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CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



# Enquirers

Youth • Age 13-18 • Teacher Guide

January • February • March • April • 2023





## Youth • Age 13-18 • Teacher Guide

The *Youth Teacher Guide* provides in-depth Bible study with suggestions for teacher preparation and a step-by-step teaching plan for the youth Bible studies. Each teacher needs a copy of the Youth Learner Guide in addition to this Youth Teacher Guide.

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# Encouraging Youth to Study the Bible

If you were to do a survey on how often the youth in your class read the Bible or attend Bible Study, you would discover that many persons only read the Bible on Sundays, during Sunday School or worship service. You would also find that most youth have never attended Bible Study, face-to-face or otherwise.

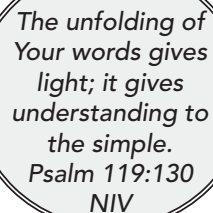
Some youth find Bible Study unappealing and boring. They would prefer to talk to their friends, scroll through social media, go out to events, watch a movie, exercise, listen to music, sleep or just stare at a wall. They would choose any other activity over reading the Bible.

This problem is not limited to youth; many Christians struggle with making Bible Study a priority. We may say that we are tired and busy. While this may be true, it is not a valid reason for not studying God's Word. We make time to do other things. As Christians, we need to find ways to make Bible Study a habit.

Youth leaders should motivate youth to actively dive into Bible Study. Sunday School teachers have a great opportunity to facilitate the studying of God's Word in creative and interactive ways.

Here are some ways to encourage youth to regularly read and study God's Word and engage in discussions:

1. Create a safe environment where youth can feel comfortable to voice their thoughts openly.
2. Be a good listener. Show youth that you are paying attention to what they say. Ask follow-up questions and encourage youth to support their responses with biblical references.
3. When preparing the lessons, in addition to the **Bible Focus** and **Memory Verse**, find other Scripture passages that are relevant to the topics you are discussing and to their circumstances.



*The unfolding of  
Your words gives  
light; it gives  
understanding to  
the simple.  
Psalm 119:130  
NIV*

4. Encourage youth to look to God's Word for the truth. Proverbs 30:5 (CEV) tells us that *everything God says is true*. Emphasise that we all have to read the Bible for the truth. As we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit will open our eyes (Psalm 119:18): "... when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide You into all the truth" (John 16:13 NIV).

*Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*  
Psalm 119:105  
NIV

5. Ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to share in discussions. It is easy to overlook reserved or soft-spoken youth. Make a note of these youth and find subtle and non-threatening ways to get them involved.
6. Get to know your youth. Find time to speak to each youth and find out what motivates them. Find out about the concerns they have about life, the world, Christianity and other things. Talk to them about their long-term and short-term plans. Understanding youth will help you to know how to approach and relate to them. They are more likely to listen when you spend time with them and show that you care. It will help you to know what they need from you. You can use the Bible to minister to their needs. This will encourage them to look to the Bible too.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*  
2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

7. Invite the pastor of your church to talk to youth about the importance of Bible Study and to find out the reasons for youth not attending Bible Study. The pastor could suggest ways to live a balanced life and to make time for God and God's Word.
8. Mention Bible Study in class. Try to find ways to refer to things discussed in Bible Study. For example, you may start by saying, "In Bible Study, we talked about ..." or "This came up in Bible Study ..." If one youth says "Yes, Pastor said that ...," it may encourage other youth to attend Bible Study.

*I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You.*  
Psalm 119:11  
NIV



# Mission Possible



January 1  
**Understanding Mission**

January 8  
**Jesus: The Model  
for Mission**

January 15  
**Me, the Missioner**

January 22  
**Doing Mission at Home**

January 29  
**Doing Mission Abroad**

**Unit Overview:** God is a missionary God Who desires the salvation of all people. The Church is a missionary community. Each member is called to accept the mission that was Christ's—that the world through Him might be saved. Therefore, the Church must not see missions as a programme of the church, but it's main function, to be carried out locally and abroad. In this Unit we will develop an understanding of mission using Jesus and the Early Church as our model.

**Unit Central Truth:** Every church is called to be on mission with Christ; every member is called to participate in that mission.

**Unit Teaching Aim:** Youth will examine the mission to which God has called the Church; to be able to explain it to others and participate in it faithfully.

**Unit Youth Needs:**

- To define the term, 'mission'
- To compare their church's concept of mission with that of Christ
- To understand that mission is not an option, it is a command
- To examine the 'mission statement' of Jesus and formulate their own
- To determine their role in the Church's task to be on mission
- To understand that youth can be involved in missionary work at home, at school, in the community and abroad
- To know that God may call them to become career missionaries

**Writer:** Jaevel Brown, Jamaica

**Photo:** Etty Fidele

## MISSION POSSIBLE

# Understanding Mission

<b>Bible Focus:</b>	John 3:1-3, 16-18; Matthew 4:18-22; 28:19-20
<b>Memory Verse:</b>	Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)
<b>Central Truth:</b>	God has called us to draw people into relationship with Him through putting their faith in Christ.
<b>Teaching Aim:</b>	Youth will demonstrate knowledge that all Christians are called as active missionaries in the work of the Church by naming the ways that Jesus commanded His followers to take on His personal mission.



## TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

The Church is made up of persons, each of whom has received Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour. For the Church to fulfil the mission assigned to it by its Head, Jesus Christ, it must clearly understand what that mission is. The mission—to take the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to lost people everywhere. The programmes and ministries of the church are means to help the church fulfil this primary purpose.

### Everyone Needs to Be Born Spiritually (John 3:1-3)

Nicodemus belonged to the Jewish religious sect known as the Pharisees. They prided themselves on strictly observing the Mosaic Law and all the man-made religious traditions that had sprung up over time. He was also a member of the Jewish ruling council—the Sanhedrin. Nicodemus came to visit Jesus at night, perhaps out of fear of criticism, or because that was the best time to talk to Jesus undisturbed.

Nicodemus began by praising Jesus Who went to the heart of the

matter—Nicodemus' need for a complete change of heart and life. He needed to be '*born again*' (v. 3). All his righteousness could not earn him right relationship with God. That radical change had to come from above by the power of God at work on a willing heart.

### God Desires the Salvation of Everyone (John 3:16-18)

These beloved, familiar verses describe the following for us:

1. *The greatest love:* God's love for sinful humankind (the world). See 2 Peter 3:9b.

2. *The greatest sacrifice:* God sent His one and only Son to lay down His sinless life to pay the penalty for the sin of humankind.

3. *The greatest invitation:* Whoever believes in Jesus as Saviour can receive the gift of salvation.

4. *The greatest destiny:* Eternal life with God instead of eternal separation from Him.

Our task as believers is to make it clear to unsaved persons that without faith in Jesus Christ every sinner is condemned to God's judgement. God sent Jesus Christ to change our destiny from condemnation and hell to salvation and heaven.

## Jesus Invites Us to Join Him on Mission (Matthew 4:18-22)

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee and invited Peter, Andrew, James and John to become His disciples, He was not meeting them for the first time, with the possible exception of James. John was most likely one of the two disciples noted in John 1:35-39, and through Andrew, Peter met Jesus (John 1:40-42). On this occasion, Jesus challenged them to leave their vocation as fishermen and to join Him in the greater vocation of becoming *fishers of men* (v. 19 KJV)—winning souls for God’s kingdom.

## Jesus Commissions Disciples for Mission (Matthew 28:19-20)

In Matthew’s gospel, these are Jesus’ last words to His disciples before He left Earth to return to heaven. In this encounter, Jesus committed to the little band of disciples, the great task of taking the gospel of salvation to all Earth’s peoples. The fact that the gospel has spread all over the world is a testimony to the disciples’ faithfulness and success.

Note the steps the disciples were to follow:

1. The word ‘go’ can also be translated, ‘as you go’. Disciples were to be witnesses to the good news of salvation, through Jesus Christ, as they went about their daily business. This makes witnessing a lifestyle commitment rather than a once-in-a-while activity.

2. The disciples were to baptize believers as a testimony to their salvation.

New believers were to be taught and disciplined so that they would be equipped to live for Christ and to continue His mission. The disciples

were assured of the constant presence of Jesus to empower and equip them.



## PLANNING

### Plan to Meet These Youth Needs:

1. To know that youth too are called to witness about Jesus Christ
2. To understand that the mission of Christ is to offer forgiveness of sin and relationship with God through faith in Jesus
3. To define what it means to be a follower of Christ

### Prepare to Teach

- Make a **Unit Poster** displaying the **Unit Title** and **Lesson Titles**. For online classes, you may make a digital **Unit Poster** and share it.
- Prepare a brief introduction to the Unit for use during **Get Class’ Attention**. You may use the **Unit Overview** to assist.
- Print copies of the lyrics of the song “The Mission” by Steve Green for use during **Commit to Action**.
- Prepare a summary of the information in **Teacher Bible Study** to share during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Start planning a short-term or long-term mission activity that youth can engage in as a class. This could include; adopting a person in need, in the church or community, by visiting and providing basic items bi-weekly or monthly; developing a mission purse to which youth contribute and donate it to national or regional mission agencies. Make sure to do the proper research so that you can present the idea clearly to youth.
- Complete the **Weekly Preparation Checklist** on page 32.



# GUIDE THE SESSION

## STEP 1 Get Class' Attention

Welcome youth to class. Wish them a blessed year and encourage them to strive to be their best self through the year. Acknowledge those who will be celebrating a birthday during the month. Display the **Unit Poster** and share your brief introduction of the Unit. Ask: *When you hear the word 'mission', what comes to mind? What do you think 'The Church on Mission' means?* Make a note of the responses.

Ask a volunteer to read about Carol and Dionne in **A Leaf from Life** and discuss the answers to the questions. Ask: *How are Carol's and Dionne's views of mission different or similar to your views?* Instruct youth to write their idea of mission in the left half of the box in **Personal Learning Activity B**. Say: *You will have the opportunity to fill in the right side at the end of the lesson.*

## STEP 2 Examine Bible Lesson

Ask for four volunteers to read the **Bible Focus**: John 3:1-3, 16-18; Matthew 4:18-22; 28:19-20 (NIV). Share your summary of the **Teacher Bible Study**.

Divide the class into three groups. Assign **Group 1**—John 3:1-3, 16-18; **Group 2**—Matthew 4:18-22 and **Group 3**—Matthew 28:19-20. Instruct **Group 1** to complete **Bible Search A**, **Group 2**—**Bible Search B** and **Group 3**—**Personal Learning Activity A**. Have youth share their answers with

the class. Correct responses to **Bible Search A**: Nicodemus, Jesus, Rabbi, God, Jesus, kingdom, born again, loved, world, Son, believes, perish, eternal, save, condemned.

Correct order for **Bible Search B**: 1) f, 2) b, 3) d, 4) g, 5) e, 6) h, 7) c, 8) a.

Correct responses to **Personal Learning Activity A**: Instructions: Go; Make disciples; Baptise them; Teach them. Promise: "I am with you always."

## STEP 3 Apply Bible Truth

Ask: *How does Matthew 28:19-20, popularly referred to as the Great Commission speak of Jesus' idea of mission? By Jesus' definition of mission, have you been participating in His mission?* As youth respond, guide the discussion so that they come to understand the importance of taking part in Jesus' mission.

Have youth complete **Personal Learning Activity B**. Encourage them to be honest as they reflect on their response.

## STEP 4 Commit to Action

Play the song "The Mission" and distribute the lyrics to youth. Encourage youth to reflect on the words of the song. Sing it together.

Read the **Central Truth**. Discuss the answers to the **Central Truth Application** questions. Say: *Mission is not just for some Christians, it is for every Christian. God wants you as young people to know His mission and be a part of it.*

Close with **The Lesson and Me**.

## MISSION POSSIBLE

# Jesus: The Model for Mission

<b>Bible Focus:</b>	Luke 4:16-19; John 4:4-15, 23-26; Matthew 25:34-40
<b>Memory Verse:</b>	Mark 10:45 (NIV)
<b>Central Truth:</b>	Jesus modelled the way we should go about leading others to faith in Him.
<b>Teaching Aim:</b>	Youth will demonstrate knowledge of Jesus' mission statement by citing instances when He lived out His mission during His earthly ministry.



## TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

### Jesus States His Mission (Luke 4:16-19)

Following His baptism and His time of testing in the wilderness in the region of Judea (Luke 4:1-14), Jesus decided to begin His public ministry in Galilee where He had grown up. By the time He arrived in His hometown, His growing fame had preceded Him. Attending the synagogue, *as was His custom* (v. 16 NIV), He was invited, as a visiting Rabbi to read the Scripture and teach in the synagogue at Nazareth. He deliberately chose to read the words found in Isaiah 61:1-2. At the end of the reading, He surprised His hearers by proclaiming that He was the anointed servant of God about Whom the prophet wrote.

Jesus stated that God's Spirit had empowered Him to carry out the following five-fold mission of physical and spiritual redemption:

1) Preach good news to those who were literally and spiritually poor; 2) Proclaim freedom to those imprisoned by sin; 3) Restore sight to the spiritually blind; 4) Release those

oppressed by the cares and burdens of life; and, 5) Declare the ushering in of a new Year of Jubilee (Year of the Lord's favour).

During the Year of Jubilee, debts were cancelled and slaves set free (Leviticus 25:13, 54). Jesus' mission was to tell people how their sin debt to God could be cancelled, and how they could be set free from sin.

### Jesus Leads a Woman to Faith (John 4:4-15, 23-26)

On another occasion, Jesus chose to take the road through Samaria on His way from Judea to Galilee. Most Jews went to great lengths to avoid Samaritans. They considered the Samaritans to be unclean half-breeds, because centuries earlier, the Samaritans' Jewish ancestors had intermarried with Gentiles. Jesus stopped to rest by the ancient well at Sychar. Here, Jesus brought to faith a sinful woman he was meeting for the first time. The woman had come to the well in the heat of the day to fetch water. Her coming alone at that time of day suggests that the women of the town had ostracised her because of her lifestyle (v. 18).

Jesus, a Jewish man, surprised this 'unclean' Samaritan woman by

asking her for a drink of water (vv. 7-15). He used an everyday need to open a conversation that would make the woman be aware of the need to satisfy her deep spiritual thirst. Just as Nicodemus thought Jesus was talking about physical birth (John 3:4), so this woman thought Jesus was talking about physical water.

When the Samaritan started a discussion about the proper place to worship, Jesus used this opportunity to explain that what matters in worship was not the place, but the heart (v. 24). When she commented that the promised Messiah would one day explain everything, Jesus shocked her by declaring, *I, the One speaking to you—I am He* (v. 26 NIV). Now convinced, the woman hurried back to tell the townsfolk that she had found Messiah, and she led them to Jesus (vv. 28-30). Without any hesitation, she had become a missionary.

### Mission is Coupled with Ministry (Matthew 25:34-40)

Matthew 4:23 tells us that Jesus not only preached and taught, but that He also met the physical needs of people. When His disciples seemed more interested in position than in service, He declared that He had come to serve and to sacrifice His very life for the salvation of humankind (Mark 10:45).

In His account of the final judgment (Matthew 25:31-46), Jesus taught that we will be rewarded or condemned based on our everyday acts of service and compassion to those in need. While our mission to proclaim the good news of salvation is paramount, it must be coupled with ministry so that all can experience the love of God.



## PLANNING

### Plan to Meet These Youth Needs:

1. To examine Jesus' 'mission statement' and adopt a similar approach to mission
2. To develop a mission statement of their own
3. To learn that mission and ministry are not the same
4. To cite instances in which Jesus lived out His mission statement during His earthly ministry

### Prepare to Teach

- Make a sign like the one shown below for **Get Class' Attention**. Prepare to share the explanation given in **Get Class' Attention**.



- Prepare a summary of the information in **Teacher Bible Study** to share during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Write a mission statement of your own as suggested in **Personal Learning Activity B**. Prepare to share it with the class during **Apply Bible Truth**.
- Prepare tokens to give to youth who openly share their mission statement.
- Complete the **Weekly Preparation Checklist** on page 32.





# GUIDE THE SESSION

## STEP 1 Get Class' Attention

Welcome youth to class. Display the Unit Poster. Ask youth to share what they remember from last week's lesson. Ask: *What is mission? What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?* Thank youth for their responses and provide any clarification where necessary.

Display the caution sign. Ask youth to examine the sign but not to make any comments as yet. After a minute, caution youth to raise their hand and not to shout out their answer. Ask: *What can you tell me about the sign? What is one thing that is wrong with the sign and one thing that is right with the sign? What makes this sign ineffective?* Say: *All the information on the sign is accurate, but the wrong information is highlighted. The most important warning (Bridge Ahead Out of Use) is barely readable. Similarly, as a church, we may be meeting people's physical and emotional needs in whatever way we can, but we forget to share the most important information, the gospel of Christ. So we may help someone, but we forget to introduce them to Christ.*

Read **A Leaf from Life** and discuss the answers to the questions that follow the story.

## STEP 2 Examine Bible Lesson

Ask for volunteers to read the Bible Focus Introduction and Bible Focus: Luke 4:16-19; John 4:4-15, 23-26; Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV). Present your brief summary of the Teacher Bible Study. Discuss the passages with youth.

Divide the class into two groups. Have **Group 1** complete Bible Search A and have **Group 2** complete Bible Search B.

## STEP 3 Apply Bible Truth

Have youth complete **Personal Learning Activity A** and **B**. Discuss the significance of a mission statement as you share your own. Give youth enough time to write their mission statements. Ask for volunteers to share their response to **Personal Learning Activity B**. Provide incentive to those who shared without being prompted.

## STEP 4 Commit to Action

Share with youth instances in the Bible where Jesus demonstrated commitment to His mission statement. Encourage youth to realise that they too can commit to what they have written. Have youth share their response to **Personal Learning Activity C**. Read the **Central Truth** and discuss the answers to the **Central Truth Application** questions.

Invite each youth to give one practical way they can live out their mission statement.

Read together **The Lesson and Me**. Close in prayer, asking God to help youth to allow themselves to be shaped for His mission.

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