

# **GOING AROUND THE CORNER**

## **Student Version**

Taking the Gospel to your campus, dorm and  
playing field

**Todd & Sheila Alewine**  
**Around The Corner Ministries**

[www.aroundthecornerministries.org](http://www.aroundthecornerministries.org)

***Around The Corner Ministries*** exists to take the gospel to every neighborhood in America. Our mission is to equip followers of Jesus to engage their neighborhoods and communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

© 2018 by Todd & Sheila Alewine

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of Around The Corner Ministries, 330 Mountain Valley Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739. [www.aroundthecornerministries.org](http://www.aroundthecornerministries.org)

ISBN: 978-0-9991-3183-1

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org).

# CONTENTS

<b>Session One: His Harvest</b>	7
Exploring Where God Has Put You	
<b>Session Two: His Heart</b>	19
Engaging Through Prayer	
<b>Session Three: His Glory</b>	33
Engaging Through Biblical Good Deeds	
<b>Session Four: His Salvation</b>	49
Evangelizing: Telling Your Story	
<b>Session Five: His Salvation</b>	63
Evangelizing: Sharing The Gospel	
<b>Take The Next Step</b>	81
So Now What?	
<b>Appendix</b>	83
How To Become A Christ-Follower	
Additional Resources	



# INTRODUCTION

Did you know that God had a specific plan in mind when you were born?

*And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation. (Acts 17:26)*

God is intimately involved in **when** and **where** you live. The city you reside in, the high school or college you attend, the teams you play on, the friends in your life ... none of these are simply by accident. God has a purpose that began long before you were born, and He brought you into this world at just the right time and place.

How many times have you heard, “God has a plan for your life?” We want to believe this, for deep inside, we all need to know that our life has value and meaning. No one knows that more than the God who created you, because He put that desire in you, and then divinely brought you in this world to fulfill that desire. The circumstances of your birth, the conditions of your present life, and the obstacles you face in your future – God can and will use these to carry out the unique purpose and plan He has for your life. And that purpose will always be centered in the gospel, because this is God’s master plan for our world.

Over the next few weeks, you will discover the reason God has placed you in community with others, whether it be in your school, your dorm suite, your workplace, the gym where you work out, your sports team, or the classroom. He is already at work in the hearts of your friends and He desires to use you to introduce them to Jesus Christ.

Our prayer is that at the end of this Bible study you will see from scripture how God has called each one of us to **go around the corner** and share the good news about Jesus. Through a simple strategy of reaching out through prayer, biblical good works, and sharing your story, God can use you to advance His kingdom and bring people into the family of God.

God bless your journey.

Todd and Sheila Alewine



# SESSION ONE

## EXPLORING WHERE GOD HAS PUT YOU

### Day 1 – His Harvest

For the next few weeks, we are going on a journey to learn how we can reach our classmates, teammates, co-workers and friends with the gospel. Our goal is to discover God's heart for others, and to make ourselves available for Him to use to share the good news of Jesus right where we live every day.

If you say the word "missions" most likely an image of a far-off land comes to mind, somewhere remote that takes at least a plane ride to get there. You probably think of staying in less-than-desirable accommodations, eating strange food, and being unable to understand the spoken language. And yes, those descriptions are accurate for a lot of mission trips.

We also think of being called a "missionary" as something unique – reserved for those people who are truly spiritual and special. It's not for the ordinary person, like you and me. Or is it?

The word "**mission**" simply means *an important goal or purpose that is accompanied by strong conviction; a calling or vocation; it is a sending or being sent for some duty or purpose.*

A missionary is simply someone who is living "on mission."

Are we all called to live "on mission?" Let's explore some scripture this week and see what the Bible says.

Matthew 9:35-38 – *Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."*

What do we learn about Jesus from this passage? What was His mission as He traveled through the cities and villages?

---

---

What did Jesus see and feel? Why did He feel this way?

---

---

The word *compassion* means “to yearn.” The word literally means to be moved from within, not just sympathy or pity, but a *yearning*, a *longing* for the condition of someone else. Think about the condition of the people, considering the words Jesus used to describe them.

In verses 37-38, Jesus tells His disciples that they should pray for something. What is it? Why does He want them to pray for this?

---

---

---

**Distressed**

To grow weak or weary, be tired out; to be despondent or faint-hearted.

**Dispirited**

To be cast down or out, to be scattered.

What do you think is the harvest that Jesus refers to?

---

---

Luke 10:1-2 – *Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*

According to these verses, where was the harvest going to be?

---

---

What was special about these places?

---

---

Jesus looked with compassion on people. He saw their hearts and their need. He was not a “far away” God, but the One who was coming to them – right into their own city and village, and He sent His disciples ahead of Him to prepare the way.



In the same way, Jesus is preparing us to be laborers in His harvest – our friends and teammates who are like sheep without a shepherd. He desires their salvation, because He has looked upon them with compassion.

As you close today's study, ask God to show you His harvest that is right around you, and to give you a compassionate heart.

## **Day 2 – God's Sovereignty and Our Mission**

It is not enough to recognize that there is a harvest of souls right around us. We must also recognize our calling as laborers and understand that God has given us a personal mission to reach the people in our lives with the gospel. To truly believe in a **personal mission**, we must understand the sovereignty of God.

In 1 Chronicles 29 we read the story of how King David prepared for his son, Solomon, to build the temple. David was old, nearing the end of his life. God had given Solomon a big job to do – he would build a physical temple where the people could worship God and experience His presence. Although God had not allowed David to build the temple, he wanted to be part of it, so he called for the people to consecrate themselves to the Lord, and give generously of their time, talents, and money, so that Solomon would have everything he needed.

After the people gave, David prayed a prayer that tells us about God's sovereignty. Read the following verses, and then list what you learn.

*1 Chronicles 29:9-14 – Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly. So David blessed the Lord in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name. But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

To understand God is **sovereign** is to realize that He has all power, all authority, and all dominion over all things. The implication is that He is our **king**, and we serve Him as citizens of His kingdom. We are His ambassadors.

David and the people of Israel recognized the sovereignty of God over all they possessed (including themselves). They realized that everything they had given to build the temple was simply giving back to God what He had provided in the first place.

God is not only sovereign over our possessions and our blessings, He is also sovereign over where we live, go to school and work. Read the following verses and write down what you learn about the sovereignty of God. **How does this personally apply to you?**

*Acts 17:24-28 – The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’*

---

---

---

---

Do you believe God has sovereignly and strategically placed you to be on mission for Him? How do you know?

---

---

---

As you close today's study in prayer, ask God to give you a heart of praise and joyful gratitude for the blessing of your home, your dorm, your team, your circle of friends and co-workers. Thank Him for His sovereign plan in determining where you live, so that you can be a part of the harvest that is right around you.

### Day 3 – Dodging Distractions

What keeps you from accomplishing what you set out to do? Often, we become excited about an opportunity only to get distracted and lose our passion before we reach our goal. Let's look at scripture to see how we can remain faithful to the **mission** God has given us to reach the people around us.

We may be distracted by a *wrong perspective*:  
our own interests instead of God's interests.

Peter is a good example of having the wrong perspective.

Matthew 16:21-23 – *From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You!" But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."*

What had Jesus turned His attention toward? What was His purpose?

---

---

What was Peter's response to the plan for Jesus' future?

---

---

Jesus gives a very strong response to Peter in verse 23. What do you learn from Peter's attempt to keep Jesus from going to the cross?

---

---

---

Matthew 16:24 – *Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”*

In light of this verse, what do you think had become a distraction for Peter?

---

---

Peter had an earthly perspective. He was missing the eternal value in what Jesus planned to do, by obeying His Father and going to the cross. He was thinking in terms of his physical life. He loved Jesus, and did not want Him to suffer, nor did he want Jesus to leave. He also misunderstood the true cost of discipleship. Jesus was illustrating by His own life, that we must be willing to give up everything for the kingdom of God.

The second distraction to our mission may be that we have *wrong priorities*.

Martha illustrates what happens when our priorities are out of order.

Luke 10:38-42 – *Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”*

What was Martha’s concern?

---

---

What was Jesus’ response?

---

---

What “one thing” did Jesus indicate was necessary? What did He refer to as the “good part” Mary had chosen?

---

---

What was Martha's distraction?

---

---

Martha's priorities were wrong. She had good intentions; after all, she had invited Jesus into her home and felt responsible for the meal preparations, hosting, and serving. But her focus had become more about the event, and less about Jesus.

**Learning how to be a laborer in God's harvest begins with our own relationship with Christ; the labor overflows from our love for Him.**

As you think about your perspective on kingdom work, and the priorities which fill up your day to day life, ask God to show you where you may be distracted. Are you more concerned with your self-interests, rather than what God's interests are? Are you distracted by worry, consumed by tasks which keep you from focusing on Christ?

Close your study in prayer, confessing any distractions that may keep you from completing the **mission** God has given you. Thank Him that He hears your prayer, and that His Spirit will protect your mind and heart from any distractions.

What are your distractions? List them here.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Day 4 – Avoiding Excuses**

Yesterday we learned about distractions; today we are going to look at excuses which keep us from the purpose God has for us. What's the difference? A distraction is passive. For example, perhaps you have been given the task of cleaning your room. You know it needs to be done, and that you will be much happier when it's neat and uncluttered. You start the day with every intention to accomplish your goal, but along the way, you are distracted: your friend texts and really needs to talk; you find a stack of old magazines and start looking through them; you get hungry, so you go to the kitchen for a snack, and then sit down to just watch one episode of your favorite television series. Before you know it, the day has passed, and your room is still a mess. You didn't intend to fail...you just got distracted.

Excuses are a different story, however. We are masters at making excuses (and we can be very creative). We don't see it this way, but most of our excuses come from an inflated sense of self – we are too busy doing other important things. If we're not careful, we will make excuses why we cannot fulfill the mission God has given us, and we will fail to make an impact for the gospel.

Scripture addresses our tendency to make excuses and gives us the answer to overcoming them.

*Luke 9:57-62 – As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

List the excuses given for not immediately following Jesus.

---

---

---

---

---

Who did Jesus say was not "fit" for the kingdom of God?

---

---

---

The word "fit" in the Greek is the word *euthetos*. It has the meaning of "well placed, useful, ready for use, or adapted." In other words, Jesus is teaching that unless we are completely committed to our mission of proclaiming everywhere the kingdom of God (verse 60), we will not be *useful* or *ready* for the kingdom of God. When we allow distractions and excuses to hinder our commitment, we become unusable and useless.

**Excuse #1: I'm too busy with my life.**

In this scripture passage, Jesus addresses parents and friends. The one who asked to first go and bury his father wasn't simply asking to attend a funeral. He was asking Jesus to wait until his father died before committing to follow. Jesus' response seems harsh, but He was simply stating that spiritual life is more important than physical life. Jesus' followers are to go and proclaim the kingdom of God, and spiritual life would result. Our physical life concerns are secondary. Likewise, the call of God on our life surpasses the hold that our friends have on us.

Our earthly relationships with our family and friends are important, and the Bible teaches that we should respect, love and obey our parents, and be considerate and kind to our friends. But our priority must be our complete commitment to following Jesus as His disciple. This means that sometimes we must set aside our desire to be with those we are comfortable with (family, friends), and be willing to get to know other classmates, teammates, or those who live in our dorm in order to share Jesus. We must examine our priorities and make adjustments.

How can this principle become practical in your life? What adjustments do you need to make in your life to prioritize the words of Jesus? Write those here:

---

---

---

---

---

**Excuse #2: It's harder than I expected.**

Luke 10:2-3 – *And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves."*

How did Jesus describe the way He was sending out the disciples?

---

---

What do you think He was trying to tell them?

---

---

Consider Matthew 16:24 again:

*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."*

What two things must we do before we can follow Jesus?

---

---

To **take up our cross** speaks of death – death to self, death to our flesh. Just as Peter cried out that Jesus simply could not go to the cross because of the pain, humiliation and suffering which would come, we often make excuses not to follow Christ because it is costly and painful.

Following Christ and serving as His ambassador of the gospel is not an easy task. Many of your friends and classmates will not want to hear about Jesus, because they do not wish to be confronted with their personal sin. Others are satisfied with their life and see no reason to examine spiritual truth or be challenged in their beliefs. Still, others may become angry that you wish to share Jesus. You may be rejected.

Jesus said  
that He sent  
out His  
disciples  
*as lambs in  
the midst of  
wolves.*

Jesus did not paint a rosy, unrealistic picture of what it would mean for the disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God. He was completely honest about the challenges, but He also encouraged them. It is a difficult task, but one that brings great joy and blessing as we see our friends come to Christ.

Write a prayer asking God to show you any excuses you may be making that prevents you from sharing the gospel with your friends, teammates, classmates or co-workers. Confess where you have been distracted and ask God to strengthen you with boldness and passion to fulfill your mission.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Day 5 – Team Up

Everyone knows the best way to reach a goal is to have a teammate. Whether it's a training plan to reach your personal best on the next 5K, studying for a mid-term, knocking out that group project, or just forming new habits to improve your life, having someone to walk alongside you and motivate you, as well as provide accountability, always improves your performance.

Jesus knew that we needed each other. The most important task He gave to the disciples was to go out and proclaim the kingdom of God, and He sent them out in teams of two.

Luke 10:1 – *Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.*

Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs? Think about their task. What practical benefits would there be in traveling in pairs?

---

---

---

---

How does this apply to your mission to reach your campus or workplace? Do you already know another believer that could share in your mission?

Who do you know that could share in your mission to reach your campus for Christ? Write their name here and pray that God will lead them to join you.

---

---

---

Remember what Jesus said in Luke 10:2? *The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*

Jesus did not tell the disciples to pray for *more* laborers; He said we should pray that the laborers would be **sent**. God has plenty of laborers; they just need to get in the field. We must recognize His call and answer the mission.

Ask God for a teammate. Begin praying today for God to allow you to meet other believers on your campus or at your work. If you already know some believers, enlist them in the **mission**.

