

# Kingdom Community

Creating a movement that Networks  
Outside Walls to Honor Orphans and  
Widows ... Setting the Captives Free!

A Kingside Frontier Event  
- Ryan D Eldridge



# Missional Community

Discipling Nations Spiritually and Socially with Service

Part One: Missional Community - Introduction

We were created by  
God and called by  
Jesus to live out the  
gospel in community.

The goal for building a Missional Community is to empower leaders, engage people, and move organizations beyond work and into authentic, life-changing relationships. It is a mission to change the way community is done by gathering people where you live, work, and play by making every effort to be like-minded, sympathetic, compassionate, and humble.

# Missional community

Part One: Introduction

A missional community can be found when you join a “tribe” of leaders who stick together, are passionate about similar things, and who are united as “one” in purpose.

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A missional community is a way for socially responsible leaders to structure their brand gathering and sending groups of people on common mission as “one” in community. It is a group of people who are learning to follow Jesus together in a way that renews their city: a community of everyday people who are devoted to Jesus, to one another, and to their community.

# Missional Community Purpose

We are ... the family of God, on the mission of Jesus, making disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Our identity as a people is founded on who God is and what He has done.*

**Discussion Question:** What comes to mind when you hear the word “gospel?”

The Gospel is the good news that Jesus has defeated sin, death, and evil through His own death and resurrection and is making all things new. The gospel of first importance is the historic claim that Jesus lived, died, was buried, and rose from the dead for our sins. These events were anticipated in the Old Testament, witnessed in the first century, recorded in the New Testament, and attested by contemporary historians.

This definition of the gospel can be broken down into three aspects.

- The gospel is spiritual (doctrinal): it changes what we believe.
- The gospel is social (personal): it changes who we are.
- The gospel is service (missional): it changes what we do.

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

## Missional Community People

### Spiritual

The blessing of God are understood as being for the benefit of the entire community.

### Social

There is an emphasis on full participation in the life of the community for all people.

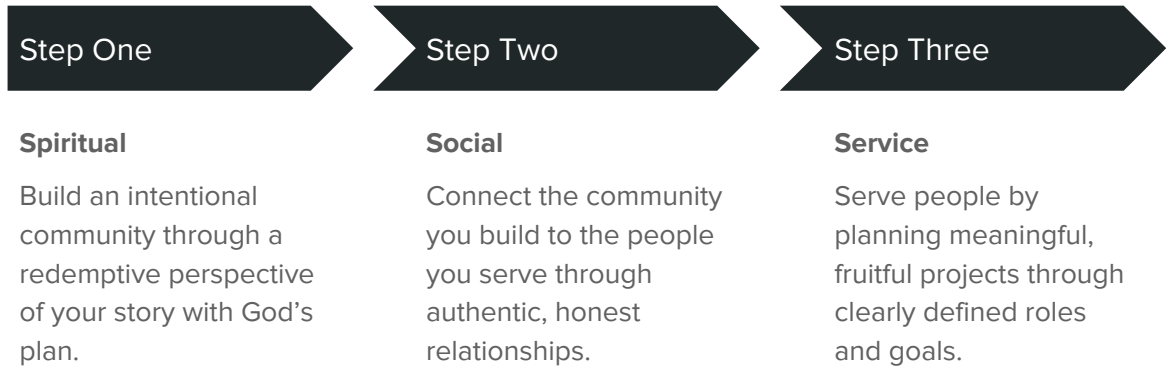
### Service

Care for the poor (orphan and widow) is seen as integral to the life of the community.

Because the gospel changes what we believe and who we are, it should also change what we do. Disciples of Jesus should be among the most generous, focused, pure, unified, and bold people in society. If the gospel truly affects everything, then it should affect everything in our lives. It should change how we live.

Those who follow Jesus join His mission by making disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20). We are called “ambassadors of reconciliation” and given the privilege of sharing in Jesus’ ministry of reconciling the world to Himself (2 Cor. 5:17-20). Those who have been changed by the gospel share its life-changing power with others. We should embody the good news as a community by caring for the poor and rebuilding cities (Isaiah 61:4).

## Missional Community Process



If we focus on the spiritual and social aspect of the gospel, we will neglect its service aspect. In a missional brand community, participants commit to living out the identities of spiritual, social and service in a tangible way through their weekly, monthly, and yearly routine ... ways that get on our calendar and then into our lives as a whole, more than just a time-slot or checkmark on a to-do list.

The starting point for all significant works of God is prayer. When we build, connect, and serve the larger community in which we live, work, and play, we step into a conversation with the One who knows and loves that community. When we pray individually and corporately, we partner with the One who is already rescuing and restoring everything around us.

# Missional Community

Part Two: Spiritual

We are invited to follow and learn from Jesus in order to increasingly become the people we were created to be within a like-minded community.

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**Discussion Question:** What comes to mind when you hear the word community?

In Acts 2:42-47, we see a glimpse of the early church, a community of people who were devoted to not only Jesus, but to one another. They prayed together, and they ate together. They shared gospel teachings, and they shared their possessions.

We see a beautiful picture of a community of people who were so devoted to the gospel that they were devoted to one another. Therefore, we must be a community of people devoted to Jesus and to one another.



## Missional Community : Spiritual Purpose

We are ... the family of God, on the mission of Jesus, making disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Our identity as a people is founded on who God is and what He has done.*

**Discussion Question:** What do you think discipleship means?

The Holy Spirit and the scriptures have been given to us in order to lead us in an ever-transforming life as disciples of Jesus. Jesus came to live a life that constantly displayed the goodness of God the Father. He then passed this purpose for living on to all of His followers.

In 2 Peter 1 the Apostle explains that God's provision and our own relentless effort must be combined to produce this kind of life. With the strength of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of scriptures, we must always be reaching for a life that is looking more and more like Jesus everyday.

Key Text: John 8:12 and Matthew 5:14,16

## Missional Community : Spiritual People

### Spiritual

Praying, studying scripture, and taking action.

### Social

Eating, praying for one another, and sharing life together.

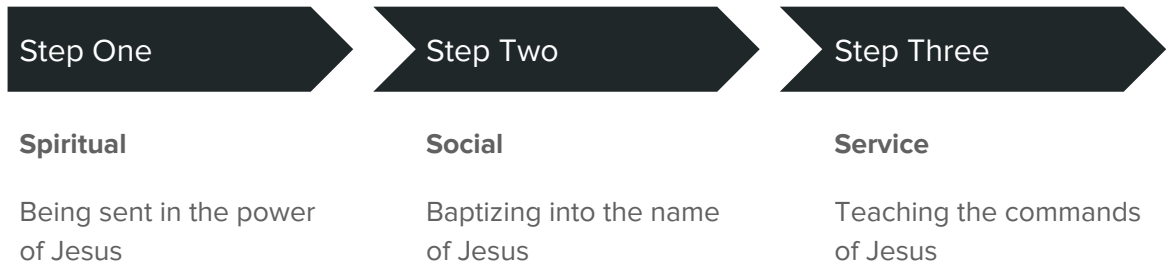
### Service

Loving, serving, and sharing the gospel to our neighbors and city.

The Great commission is neither evangelism or discipleship centered. It is gospel centered. The gospel is truly at the center whereas both discipleship and evangelism reflect a focus on Jesus and His mission. Belief in Jesus changes what we believe, who we are, and what we do. We will therefore go, baptize, teach, and heal the sick wherever we live.

The most clearly stated statement of the gospel is: "Jesus, the Messiah, is Lord." Disciples of Jesus are committed to sharing and showing that "Jesus is Lord" in every area of life and in every domain of society: family, work, government, entertainment, education, and all of culture.

## Missional Community : Spiritual Process



When we say our mission is to “make disciples” most people think of two things: winning people over to Jesus (evangelism) or helping a follower of Jesus learn to obey Him (discipleship). But when we look at Matthew 28, we don’t see an either/or option; we see both “evangelism” and “discipleship.”

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”** This is “evangelism.”

**“Teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.”** This is “discipleship.”

The gospel changes who we are by changing what we look at. We become like Jesus because we behold Jesus. The gospel truth changes everything. It is not only good news for us, but also for our neighbors, the poor, our city, and the world. The gospel announces the soon-coming reign of Jesus, which is in the process of reversing the order of things. The poor become rich, the captives are freed, the sick are healed, and the old becomes new.

The gospel changes what we believe (spiritual), who we are (social), and what we do (service).

# Missional Community

Part Three: Social

We believe that through Jesus we have been adopted by our Father in heaven as sons and daughters. We are called to live in community as family.

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From the beginning of our story, God has revealed himself as a Father building a family. Though we were separated by sin, His only Son's life, death, and resurrection has brought us back. We are His children and it is within our Father's family that we give and receive the fullness of His love and display the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

Because of our adoption, we live in a new family with new lifestyles and practices. We sum up these practices in three simple actions: eating together, praying for each other, and sharing our lives and stories.

Key Text: Matthew 12:46-50

# Missional Community : Social Purpose

We are ... the family of God, on the mission of Jesus, making disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Our identity as a people is founded on who God is and what He has done.*

**Discussion Question:** What would a gospel-centered missional community look like to you?

We certainly can't be family to one another if we settle for just being acquaintances or neighbors. One way to live on mission within community is through ordinary, everyday rhythms of life. When shared, each rhythm will help you grow into a living organization that is devoted to Jesus, one another, and your community.

When we regularly gather to celebrate God's grace and encourage those who are suffering, we are creating a space where we honor God and renew our world. We create this space in our work and in our hobbies, as well as in our rest and recreation. We love our community and enjoy the best of its culture, inviting one another into our everyday life.

## Missional Community : Social People

### Spiritual

What does it mean, tangibly, to have God as our Father?

### Social

How can we create relationships with each other that feels like family?

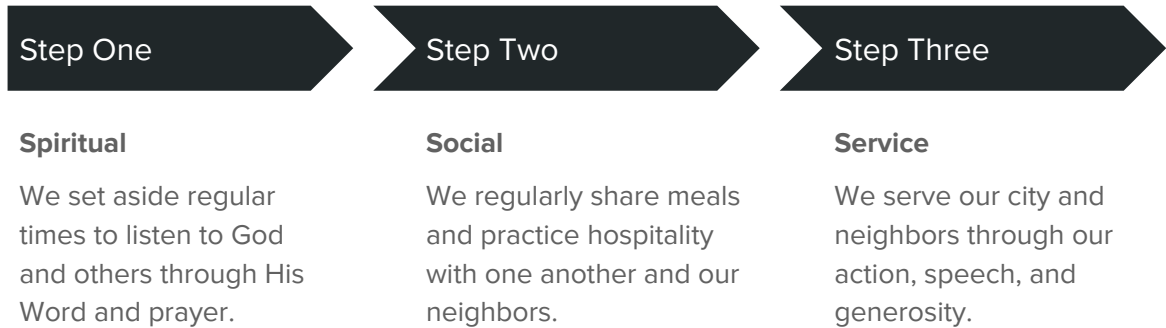
### Service

In our own histories of family life, which habits have been the most effective for deepening relationships?

In the Bible, community is conceived as family. This family is also called the church, which is created to support and protect the truth of the gospel (1 Timothy 2:4). Community therefore, is a set of relationships centered around the gospel. The people of God are made alive by the Spirit to give and receive the gospel as God's new community. Therefore, a missional community is a gospel-centered family.

Many of the rhythms of a missional community are ordinary, everyday things that you already do. Remember, community isn't something you just belong to; it's part of who you are. You are an ambassador for the Kingdom of God where you live, work, and play. So, we do ordinary things but with gospel intentionality. In other words, do the everyday things of life, but do them in a way that shows your devotion to Jesus, to one another, and to your neighbors.

## Missional Community : Social Process



Listening to God and one another enables an organization or family to be a community on mission that serves one another in the strength that God provides. We read scripture and pray together in order to remind one another of God's great grace.

And being that we all eat, we also find time to eat together. Therefore, a missional community is one that regularly shares a meal together and practices hospitality with one another and their community at large. Jesus Himself came not to be served but to serve. As we become more like Him, we hope to live as some of the most loving, self-sacrificing, and generous people that the world has known.

Being missional is simply being yourself as individuals and as an organization within a community. It is making disciples where you live, work, and play within your community as you collectively follow Jesus.

# Missional Community

Part Four: Service

All of human history is the unfolding story of God the Creator working for the restoration of all that He has created.

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From the moment Adam and Eve followed Satan in rejecting God's governance, God initiated a mission to rescue and restore all that He had made. At the climax of this story of rescue and restoration, God sent His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, as the hero and the first of many newly restored humans. Now we can be rescued and restored to God's family.

As a result, we follow this hero and King into every area of life and identify ourselves with His mission. We work to fulfill this identity by loving, serving, and sharing the gospel with family, friends, neighbors and community.

Key Text: John 20:21-22



## Missional Community : Service Purpose

We are ... the family of God, on the mission of Jesus, making disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Our identity as a people is founded on who God is and what He has done.*

**Discussion Question:** What comes to mind when you hear the word “service” in the context of missions?

In the book of Matthew, we get to overhear Jesus’ parting words to His disciples, who were the beginning of the first “missional community.” When we hear the word “mission” or “service” many things come to mind, such as a trip to Africa, volunteering at the soup kitchen, or even mentoring students. All of those are great things to do and can be a great way to “show and share the gospel,” but ultimately the mission of the first disciples was to make more disciples of Jesus.

Service is not an option for followers of Jesus, or something reserved for a select few. The mission of going into all the world and making disciples is for everybody. Your missional brand is simply a group of people who are devoted to Jesus, to one another, and to their neighbors. Therefore, service is something that happens in our everyday lives as we follow Jesus. It is not merely an activity; it is our identity.

## Missional Community : Service People

### Spiritual

The Father sent the Son; God created us in His image and adopts us as His children.  
(Galatians 4:4-7)

### Social

The Father and the Son sent the Spirit; Jesus came to us as the right image of God and leads us to become the same.  
(Hebrews 1:1-3)

### Service

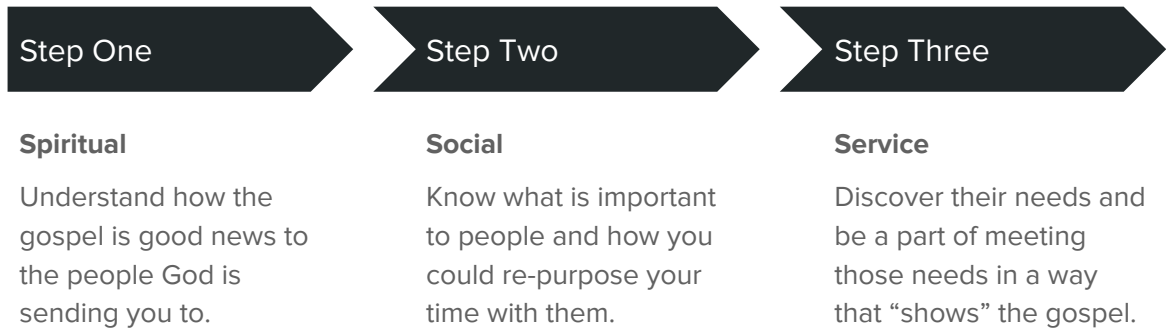
The Father, Son, and Spirit send the Church; Holy Spirit enables us with love and power to be witnesses of the gospel. (Acts 1:8)

If the Father sent Jesus is the way that Jesus sends us, then it is important to ask “How did the Father send Jesus?” God sent Jesus to become human. The God of the universe became a man, experienced hunger, thirst, pain, and betrayal. He lived among us, as one of us. God didn’t ask people to come to Him; He went to people.

Most of us have experienced the opposite when it comes to “church.” The church builds buildings, plans services, and asks people to “come to church.” Jesus on the other hand, sends the church to go out. If we are to be sent out like Jesus, then we should stop expecting people to come to us. Afterall, the church is not merely a building or a service; it is the people of God on the mission of Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We therefore go out as disciples into our neighborhoods, our workplace, our kids’ schools, and the city with the gospel so that together we can make other disciples.

## Missional Community : Service Process



If being "sent" is part of our identity, then it would be a good idea to know who we are being sent to. A great starting place is your group of friends, the people who live in your neighborhood, your co-workers, those who share a passion or hobby with you, or simply the people you engage with everyday.

If we are going to know how the gospel is "good news" to the people we are sent to ... we also need to know them. Community happens in the everyday things of life. Living missionally is not about adding activities to an already busy life; but instead, it's a matter of being yourself in the everyday with a gospel-centered focus to serve and share the good news.

## Focused Alignment Instructions (Exodus 14:13-27)

### Thought with Thanksgiving

**Seek Instruction** > God will fight for you - remember & pray

- List 3 things you're thankful for:
  - 
  - 
  -

### Feeling with Praise

**Receive Instruction** > God is fighting for you - watch & listen

- List 3 things you're prayerful for:
  - 
  - 
  -

### Action with Worship

**Execute Instruction** > God has fought for you - respond & proclaim

- List 3 things you're expectant for:
  - What's probable:
  - What's possible:
  - What's impossible:

Your assignment is to bring your focus into alignment with God's story because a Kingdom worldview produces the greatest potential for economic prosperity and domestic peace.

### **The Moses Prayer** - *Focused Alignment Instructions*

1. Alignment with Purpose of God for my Life - King and Priest
2. Be Purposeful in Your Position - to make Disciples
3. Desire is the Key - Set it on the Truth of Your Position
4. Set Yourself Apart - Let them "See" Your Actions
5. Surrender - The Key to Everything in the Kingdom



# Living on Mission

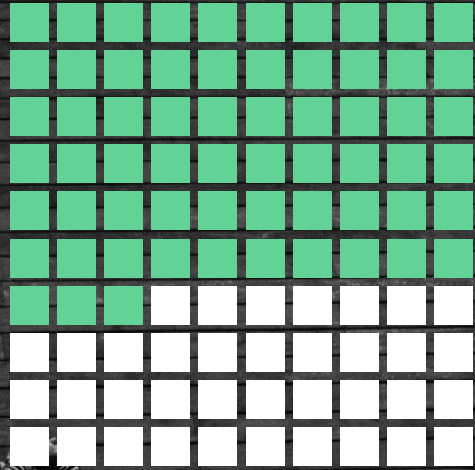
*let's actually change our world*

Part Five: Missional Community - Living on Mission

## NOW Initiative

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**Helping organizations to do community in the midst of a larger community so that the gospel is made known.**

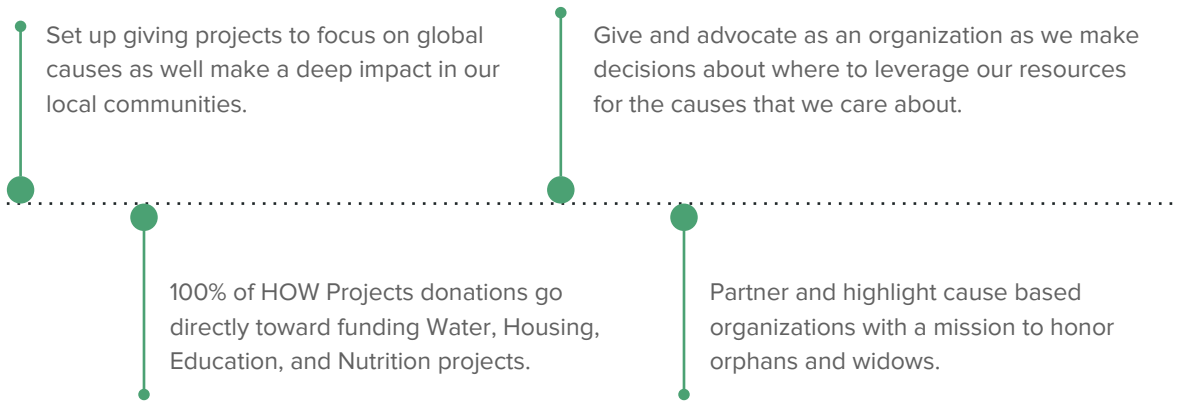


The NOW Initiative is simply a Network Outside Walls. It is a net-that-works by gathering business and church leaders from around the world to meet each other, collaborate together, and ultimately promote unity. The agenda is to simply love and honor each other as one Church.

Our unity is not that you're doing the same thing but instead everyone doing different things while moving in the same direction. The aim is to bring people from different backgrounds together to find the needs of our world and empower socially responsible leaders to meet those needs.

The desire of the NOW Moment is to set an example for others and our greatest role model is Jesus. With every opportunity, we simply come together for a set time where we pray, worship, and share our resources. Then, we gather to honor our civil, social, and church leaders to promote unity and continue the unstoppable mission of Jesus.

# HOW Project



The HOW idea is simple: it allows us to GO into all the world honoring orphans and widows. We define GO by actively participating with others in making the largest and most long-term impact possible. At our core, we connect and support influencers for the message of the Gospel. However, we know that awareness without action is pointless.

Therefore, because your faith explores what awareness reveals, we are a missional community that networks outside walls to mobilize our faith into action. We accomplish this by partnering with others to use our influence collectively to develop local communities that connect globally. Then, together, we share new opportunities to do good and then act on it.

The HOW Project goes into all the world giving and advocating for causes that are making a lasting social impact. As a community, we simply contribute to the good that's being done and empower those who want to do good as we seek to honor orphans and widows.

# Missional Community BIG Idea



## Benefit

*Value:* Get more effective  
with what you do



## Initiative

*Honor:* Give away what  
you can't keep



## Goal

*Gratitude:* Gain what you  
can never lose

## Missional Community B.I.G. Idea

1. Benefit (value): Get more effective with what you do
2. Initiative (honor): Give away what you can't keep
3. Goal (gratitude): Gain what you can never lose



# The Missional MAP

## Finding Your Way

### **Missional Community M.A.P**

1. Mission (**what**) - a strongly felt aim, ambition, or calling.
2. Advocacy (**who**) - public support for a particular cause or policy.
3. Purpose (**why**) - the reason for which something is done or created.

### **Missional Community M.A.P Questions**

1. What's your purpose?
2. What's your possibilities?
3. What makes you different?
4. What do you believe in?
5. What do you promise?

# The Missional Script

## Knowing Your People

### **Missional Community Script**

**You do what** (process) **for who** (people) **because why** (purpose).

# The Missional Statement

## Owning Your Process

### **Missional Community Statement**

**We are a** (what type of organization) **that** (what unique service or product do you provide) **for** (who is your target audience) **in** (which geographic region or market segment of focus) **who want to** (what is your target's' emotional motivation) **during a** (time of ... what is the recent increasing or decreasing cultural trend).

*NOW* let's actually change  
our world, but don't worry,  
you know *HOW*.