in Mark 16). Deal with entire families and work within kinship 'circles' or specific pockets of people. (Acts 10:24; 16:31)

### **Skill 2: Make disciples by teaching them to obey Jesus' commands**

Begin with Jesus' Basic Commands that the first New Testament church obeyed in Acts 2:37-47:

1. Repent, believe and receive the Holy Spirit—avoid decision-making rituals, Mark 1:15; John 20:22; Acts 2:38.
2. Be baptized and live the new, holy life that it initiates—avoid non-biblical requirements, Acts 2:38, 41; Rom. 6.
3. Break bread (Communion)—let new believers experience Christ; preserve the mystery, Luke 22:19-20.
4. Love God, neighbor, disciples, needy neighbor, enemy, Luke 10:25-37
5. Pray—embrace the supernatural work of God, John 16:24; 15:4-5; 14:12-14; Matt. 10:7-8.
6. Give—practice stewardship in all forms, which may include 'tent-making', Luke 6:38; Acts 18.
7. Make disciples—teach and obey God's word, Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 4:19; John 21:15-17.

What is the foundation for a church and our lives? (Matt. 7:24-29; 28:18-20).

Discern levels of authority for church activities: 1) New Testament commands, 2) New Testament practices, 3) Traditions

### **Skill 3: Practice a worship style that fits a Missional Community**

Practice the many 'One Another' commands, within and between Missional Communities. Celebrate the Lord's Supper; let anyone who meets biblical requirements lead it.

### **Skill 4: Mentor new leaders like Jesus and Paul did, to multiply**

How many links are in 2 Tim. 2:2? What resulted from this chain? How is our power to reproduce like that of grain? Mentor an apprentice until their Missional Community is doing what God requires of it:

1. Pray—intercede, personal & family devotions, spiritual warfare
2. Evangelize—witness, baptize

3. Make disciples—aim to obey Jesus above all else
4. Give—practice stewardship
5. Counsel—deal privately with personal or family issues
6. Teach—apply the Word, equip to serve
7. Show mercy—serve the hurting and needy
8. Cultivate love—fellowship in the body
9. Organize—serve each other with our different spiritual gifts
10. Strengthen family life and marriage—forgive, reconcile, love
11. Organize—serve one another with spiritual gifts
12. Correct and restore, watch for wolves, weak lambs
13. Worship—serve Holy Communion, let all to participate actively
14. Multiply churches/cells—spread Jesus' reign nearby & abroad
15. Train leaders—pastors, missionaries, elders, evangelists

## 20 Simple Ways To Be Missional In Your Community & City

- Josh Reeves -

Although the word “missional” has become quite a buzzword recently, it really just means that we live every day as missionaries. Jesus said that “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). That word “sent” is where we get the word “missional.” It simply means that we live as Jesus lived – as sent people who live everyday life with gospel intentionality.

In fact, most of the simple ideas you’ll find below are very much in the context of your everyday life, but when looked at with a lens of gospel intentionality – when viewed through the eyes of a missionary – become not just ordinary tasks, but eternally significant rhythms of your life that are teeming with gospel opportunity:

Extended Neighborhood – The Regular Spots In Your City

1. Participate in the local festivals, parades and celebrations of your city.
2. Find a park where you will consistently spend time with your community.
3. Pick a few restaurants to frequent getting to know the staff and regulars.
4. Go to the same coffee shop when you can.
5. Start a regular ultimate Frisbee game in your city.
6. Take the kids to story time at your local library.
7. Let your kids play in the city sports leagues.
8. Attend your city council meetings and get to know what’s going on in your city.
9. Attend your local school board meetings to know what is going on in the schools.
10. Frequent a local gym or recreation center.
11. Invite a neighbor to a local sporting event
12. Start a guys night at your local pub/eatery
13. Get involved in your kids school PTA
14. Connect with other school kids through local coop events
15. Be a part of your local genealogical society
16. Tip generously at your regular restaurant spots
17. Participate in local film viewings and discussions
18. Attend your local High Schools sporting events
19. Coach a local little league sports team
20. Offer to teach free computer training sessions at your local library/public venue

## Contributors

**Josh Reeves** is the Lead Planting Pastor with Redeemer Church (<http://redeemerroundrock.org>) in Round Rock, Texas. One way you can thank Josh for his helpful articles is to support Redeemer by going to their website. Follow Josh on Twitter: @joshreeves

**George Patterson** spent 21 years in Central America training pastors in a way that multiplies churches. George's strategies and materials for church multiplication have become known and used worldwide. He mentors workers who seriously want to follow New Testament guidelines to sustain church planting movements, many of whom have made significant breakthroughs.

He teaches at Western Seminary and has authored Church Multiplication Guide (<http://wclbook.com>), Train and Multiply (<http://trainandmultiply.com>), and other training materials. See some of his work on <http://mentorandmultiply.com>

**Matt Carter** serves as the Pastor of Preaching and Vision at The Austin Stone Community Church, which has been tremendously blessed since the church began in 2002. Matt's desire to see the church become an advocate for the welfare of the city of Austin has led to the creation of a network that exists to actively pursue the redemption and renewal of the city for the advancement of the Gospel. The For the City Network provides a platform for organizational collaboration by providing physical space to local non-profits as well as creating a funnel for volunteer engagement. In addition to pastoring at The Austin Stone, Matt is a cancer survivor, co-author of the upcoming book "For the City" and speaker for camps and conferences nationwide. Twitter: @\_matt\_carter.

**Jonathan Dodson** is one of the pastors of Austin City Life in Austin, Texas and also helps lead The GCM Collective, Acts 29 Texas, and PlantR.

This article was originally posted at the GCM Collective site (<http://gcmcollective.com>)

Find more resources from Jonathan at his website: <http://jonathandodson.org>

**Tim Chester** is director of The Porterbrook Institute; a church planter with The Crowded House in Sheffield, UK; and the author of over a dozen books including Total Church and You Can Change.