



# Missio Dei

*A Worship Series on the Mission of God*

**Missional God (1 of 6)**

# Sermon Series Focus

- ***Missio Dei*** means “the mission of God” and refers to the “sending” of God—his missionary heart for the world
- This series looks at how God’s missionary heart is both the spark and the fuel of local ministry and church growth
- From the beginning of creation in the OT, to Jesus and the explosion of the early church in the NT, we see that all of God’s redemptive activity has indeed been missional
- Just as the Father sent his Son, and the Son sent us the Spirit, we will see that the church is meant to be Christ’s *missional* Body—his hands and feet to our neighbors

# The Purpose of *Missio Dei*

1. To understand that the term “missional” is not something new and trendy; it’s a biblical concept
2. To discover what it means to be *missional* in our own context; to see ourselves not only as a church that sends, but as a church that is sent to her surrounding culture
3. To help us as an Anabaptist church begin to articulate a fresh new mission and vision for the next season of ministry among the people of the New River Valley
4. To inspire us to intentionally seek God’s will for CMF as we pray, dream, and imagine greater things to come
5. To call out and call forth passionate disciples with God’s missionary heart for those in our sphere of influence

# *Missio Dei in Six Sermons*

1. **Missional God** (the genesis of mission)
2. Missional Jesus (mission embodied)
3. Missional Church (mission multiplied)
4. Missional Leaders (mission pioneered)
5. Missional Living (mission contextualized)
6. Missional Movement (mission impossible)

“Mission is the result of God’s initiative, rooted in God’s purposes to restore and heal creation. “Mission” means “sending,” and it is the central biblical theme describing the purpose of God’s action in human history. God’s mission began with the call of Israel to receive God’s blessings in order to be a blessing to the nations. God’s mission unfolded in the history of God’s people across the centuries recorded in Scripture, and it reached its revelatory climax in the incarnation of God’s work of salvation in Jesus ministering, crucified, and resurrected. God’s mission continued then in the sending of the Spirit to call forth and empower the church as the witness to God’s good news in Jesus Christ.”

Darrell Guder, *The Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America* (pg. 4)

# The Missio Dei in the Old Testament

- The Hebrew verb “to send,” *salah* is found over 800 times; more than 200 times God is the subject of the verb
- God sends Abraham by faith to “go” to an unknown place; Joseph was “sent ahead” to be in a position to save lives in a famine; God told Moses “I’m sending you to Pharaoh” to deliver people from oppression and exploitation; Jeremiah was sent to proclaim an unpopular truth in hopes of avoiding destruction; Isaiah responded to God’s presence and call with “Here I am, send me!”; God sends Jonah to Assyrian terrorists, revealing God’s missional heart
- The OT is full of examples of God’s redemptive activity displayed through the “sending” of the willing

## **Genesis 12:1-3 NIV – Abraham is Sent by God**

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”

“The ultimate goal of God’s promise to Abraham is that blessing will prevail over curse. It does so when the seed of Abraham, the singled-out descendant of Abraham, the Messiah, becomes a “curse for us... so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles” (Galatians 3:13-14). The gospel is that in Christ Jesus the curse has been set aside and God’s creative purpose for the blessing of his creation is established beyond any possibility of reversal.”

Richard Bauckham, *Bible & Mission: Christian Mission in a Post-Modern World* (pgs. 34-36)



## **Exodus 3:10-12 NIV – Moses Sent by God on Mission**

<sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you [Moses] to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

## **Exodus 3:13-15 NIV**

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”

## **Isaiah 6:8 NIV – Isaiah’s Commission as Prophet**

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!”

## Isaiah 61:1-3 NIV – Isaiah’s Mission from God

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD  
for the display of his splendor.

## **Jonah 1:1-3, 17 NIV – Jonah Runs from God’s Mission**

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:

<sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

<sup>3</sup> But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

## **Jonah 2:10; 3:1-2, 10 NIV**

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

<sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

## **Jonah 4:1-2 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

## **Peter, Acts 10:34-36 NLT – God Gets Peter’s Attention**

<sup>34</sup> “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism.

<sup>35</sup> In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. <sup>36</sup> This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.



# Missional God—Lessons For Us

- God is always moving toward people, not away from them; He pursues everyone for the sake of salvation
- The Triune God seeks out those who are willing to join the *missio Dei* and go (be sent) as a light to a lost world
- Faithful agents of the *missio Dei* have a clear mission from God, and a vision that captivates and moves them forward
- Those who turn from their calling can find themselves in the belly of despair, forfeiting God's blessings and peace
- Once we say "Yes!" and fully commit to the Missional God, he gives us his heart, passion, and power for the task



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)