

Look Ahead to Mission Guide

Introduction

In the previous session, we reflected on the truth that to follow Christ is to follow His Church. While we may wrestle with particular teaching, we trust that the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, speaks truth, and that our hearts are invited into ongoing conversion.

One of the teachings the Church presents to us is the universal call to mission and evangelization. Consider the following quotes from Pope Paul VI's encyclical, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*:

"The Church exists to evangelize." (EN 16)

"It is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the Kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn." (EN 24)

Every disciple is called to mission. St. Paul captures this urgency when he proclaims, "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). The question for us is not so much *if* but *how* Christ is calling us personally to live out that call.

With this resource, we'll consider the invitation to mission with FOCUS as one possible way to respond to this great invitation. To do so, we'll look at a few tools that missionaries and Commissioned Disciples within FOCUS use to bring clarity and direction to the great task of missionary discipleship.

The MDR: Tracing Our Journey

Based on Scripture and Church teaching, the Missionary Discipleship Roadmap (MDR) is a visual tool that outlines the typical path of a disciple's maturing in Christ, from initial encounter all the way to intentionally living mission. It is not designed to place anyone in a box or suggest that spiritual growth is perfectly linear. Instead, it provides guideposts that help us see where we've been, where we are, and where Christ might be leading us next. Pull out a copy of the MDR and take a few moments to reflect:

- What are parts you noticed that resemble your own journey in how your discipler or others pursued you?
- What are parts in your journey that looked a little different from this roadmap?

If you're in Growing Discipleship, you're likely living within the "Build" phase, where a disciple grows in the basic Christian habits of **prayer, fellowship, sacramental life, and the apostles teaching (Acts 2:42)**. To reach this point, there likely was a moment or a series of moments when your heart turned toward Christ in openness and pursuit.

- What happened to bring you to this point in the "build" section?
- Was there ever a "turning point" or a series of decisions for you to begin to follow Christ more intentionally?

After (and often *while*) Jesus built up his disciples in these basic habits, he sent them out to evangelize others as well. In fact, his last words to them on earth were "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." This is what it means to live in the "Send" phase.

Let's take a moment to look at the "Send" phase of the MDR. It begins by having the disciple learn how to "win" as they were won over to Christ through relationship and invitation. The disciple then invests in those bible study members and shares the gospel with them, with the invitation into growing discipleship, just as you were. From this place the disciple teaches them the habits of discipleship and grows in fellowship with them, later teaching them to do the same with others.

- What would it look like if every Catholic on campus intentionally lived mission in this way?

ACTS: Living Mission with Intentionality

To live missionary discipleship well, we need both intentionality and support. *ACTS* is a coaching tool that helps disciples pray by name for those they're investing in, receive encouragement, and track growth in mission. *ACTS* tracks local bible studies to provide familiarity with studies nearby, as well as clarifies discipleship relationships. Disciples are called to make disciples, and the way Jesus did this was through the Little Way of Evangelization – investing in a few to invest in a few, multiplied, to reach the world. He started with James, John, and Peter, who modeled after Him, which has resulted in disciples today to know and follow Jesus.

- At this point, the discipler will show the disciple around Acts themselves

Though Jesus began with only a small band of disciples (and His Mother), the fruit has reached the ends of the earth. Likewise, your "yes", even if it seems small, can bear unimaginable fruit. As God told Abraham that his descendants would outnumber the stars, so too could the spiritual descendants of one disciple's faithful "yes" be countless.

To see a glimpse of this multiplication in real life, watch the [SEEK 2017 Video](#) (11:48-17:48)

Now, let's return to answer the question posed a bit ago:

- What would it look like if every disciple on campus actively attempted to make disciples for Christ?

Now let's consider it for ourselves:

- What would it look like if *you* actively attempted to make disciples for Christ?
- Where do you hope to be on the Roadmap in the future?

Commissioned Discipleship Expectations

As you consider continuing in mission with the support of FOCUS, you'll be invited to live a few practical commitments that foster growth, accountability, and unity in apostolic living. While each campus adapts these slightly, the core elements often include:

Commitments:

- Regular Attendance to Discipleship
- Attending Monthly Upper Rooms
- Discipling Others
- Regular Prayer (15 Minutes of Mental Prayer Daily) and Sacramental Life
- Moral Authority and Pursuit of Virtue (Big 3)
- Upholding the Teachings of the Church

Take Action

Take time to pray through these commitments this week. Bring any questions to your next discipleship conversation. Consider reflection through the *Examining Preparedness for Christian Leadership* in preparation for the upcoming session – the High Call: an invitation to be sent on mission, to live spiritual multiplication as Jesus did, as a commissioned disciple within FOCUS. Until then, feel free to reach out to your discipler with any questions or thoughts upon further reflection.

Key Concepts

- “It is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give Himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn.” – *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 24

- The MDR -The Missionary Discipleship Roadmap (MDR) is a visual tool that outlines the general path of a disciple's growth in relationship with Christ as well as in mission
- ACTS – a coaching tool that helps missionary disciples pray for those that they are investing in as well as track growth in mission
- Commissioned Discipleship Commitments create space for honest discernment of the High Call.