
Ambassadors
of Christ (10)

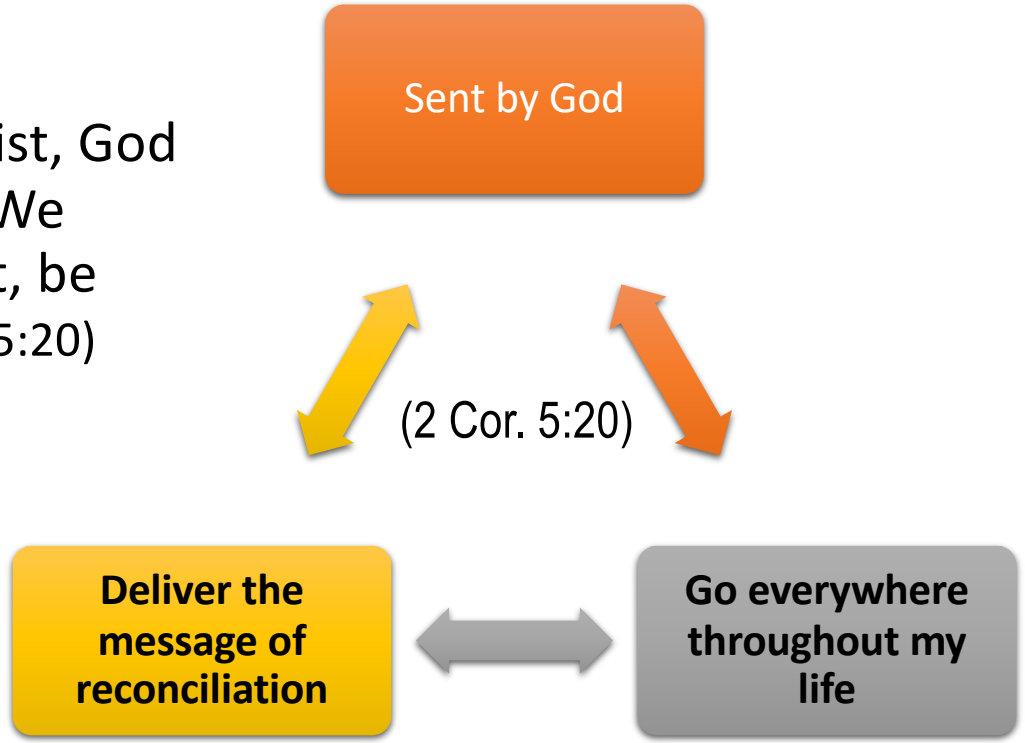
Ambassador Songs



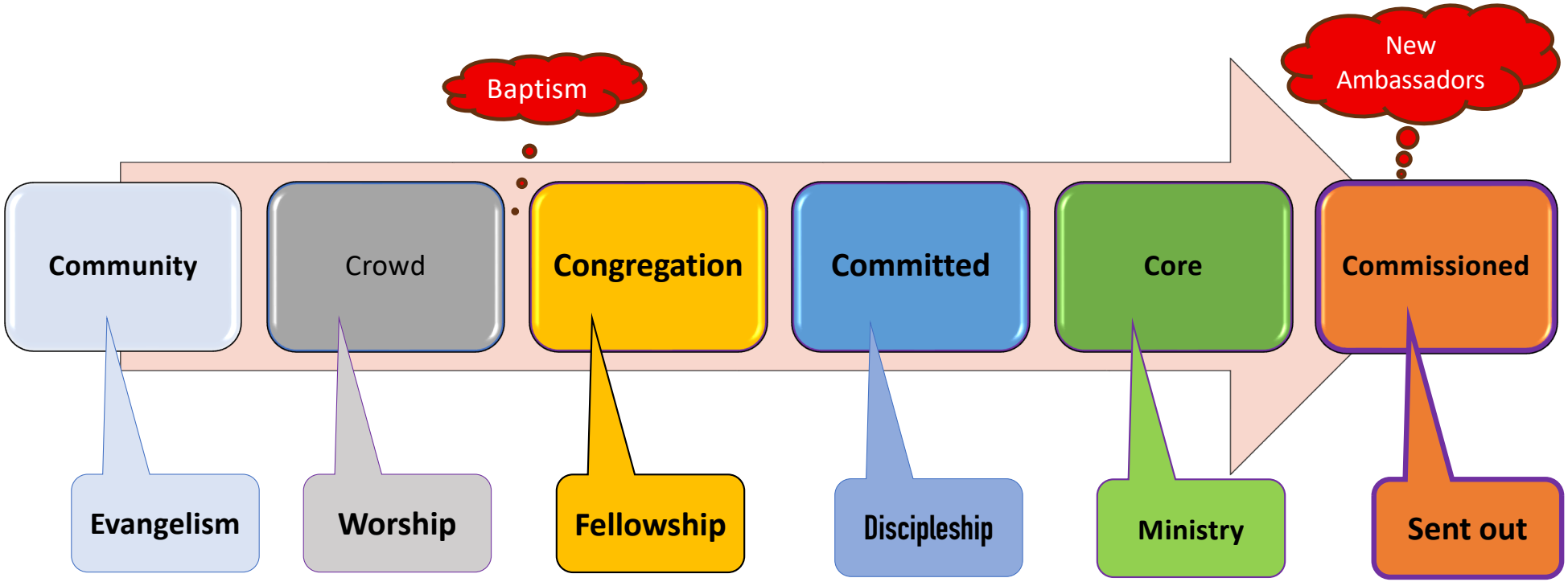
Ambassador Song

Christ's Ambassador Model

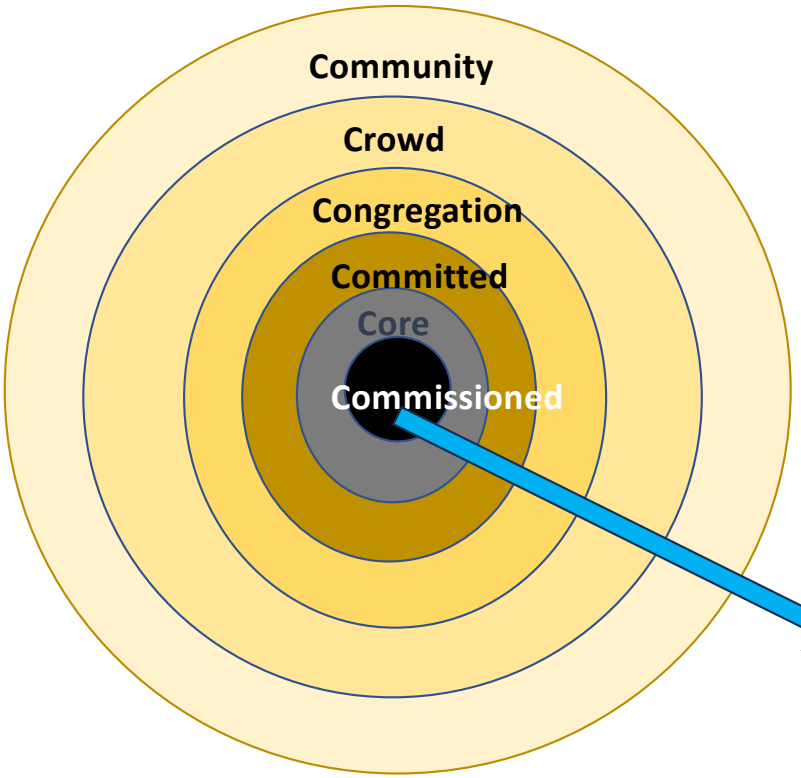
So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20)



Different Strategies Needed to Each Target



Identify the Target



The Community	The uncommitted people who live within your ministry area
The Crowd	The people who are committed to attending worship each week
The Congregation	Those who have committed to membership
The Committed	Those who have committed to maturity
The Core	Those who have committed to ministry
The Commissioned	Those who have committed to their mission (Commissioning Ambassadors for Christ)

Church is called to work globally

- God shows love to all
  - God loves the world… (John 3:16)
  - God wants all people to be saved and to come to the truth (1 Tim 2:4)
  - There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the Lamb (Revelation 7:9).
- God expects us to go
  - Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel (Acts 9:15)
  - Go, stand in the temple court and tell the people the full message of this new life (Acts 5:20)
  - Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come before me (Jonah 1:2)
  - Now go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3:10)

The word "Go" appears 1542 times in the Bible. God wants you to "go" and live out his plan for your life.

Mission is the Global Glory of God

The importance of the world mission

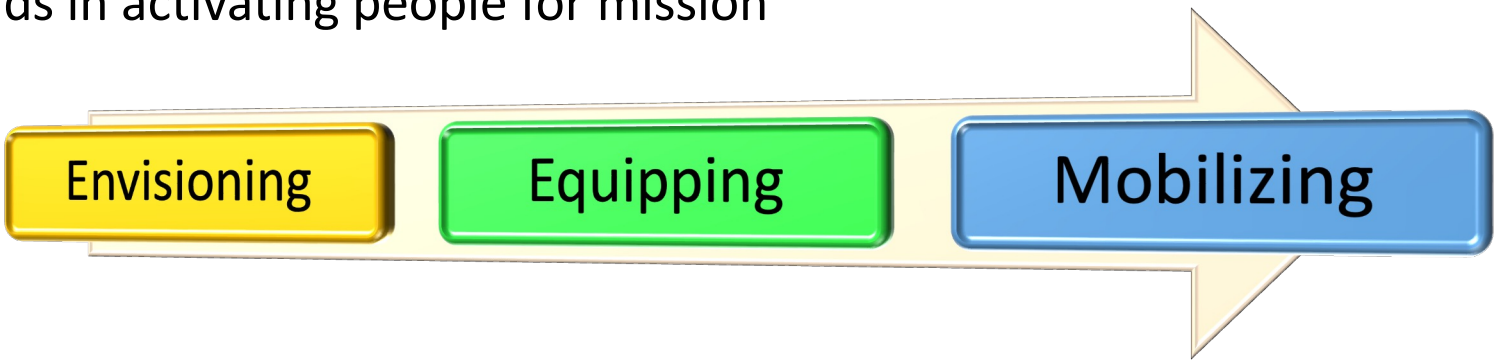
(God said) It's not a big enough job for my servant just to recovery your own people, I'm setting you up as a light for the nations, so that my salvation become global (Isaiah 49:6, MSG)

Shifting to a global Christian

- Self-centered thinking -> other-centered thinking
- Local thinking -> global thinking
- Here and now thinking -> eternal thinking
- Thinking of excuses -> thinking to creative ways to fulfill God's commission

Building a Mission Church

- God initiates the call: Missio Dei
  - People do not commission themselves; God calls, equips, and sends them.
  - The key strategy: 'going out' > 'bringing in.'
- The goal of the church
  - Church leaders must be intentional about creating pathways for people to grow from one level of commitment to the next until they are commissioned.
  - A healthy church finds ways to move people from where they are to where God wants them to be in their spiritual journey.
- Key words in activating people for mission



Making 'Commissioned' Ambassadors for Christ

- Who are commissioned?
  - Commissioned refers to a specific person/group within the church dedicated to vocational or cross-cultural mission (like Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13).
  - The big goal for moving people from the community all the way to the core is ultimately to send them back out again to reach more of the community.
  - When people are commissioned, we should be preparing them to be sent out on mission.
- From Committed to Commissioned
  - The divine call and sending: 1) The harvest field (Matthew 9:37-38); 2) The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
  - Set apart and commissioned: Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off (Acts 13:3).
  - The identity of ambassadors for Christ: An ambassador does not speak on their own authority; they are sent by the Sovereign to deliver a message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:20).

The Importance of the commissioned

- It is a continuation of Jesus' mission on earth.
- It is a wonderful privilege.
- It is the greatest thing you can do for others.
- It has eternal significance.
- It gives your life meaning.
- It is connected to God's timetable for history's conclusion.
  - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (Matt 24:14).

Sending out your Commissioned on Mission

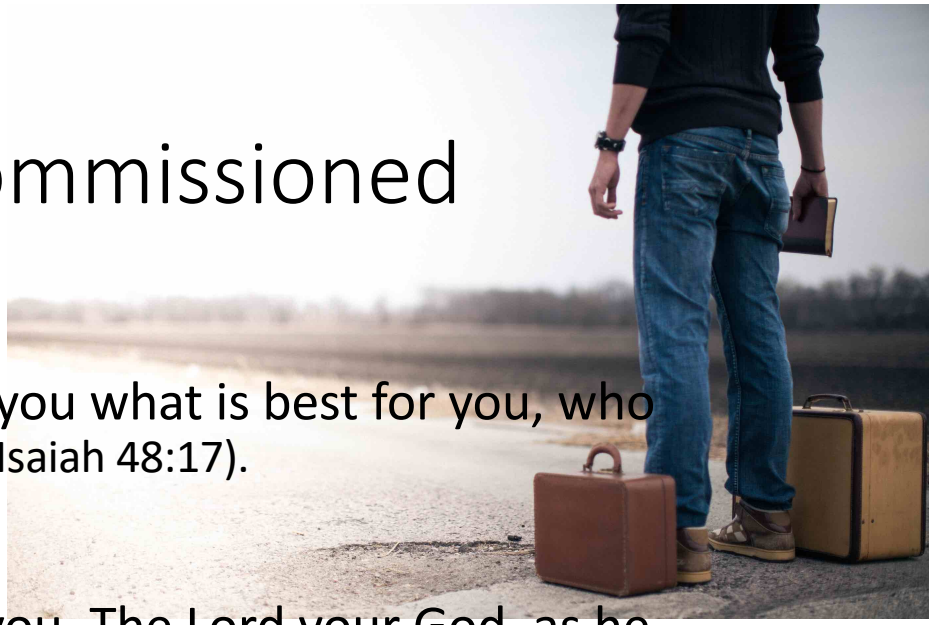
- Jesus was most concerned about our mission

The night before His crucifixion	As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world (John 17:18).
After His resurrection	Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20).
Before His ascension	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 (Acts 1:8).

Roles of the Commissioned

- Mission is to “work at bringing others to Christ.” (2 Timothy 4:5, NLT)
- Go everywhere in the world, and tell the good news to everyone (Mark 16:15, NCV).
- To whom? Everyone
  - Go at once into the streets and alleys of the town, and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame... and go out to the roads and lanes, and urge all the people to come so My house will be full. (Luke 14:21-23, NCV).
- When? Right now
  - The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah". And he brought him to Jesus. (John 1:40-42, NIV).
- How? With commonality
  - Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. (1 Corinthians 9:22, LB).

God's promises for the Commissioned



- He directs your way
  - I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go (Isaiah 48:17).
- He protects you
  - No man will be able to stand against you. The Lord your God, as he promised you, will put the terror and fear of you on the whole land, wherever you go (Deuteronomy 11:25).
- He guards you
  - The Lord will go before you; the God of Israel will be your rear guard (Isaiah 52:12).