

**Missional Living**  
*Presented by Lauren Stibgen*  
Air Dates: Sept. 2 - 6, 2024

**Day One**

Have you ever felt like you aren't doing enough? Maybe you are like me, wondering if what I do everyday matters for the Kingdom of God. I know I don't feel equipped in the way the church sometimes calls others to mission trips. I would sometimes wonder what was wrong with me. Why didn't I feel an urgency to jump on a plane and bring water to a village in Africa or head to a remote village in South America to help in an orphanage? These are big deals to God!

I started to think about missional living in the places I spent the most time. For me, it was at work and at home. Before I started to focus on bringing the gospel to the world, I thought about what I was doing within the context of where I was spending the most time. And then I was honest with myself. I wasn't living missionally at all. Much of my gospel thinking was a self-focused exercise. I was passionate about Jesus, but it was an internal passion.

I started by setting out with one word: bold. Ephesians 6:19-20 inspired this in me.

*Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should (Ephesians 6:19-20).*

Paul declared this verse from prison, but I am free! This meant I needed to step out of my comfort zone and not only learn more about how to be a better disciple for God, but to choose specific situations to be bold with my faith at work.

I also realized I couldn't do this without the support of God and the Holy Spirit, but also that I was equipped with others that wanted to share in a discipleship journey just like me. Community with other believers has served as an encouragement and a deep opportunity for mutual uplifting and development.

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17).*

What has followed is a rich community of women who lean in and pray for each other and encourage each other to be bold with the gospel in their work lives.

In the coming days, you will hear about Jennifer, Cathi, Tracy, and Paige. Each one of them is on a mission to share the gospel at work. And, while they all share in their foundations of success, God's Word, the Holy Spirit and prayer empower them to be bold!

I hope you will be encouraged to be on a mission right where you are this week. God has you right where you need to be!

**Day Two**

Who do you really work for and how do you face challenges at work? Missional living can truly show up in how you consider who you are working for each day and how you choose to handle challenges. My friend Jenn is focused on becoming more reliant on Jesus in these challenges, and her focus on living out her faith at work truly helps her as a leader each day!

Jenn is a Chief People Officer at a multifamily development and management company. She is responsible for people and culture, which means she is truly at the helm of how people feel about their work! From leadership development and coaching to hiring and strategic planning, Jenn has a pulse on every part of her organization!

To her, living out her faith at work is a mission that she measures by how she approaches her work each day in living out her actions and through her interactions with her team, customers and partners. Focusing on her gifts of leadership and hospitality, she knows she can impact people both at work and at home.

God has changed her thinking about work; she does it all for the Lord. All her work is ultimately for him and his kingdom. Framing her thinking in this way helps Jenn do her best work regardless of the circumstances or her feelings, and she does this by keeping Colossians 3:23 top of mind.

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters (Colossians 3:23).*

God has moved most recently through her at work through the Holy Spirit calling her to share more of her own challenges vulnerably with others. She states she has found when she shares, others feel safe to share about themselves and genuine authentic relationships are built. Challenges have given Jenn an opportunity to rely more on Jesus knowing he cared for all people. Experiencing this feeling herself makes it easier for her to extend this to others.

She states, "We all face sufferings at one time or another and have an undercurrent that we are dealing with that others may not even know about or understand." While Jenn is not thankful FOR all circumstances, she tries to be thankful IN all circumstances.

*Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us (Romans 5:3-5).*

For Jenn, and for me too, learning how to endure challenges is an ongoing work in progress, but she realizes how she responds in these times is a great example to those she leads and coaches at work. She leans on the grace and forgiveness we receive through Jesus when she falls short, which allows her to extend this grace and forgiveness to others.

Jenn believes work is a gift! She states "We get to work. Let's rejoice in our ability to work for the Lord!"

### Day Three

When you think of your work as your mission maybe this quote from Bob Goff will resonate with you, "It's not mission work, it's just Tuesday." Seamlessly blending work and mission can help you wake up to say "it's just Tuesday" like Tracy.

Tracy leads post-merger and acquisition business integration for a medical device manufacturing and distribution company. Her job is to bring people together under one unified company using the same tools and technologies. She states, "missional living is bringing his kingdom world to light in this world,

through everyday acts and behaviors. It is starting my day and incorporating God's mindset to whoever and whatever I do to serve him, not my own ego." Tracy is truly a builder. The book of Nehemiah has a lot of meaning for her as he is a builder, and her work requires building or rebuilding in many different facets of the business. *The joy of the Lord is my strength* is a verse Tracy keeps close as she works to build the company and others each day.

A few years ago, Tracy didn't depend on God for her work. When her pride was hit hard, working for a boss who didn't believe in her, she realized how much she needed God to help her in a situation she couldn't solve herself. Starting each day reading Scripture and praying helped Tracy change her own mindset about how she thought of work verses how she realized God wanted her to work. Building this daily habit took time, but she couldn't imagine a day without starting in his Word. It grounds her and directs her focus for the day as a leader.

Being focused on God's word has helped Tracy to subtly weave God's wisdom into her day to day. Often, she will use his Word in the coaching and encouragement she gives to her team and peers. They may not know it as a specific verse, but she is able to pour into people with God's Word. Sometimes, Tracy will wear something with a bible verse on it to start conversation! It really is subtle, but it is her dedication to being in the Word that helps her keep this consistent in her leadership.

When peers have gone through serious professional and personal challenges, Tracy does share her faith. She has felt them welcome God's Word and wisdom into some very difficult situations. Sharing her faith and specific ways she feels God can provide comfort, has also helped her develop deeper relationships at work.

This past year, several male leaders at Tracy's company have had severe medical or other personal issues impact them or their families. She came alongside them as an encourager, intentionally checking in, telling them she is praying for them. It has been accepted with much gratitude. She feels like God has positioned her to be an encourager at work and enjoys leaning into this strength that she views as a gift from God. Sharing God at work can be subtle or more direct!

#### Day Four

Do you acknowledge God when you celebrate success at work? Pointing to God's favor in your work and boldly proclaiming your faith at work can be another way to live on mission in your day to day like my friend Cathi.

Cathi is a Sr. National Director for Childhelp. Since 1959, Childhelp has saved and transformed the lives of more than 12 million children suffering from abuse and neglect. Cathi's role is to raise the vital funds for these children. She is truly serving the least of these.

For Cathi, tragedy and grief transformed her work into a mission to share Jesus wherever she goes, even amidst profound sorrow. Two years ago, she tragically lost her son Ben to a Fentanyl overdose on the streets of Los Angeles. This devastating loss shattered her world and propelled her into a deep prayer life, considering more about what Jesus wanted her to do. Cathi finds solace in sharing her faith, particularly with those who are struggling or marginalized. She spends a great deal of her time with the homeless and drug addicts.

To Cathi, missional living is about intentionally aligning her life with a purpose that revolves around serving others. Working at Childhelp allows her the privilege to directly engage with children and families in need. She states, "As a follower of Christ, it's imperative that I serve the least of these, making a tangible difference for God's kingdom."

Throughout her career, she has made it a point to acknowledge God's role in her successes openly. Whether securing major donations or interacting with colleagues, she gives all credit to Jesus.

Recently, during an all-staff meeting, the chief of staff highlighted this commitment, affirming her dedication to glorifying God in all she does.

Cathi has initiated a Friday morning prayer session after their team meetings for her colleagues. This time has become a sacred space where they seek God's guidance and blessings for their work at Childhelp. She firmly believes God opens doors, provides wisdom, and brings the right people to support our mission of helping abused children.

Psalms 139:1-24 holds special significance for Cathi. It's a chapter she memorized with her sons when they were young, and it remains a source of comfort and strength. As she reflects on her journey, she finds assurance in every word of this Psalm, knowing God intimately knows when she sits down and when she rises. Cathi knows God was with her boy when he took his last breath and is with her today in everything she does!

## Day Five

What does love require? Part of missional living—especially at work—requires us to approach all things with love. Today we will see how Paige believes we live life on mission with each other to restore all things—even those things at work!

Paige is an executive leader of business transformations, leading the global program management for a large company that provides customers protection plans through different partners across the globe. Her current charge is being deemed a moonshot customer experience initiative. Basically, the organization knows the goals are extraordinary, and she is accountable! Not only does she hold this work as a leader, but she is a wife and mom to three children in their teens and twenties.

Paige used to think her Jesus-centered values would conflict with the way she needed to show up at work and says she couldn't have been more wrong. A podcast on a God-centered approach to leadership helped her connect the dots. The things that made her a good leader (authenticity, integrity led, caring, clear) were the same values that come from the fruit of the Spirit. It helped her see her life as one big mission field instead of thinking about work in a totally different context.

When Paige goes to work, she views her mission as twofold.

First, she strives to authentically live out the values Jesus taught and asks herself in every situation, what does love require?

She knows this type of love requires her to be grounded and filled with the Holy Spirit and covered in prayer. It also requires that she lives with integrity and back up her words with action.

Paige recently got a tattoo on her wrist of the Hebrew and English word *hesed*, which is hard to pin down to a singular definition, but it basically means unimaginable loving kindness. It is the loving kindness we receive from our God, and only from him. This tattoo has opened many conversations for Paige. It serves as an opportunity to tell people what she stands for and serves as a reminder of how deeply she is loved and how her job is to deeply love others, no matter the current crisis or hot button issue that comes her way!

Second, Paige strives to create an authentic, come-as-you-are community within the teams she leads and within her leadership circles. That means creating time and space to get to know each person and time to foster trust and an inclusive community. She makes sure she takes advantage of opportunities to be vulnerable to create and build connections. Sharing the role her faith plays in her day-to-day life helps her show her authentic self and the strengths God has gifted her with as a leader.

Most of the sharing Paige does is through one-on-one conversation. She is not afraid to share how she spends her time and the things she is praying for. By sharing her life outside of work, Paige learned she was doing a spiritual fast at the same time as someone on her team. She even had a great discussion with someone else on her team about leading girls' groups at church because she wasn't afraid to share why she had Wednesday night commitments.

Paige says, "I think God has given me a path of experiences that have uniquely positioned me to lead in the space I am now, adding value in a completely authentic way. I see him using my trials and successes as opportunities for me to share more about myself and my belief systems and then to demonstrate my values. I see him continuing to leverage me to mentor other women, and to continuously point to him."