

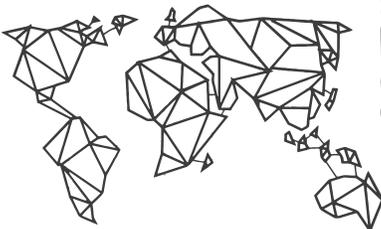


¹ Mark Batterson, *All In: You Are One Decision Away From a Totally Different Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 24.

² J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer* (Chicago, IL: The Moody Bible Institute, 2007), 119.

Notes:

**GREAT
COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP**
HOMEWORK
PACKET
THIRTY



LEAD FOR THE LORD

*If Jesus is not Lord of all, then Jesus is not Lord at all.*¹

Mark Batterson

*If a Christian is not willing to rise early and work late, to expend greater effort in diligent study and faithful work, that person will not change a generation.*²

J. Oswald Sanders

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...

Colossians 3:23 [NIV]

LEAD FOR THE LORD ALONE

Jesus insisted that it is impossible to call Him Lord and then refuse to obey Him (Lk. 6:46). His followers must follow Him, obeying Him as their Lord. Great Commission leaders must lead for Him and Him alone. Elijah did this even in the midst of unparalleled opposition. His commitment to God is also what refreshed Him in ministry. Elijah is one of the most famous prophets in the Bible. He worked hard for the Lord and persevered even when he didn't see results and even when he was opposed and threatened. God did many incredible miracles through Elijah, including raining fire down from heaven on the water-logged sacrifice at Carmel (1 Kings 18:16-40). After that amazing miracle, Israel's wicked queen Jezebel threatened to kill him (1 Kings 19:2). Elijah ran away and hid, fearing for his life, no doubt burnt out by many long and hard years of ministry. As mentioned earlier, God refreshed this ministry weary Elijah with heavenly bread and water, empowering him for continued work (1 Kings 19:1-8). Similarly, He will refresh you with Himself—living Bread and Water—empowering you for ministry as you spend intimate time with Him (Jn. 6:35, 7:37-39). Elijah is a wonderful example of a leader who served God diligently and fervently, persevering through trials and adversity, trusting in God, even when

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ministry was difficult. God has called you to lead, serving Him boldly. You will need to be completely surrendered to Him, serving Him alone, empowered by Him and serving with correct motives if you ever want to last in ministry. Ministry can be very difficult, but if you are in it for the right reason and fully committed to Him, He will use you greatly as He did Elijah!

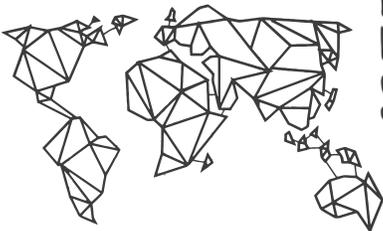
THE BIG PICTURE

It is easy to compartmentalize life and ministry, with a myopic, short term perspective, seeing only recent trends. God sees things very differently. He is committed to growing you into the leader He wants you to be. It is important that leaders view ministry in a long term sense; you must get to a place of being more focused on becoming who God wants you to be for a lifetime of ministry, than just getting through the ministry events scheduled for the next few months. Paul told Timothy, in 1 Tim. 4:15, "Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress" (NIV). It is imperative that you follow that same advice, fully committing to becoming the leader God made you to be and resolutely focused on fulfilling the Great Commission that He has called you to. He is the One who is authoring your faith and you must keep your eyes on Him (Heb. 12:1-2). He is the One who has promised to complete the good work He started in you (Phil. 1:6). He is building you into a world changer and you must surrender, as moldable clay, to the skillful hands of your Master (Is. 64:8). As Paul told Timothy, you must be diligent in these matters.

→ **How has God developed you personally over the past year?**

→ **How has God developed you as a leader of the past year?**

→ **How has God developed you in ministry over the past year?**



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→ How will these lessons help you serve Him faithfully for a lifetime?

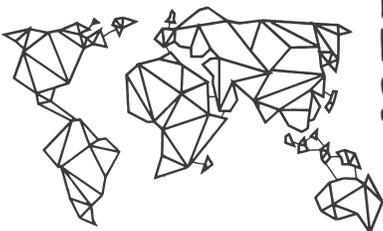
HAVING GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE

From before covering the topic back in Homework Packet 8 to now, hopefully your life purpose is clearer now than ever before. As you grow in your understanding of what God has put you on this earth to accomplish, it is equally important that you grow in commitment to that vision. History is full of visionaries, intellectuals, geniuses, and prodigies whose lives ended in failure because of their selfishness, apathy, and lack of discipline. If you are to accomplish God's plan for your life, it will take diligence and self-discipline. Fortunately, God's Holy Spirit in you is building self-discipline into your life (Gal. 5:22-23, 2 Tim. 1:7). Becoming who God made you to be, and accomplishing the purpose He put you here for, will require that you focus intently on Him and those goals—unwilling to be distracted, sidetracked, or hindered from God's goals for you.

→ What distractions are keeping you from who God made you to be and what He put you here to accomplish?

→ What personal flaws are keeping you from who God made you to be and what He put you here to accomplish?

→ How can you focus intently on becoming who God made you to be and accomplishing what He put you here to accomplish?



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HAVING CORRECT MOTIVES

As you grow into the leader God made you to be, He will refine your motives. If you are seeking leadership for anything other than Jesus and His glory, you will crash and burn (even if you look successful on the outside). All personal glory and gain must be surrendered to Him, especially so for any sort of thriving in ministry.

→ **Why do you do what you do?** Note: Take some time and ask God to reveal your true motives to you.

→ **Are you striving for anything other than God's glory?**

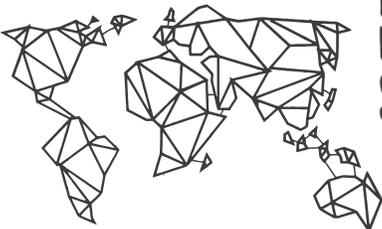
HE HAS MADE YOU COMPETENT

Paul writes, in 2 Cor. 3:4-6 (NIV):

Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

You cannot become who God made you to be or do what He has called you to do without Him working through you by the power of His Holy Spirit. As you follow Him, empowered by His Holy Spirit for ministry, He makes you competent for all He has put you here for. You must learn to do your best (2 Tim. 2:15) while simultaneously relying and depending on Him for your competence as a leader.

→ **Can you remember times when God worked through you in ways that you knew only He could? Explain.**



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→ **How have you seen God work through you powerfully in the recent past?**

→ **Why can you rely on Him to work through you in similar and even greater ways in the future?**

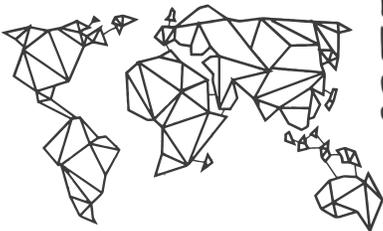
PASSIONATE DEPENDENCE

As you walk by faith, relying fully on Him, serving Him for His sake alone, and seeing Him use you in ways you couldn't on your own, you will grow more and more passionate about Him and following Him. He will become your greatest joy as He was for Paul (Phil. 3:7-11). Leaders must exhibit passion and enthusiasm in all they do and in every area they lead. This passion should not be fabricated or fake but the natural condition of the person who is serving God for the right reasons and out of intimacy with Him. Only He is worthy of your life and only He can do what must be done in and through you.

→ **Describe why you are passionate about Jesus and serving Him.**

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Paul told Timothy, in 2 Tim. 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." You have chosen to fight Satan, the world, and your flesh and the battle will rage. It is an important principle of ministry that you survive first, and then do ministry. If your spiritual, practical, relational, and physical needs aren't met you'll have a difficult time making an impact for Christ. It is equally important that you get past just surviving. If you fight to survive you don't always win, but if you fight to win you'll always survive. Christian leaders should always be on the offensive. We should not think



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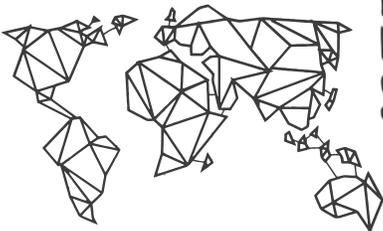
- Is He the only reason you lead?
- Are you willing to do whatever it takes to serve Him faithfully for the rest of your life?
- How are you walking faithfully in all He's called you to?
- What great things are you attempting for God (remember Dan. 11:32)?
- What great things will you attempt for Him this coming year?

NOW IS THE TIME

You have been called and strategically placed here for this very time (Acts 17:26-27). You are an ambassador for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20). Jesus gave you the third greatest commandment in Mt. 28:18-20 saying:

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Christians that fail to do the Great Commission are not following Christ as Lord. Remember Elijah's charge to the people, in 1 Kings 18:21, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him..." Do you really believe God can use you to catalyze revival? If so, live it! Be committed to Him and the Great Commission! Remember, Soldiers obey their commander and make sure not to get distracted from the mission (2 Tim 2:3-4). Note that Paul's military metaphor is preceded by the charge to spiritually multiply (2 Tim. 2:2). We must follow our Commander in His Great Commission. I can't say,



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“No, Lord.” His commands are not optional. We have been disobedient to Christ and the 3rd greatest commandment—His Great Commission. We’ve let our pride, fear, doubt, sin and temporary desires distract us. It is time to die to all of that and boldly follow Him (Lk. 9:23-24).

- **How have you said, “No, Lord” and when will you say, “Here am I. Send me” (remember Isaiah 6:8)?**

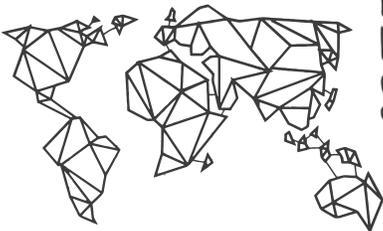
YOUR REWARD

As a Christian leader you are guaranteed two great rewards. First, you are guaranteed Him. Remember, as you serve God, He will be your inheritance and reward, just like He was for the Levites, His servants in the Old Testament (Dt.10:9). Also, you’ll be rewarded in heaven. You will be eternally rewarded for building with “gold, silver, precious stones” (1 Cor. 3:12) by investing in people—and all that will last for eternity! Even more importantly, if you serve Him faithfully you can be assured that you will hear those words every believer yearns to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matt. 25:21).

- **Imagine what it will be like seeing Jesus face-to-face in heaven for the first time. Imagine also hearing Him tell you, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” How does that picture motivate you to serve Him faithfully and boldly today?**

- **How will you remind yourself of that vision when the battle rages hard and ministry is less than idealistic?**

- **What sacrifices and trials will you gladly endure to serve Him until that day?**



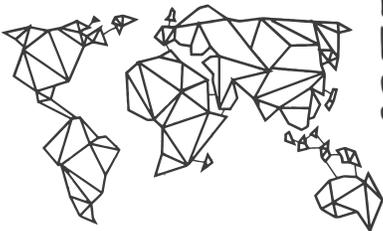


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→ **How will you put this all into practice?**

As you conclude this final homework packet on serving the Lord, and as we wrap up the Great Commission Academy class online in the coming weeks, remember Paul's challenge to the Corinthians, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Cor. 15:58, NIV). Give yourself fully to His work, knowing it will never be in vain!

Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!



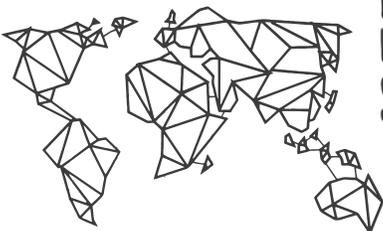
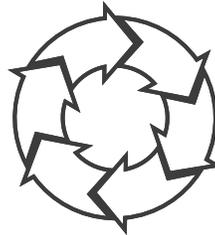
Notes:

ACT NOW

SURRENDER

God has given you one life to invest for Him. You can hold on to your “rights,” and all this life has to offer—or you can sacrificially live for Jesus, accomplishing His Great Commission.

- **Review the Exponential Harvest Strategy and develop a personal strategy for implementing it in your life. Write out the specific details of your plan below.** Include how you’ll implement this plan in every area of your life (ex. family, career, church, hobbies, etc.), working for the Lord, not for human approval.



³ G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

PERSONAL GROWTH

→ Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

→ List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal³ for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.

SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

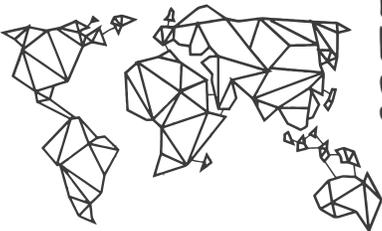
Action plan:

→ How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

→ Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

→ How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

→ List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.





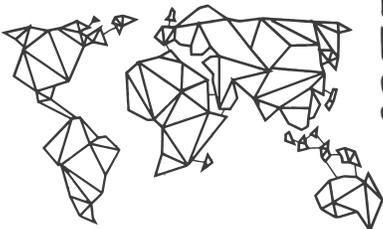
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GREAT COMMISSION LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

Leadership isn't guaranteed to be easy but serving Christ in this capacity is one of the greatest joys you'll ever know. Leadership, like everything else in the Christian life, really boils down to the three greatest commands (Mk. 12:28-31, Mt. 28:18-20). Review what you've learned from this workbook and write out a personal *Great Commission Leadership Commitment* below. Write this to God, describing your commitment to Him, and your willingness to do whatever it takes to accomplish His Great Commission.

**GREAT
COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP**

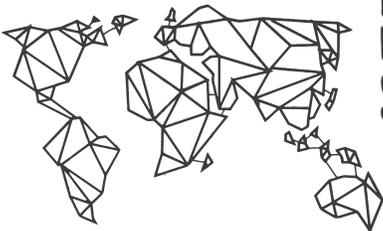
CLOSING
CHALLENGE





GREAT
COMMISSION
ACADEMY

Notes:



Signature: _____ Date: _____