

## Seven Mission Responses: Learn, Pray, Give, Tell, Send, Go, Celebrate

### MISSION RESPONSE **LEARN** (40 minutes)

The importance of this response is to become involved in God's mission by learning about the mission — the challenges, the opportunities, and what the church is doing to reach the unchurched and unreached with the Gospel. This is a very important response, because once you learn about the great need for sharing the Gospel, you are compelled to respond.

***Ablaze!*** is knowing that God can transform our ordinary life into an extraordinary witness.

#### LARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION

**Leader:** Read the Scriptures, allow 10 minutes for meditation and reflection.

Matthew 9:35-38 (New Living Translation)

*“Jesus traveled through all the cities and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And wherever He went, He healed people of every sort of disease and illness. He felt great pity for the crowds that came, because their problems were so great and they didn't know where to go for help. They were like sheep without a shepherd. He said to His disciples, “The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send out more workers for His fields.”*

Acts 1:8 (New International Version)

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

**Leader:** A group discussion. (5 minutes) How would you describe Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria in relation to your world?

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (New International Version)

*“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*

Prayer is not  
overcoming God's  
reluctance, but laying  
hold of his  
willingness.

Martin Luther

**PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:**, (15 minutes)

Meditate on this verse. As a friend of God pray and ask God to touch your heart with one or more statements or Scriptures that He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Write your thoughts.  
(15 minutes)

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**Hymn:** “Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me.  
Melt me mold me,  
Fill me use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me.

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**CLOSING PRAYER: Pray together** (10 minutes)

God of harvest, who wants all to be saved, who has called us to be your witnesses, we pray...

- for the spiritual preparation of our pastors and leaders: for their time of prayer with you.
- for a spiritual awakening in our church body with the *Ablaze!* initiative.
- for You to give insight to each person so that he/she can be Your witness to their family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, in their communities, state, nation, and to rest of the world.
- for new and creative ways to reach out with the love of Christ.
- for workers to be raised up, prepared and sent out in the harvest field.
- for the strength to face trials and tribulations that may arise now and over the years, remembering that God can use problems to deepen our trust in Him.

*Continue to add your own petitions.*

## Seven Mission Responses: Learn, Pray, Give, Tell, Send, Go, Celebrate

### MISSION RESPONSE **PRAY** (40 minutes)

In this response we can pray for God's mission as individuals and as a congregation. We can focus on specific communities, countries or missionaries. We can pray for mission challenges such as reaching Muslims and Buddhists. This response is extremely important because God has told us to pray for His mission.

**Ablaze!** is taking God's great message of salvation to others so that they to can hear the Good News about Jesus.

#### LARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION

**Leader:** Read the Scriptures and sing the hymn, allow 10 minutes for meditation and reflection.

James 5:16b (New International Version)

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."*

Mark 10:27 (New American Standard)

*Looking upon them, Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for all things are possible with God."*

Isaiah 49:6 (The Message)

*He says, "But that's not a big enough job for my servant—just to recover the tribes of Jacob, merely to round up the strays of Israel. I'm setting you up as a light for the nations so that my salvation becomes global!"*

**Hymn:** "Make Me a Servant"

Make me a servant humble and meek.  
Lord let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be,  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
Make me a servant today.

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**Leader:** Have the group share their insights/thoughts regarding the job description from Isaiah (Is. 49:6). (10 minutes)

Tomorrow I plan to work,  
work from early until late.  
In fact, I have so much to  
do that I shall spend the  
first three hours in  
prayers.

Martin Luther

**PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:** (10 minutes)

Silently meditate on these verses and the hymn. As a friend of God, pray and ask God to touch your heart with one or more statements or Scriptures that He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Write your thoughts in a prayer.

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**CLOSING PRAYER: Pray Together** (10 minutes)

**Unreached** people are those who have never heard a clear message in the name of Jesus. Within the Southeastern District more than 2,700,000 do not know You to be their Lord and Savior.

**Uncommitted** people are those who have been exposed to the Word, who have had an opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus, but who do not have faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. There are more than 12,000,000 people in the communities and cities of the Southeastern District who are uncommitted.

Father You said the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective, that all things are possible with You. Lord, as your servants You give the mandate to bring salvation to all people. We pray that You...

- shape us to be servants.
- help us to call on the Holy Spirit, to pray regularly and to be in Your Word.
- open the hearts of people to Your Word.
- help and empower us in reaching the uncommitted and unreached of our communities.
- embolden us to be courageous in proclaiming your message of love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
- will protect us against spiritual enemies, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Continue to add your petitions*

## Seven Mission Responses: Learn, Pray, Give, Tell, Send, Go, Celebrate

### MISSION RESPONSE GIVE (40 minutes)

When we give to support missionaries, mission projects, or mission work in general, we are making it possible for more people to hear the Gospel. We share in the mission service of our missionaries and national partners around the world.

***Ablaze!*** is asking God to give you a burning desire to see others come to Christ—a desire so strong that it overshadows your concerns of fears.

#### LARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION

**Leader:** Read the Scriptures, allow 10 minutes for meditation and reflection.

2 Cor. 9:7 (New Living Translation)

*“You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.”*

1 Cor. 16:2 (Living Bible)

*“On every Lord's Day put aside some from what you have earned during the week, and use it for the offering.”*

2 Cor. 9:8 (New Living Translation)

*“God is able to make ALL grace abound to you, so that in ALL things at ALL times, having ALL that you need, you will abound in EVERY good work.”*

2 Cor. 8:9 (J. B. Phillips)

*“Remember the generosity of Jesus Christ...”*

Acts 15:11 (The Message)

*“...We are saved because Jesus amazingly and out of sheer generosity moved to save us...”*

John 1:16 (The Message)

*“We all live off His generous bounty, gift after gift after gift.”*

**Leader:** Have the group share their insights/thoughts regarding Jesus Christ's generosity. (10 minutes)

**Hymn:** (Pray together) “Take My Life, O Lord, Renew”

Take my life O Lord renew, Consecrate my heart to You.  
Take my moments and my days, Let them sing Your ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them do, Works that show my love for You.  
Take my feet and lead their way, Never let them go astray.

Take my voice and let me sing, Praises to my Savior King.  
Take my lips and keep them true, Filled with messages from You.

Take my silver and my gold, All is Yours a thousand fold.  
Take my intellect and use, Ev'ry pow'r as You shall choose.

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**PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:** (10 minutes) Silently meditate on these verses and the hymn. As a friend of God pray and ask God to touch your heart with one or more statements and Scriptures that He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Write your thoughts in a prayer.

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**CLOSING PRAYER: Pray Together** (10 minutes)

Father, we remember the generosity of our Savior, Jesus Christ who paid the price for our sins, we pray...

- with thanksgiving for the precious gift of salvation.
- with thanksgiving for the gift of this day.
- for the needs of our world, trusting that God is already at work answering the prayers of His children.
- for those who are uncommitted and unreached, asking for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to transform hearts.
- for resources of prayer, people, purse, and power to accomplish the task of reaching people with the Gospel.

*Continue to add your petitions*

## Seven Mission Responses: Learn, Pray, Give, Tell, Send, Go, Celebrate

### MISSION RESPONSE TELL (40 minutes)

The response to the sending God is to go and tell. Tell everyone everywhere of the wondrous things that God has done for all people in Christ Jesus.

***Ablaze!*** is knowing that our life is meant to be a witness to the uncommitted and unreached and an encouragement to the saved.

#### LARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION

**Leader:** Read the Scriptures, allow 10 minutes for meditation and reflection.

Col. 1:6 (New Living Translation)

*"This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours..."*

Romans 10:17 tells us where faith comes from. (New International Version)

*"Consequently faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ."*

- Remember Jesus called His twelve apostles while they were engaged in doing their ordinary, daily work. They were neither worshiping in the temple nor praying when Jesus approached them. They were involved in normal, everyday activities when He asked them to follow Him. And so it is for us. It is in the midst of life that God comes to us and calls us. It is in the midst of life's most ordinary situations that we are called to minister to others.
- The reality is that God has a message and a purpose for each of us. Jesus still needs disciples to be fishers of men and women to tell the message of repentance.

**Leader:** Have the group share their insights/thoughts on how the Good News is changing lives everywhere. (10 minutes)

**Hymn:** “O Zion Haste”

O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,  
To tell to all the world that God is light;  
That he who made all nations is not willing  
One soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

Publish to every people tongue, and nation  
That God, in whom they live and move, is love,  
Tell how he stooped to save his lost creation  
And died on earth that we might live above.

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**PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:** (10 minutes)

Silently meditate on these verses the hymn. As a friend of God pray and ask God to touch your heart with one or more statements or Scriptures that He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Write your thoughts in a prayer.

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List four people who need to hear the Gospel message from you.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**CLOSING PRAYER : Pray Together** (10 minutes)

Romans 10:17 (New International Version)

God, Your Word says, “*faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ,*” and so we pray...

- that the harvest will be plentiful - that those who are spiritually lost will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- that You will soften our hearts and give us a real love for the unbelievers with whom we come in contact.
- for opportunities to invite others to hear the Word and learn about Jesus.
- for eyes opened to the opportunities to share the Good News with those whom we have identified.

*Continue to add your petitions*

## Seven Mission Responses: Learn, Pray, Give, Tell, **Send**, Go, Celebrate

### MISSION RESPONSE **SEND** (40 minutes)

Sending is what we do when we use the gifts of sharing the Gospel and serving people. It is what happens when we send others on, with the blessing of the congregation, to go and witness.

***Ablaze!*** is knowing that it is God's Word that does its own convincing and thus sends us on.

#### LARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION

**Leader:** Read the Scriptures and the hymn, allow 10 minutes for meditation and reflection.

2 Corinthians 11:9 (New International Version)

*"And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so."*

Is 6:8 (New International Version)

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"*

- Let us listen attentively today and every day for God's call, and let us, like Isaiah, be ready and willing to say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me." Amen.

**Hymn:** "Listen, God Is Calling"

Listen, Listen, God is calling through the Word inviting  
Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

Jesus gave His mandate: share the good news  
That He came to save us and set us free.

Let none be forgotten throughout the world  
In the triune name of God go and baptize.

Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,  
Walking in Your precepts, led by Your Word.

*Kenyan traditional: Austin C. Lovelace © 1986 Lutheran Theological College, CCLI 489936*

**Leader:** Have the group share their insights/thoughts regarding who should be a missionary. (10 minutes)

**PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:** (10 minutes)

Silently meditate on these verses and the hymn. As a friend of God pray and ask God to touch your heart with one or more statements or Scriptures that He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Write your thoughts in a prayer.

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**CLOSING PRAYER: Pray Together** (10 minutes)

Dear God, help us to listen attentively today and every day for Your call, and let us, like Isaiah, be ready and willing to say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me." We Pray...

- For physical protection and good health for our missionaries throughout the world.
- For the 60 outreach ministry teams, that their work in the local mission field will plant seeds of faith, nurture growth, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, bear fruit.

*Continue to add your petitions*

## Seven Mission Responses: Learn, Pray, Give, Tell, Send, Go, Celebrate

### MISSION RESPONSE GO (40 minutes)

We go into God's mission whenever we ourselves serve as missionaries, whether it's overseas or right here in our own backyards. Some people go as volunteers, or as career missionaries; others go on short-term mission trips for a few days or weeks. "Going" is to respond to God's word.

***Ablaze!*** is witnessing with power, telling the simple truth as revealed by God in His Word.

#### LARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION

**Leader:** Read the Scriptures and the hymn, allow 10 minutes for meditation and reflection.

Psalm 48:14 (New International Version)

*"For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end."*

2 Timothy 1:6-7 (The Message)

*"And the special gift of ministry, you received when I laid hands on you and prayed—keep that ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible."*

**Hymn:** "I Love to Tell the Story"

I love to tell the story, Of unseen things above  
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love  
I love to tell the story, Because I know it's true  
It satisfies my longings, As nothing else would do.

#### Refrain

I love to tell the story,  
I'll sing this theme in glory  
And tell the old old story,  
Of Jesus and His love

I love to tell the story, How pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet,  
I love to tell the story, For some have never heard  
The message of salvation, From God's own Holy Word.

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting, To hear it like the rest  
And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new new song  
I'll sing the old old story, That I have loved so long.

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**Leader:** Have the group share their insights/thoughts regarding the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" (10 minutes)

**PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:** (10 minutes)

Silently meditate on these verses and the hymn. As a friend of God pray and ask God to touch your heart with one or more statements or Scriptures that He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Write your thoughts in a prayer.

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**CLOSING PRAYER: Pray Together** (10 minutes)

Father, You told us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations, and because we are Your baptized children, we want to tell the story of Jesus and His love, we pray...

- for boldness and strength to tell the story of Jesus and His Love.
- for people who are not baptized children of the Living God.
- that You, O God take away any shyness that we may have.
- that our lives are used for Your purpose in bringing salvation to the lost.
- for all the missionaries and their families, for their safety and boldness in sharing the Gospel message.

*Continue to add your petitions*

## Seven Mission Responses: Learn, Pray, Give, Tell, Send, Go, Celebrate

### MISSION RESPONSE CELEBRATE (45 minutes)

We can celebrate God’s mission during worship together, whenever we remember all the things He has done to bring lost people to Himself.

***Ablaze!*** is taking God at His promise that “there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent.”  
Luke 15:7-9 (NIV)

#### LARGE GROUP PARTICIPATION

**Leader:** Read all the Scriptures allow 10 minutes for meditation and reflection.

Psalms 77:14 (Living Bible)

*“You are the God of miracles and wonders! You still demonstrate your awesome power.”*

Eccl 3:11 (New Living Translation)

*“God has planted eternity in the human heart.”*

Phil 3:16 (The Message)

*“Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it!”*

2 Timothy 2:2b (Contemporary English Version)

*“Now I want you to tell these same things to followers who can be trusted to tell others.”*

Romans 1:8 (God’s Word)

*“I thank my God through Jesus Christ for every one of you because the news of your faith is spreading throughout the whole world.”*

**Leader:** Have the group share their insights/thoughts regarding the above Scriptures. (10 minutes)

#### PERSONAL PRAYER TIME: (10 minutes)

Silently meditate on these verses. As a friend of God pray and ask God to touch your heart with one or more statements or Scriptures that He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Write your thoughts in a prayer.

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**Hymn:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, thy fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Text Thomas Chisholm 1866-1960 © Hope Publishing Co., CCLI License # 489936*

**PERSONAL PRAYER TIME:** For five minutes **in silence**, consider the text of this hymn and then allow participants (for another five minutes) **to share** significant phrases or thoughts that are evoked by the hymn writer.

**CLOSING PRAYER: Sing the hymn together.** (10 minutes)

**Leader: Pray Together ...**

God you have planted eternity in the human heart and you are the God of miracles and wonders!  
Great is Thy faithfulness, for You still demonstrate Your awesome power in our lives and in our world, we pray...

- for the eternal fruit in transformed lives...their hearts *ABLAZE!*
- for the people turning their lives over to Christ.
- for people who are starting to use their gifts in ministry.
- for people who experienced personal breakthroughs.
- for people who will share your message of love and forgiveness.

*Continue to add your petitions*

## **CLOSING TIME FOR PRAYER (15 MINUTES)**

Please use this time **to share** anything you have **learned or discovered**.

Close the day with a **time to join hands and pray** as God leads. This time of prayer will **end with the Lord's Prayer**.

**Hymn:** "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war.  
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before.  
Christ the royal Master, Leads against the foe.  
Forward into battle, See His banners go..  
Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war.  
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before.

Like a mighty army, Moves the Church of God.  
Brothers we are treading, Where the Saints have trod.  
We are not divided, All one body we.  
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity.  
Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war.  
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before.

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**Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**