

MISSION
24/7
a heart to know Him
Small Group Interactive Experience



Welcome to *Mission 24/7 -- a Heart to Know Him*. Thanks for being part of this interactive small group experience. We know you will be blessed!

Mission 24/7—a Heart to Know Him is designed to be experienced in a group setting. Groups larger than eight in number may have difficulty finding sufficient space to complete the Life Collage that is an integral part of the experience. If you have been blessed with too many guests — consider offering the experience on two evenings — or providing the necessary work space for all of those present.

Please take a few minutes to read through the “How to Use” section of this booklet. It should answer most of your questions. The same resource guide is used by the host or facilitator as the well as the small group participant. Please read carefully.

If there are additional questions, please give Grace a call at (636)779-2302.

NOTES:

As you think about what living on Mission 24/7 might mean for you – what promises do you feel you need to have before you can begin your journey? What role will family members play in that journey? What role will small group members play? What role will other forms of spiritual encouragement play? List those different roles.

Your interactive small group experience is drawing to a close. Some of you will have lots of pictures glued in place – others will not. Celebrate diversity – remember diversity is a core value at St. John.

Leader

Depending on how much sharing has happened up until now, this might be a good place to share your story. Be open to share your answer to the question, “**What would my life look like if I lived on Mission 24/7?**” If you have more than six in your group, have participants form sub groups of two or three to share.

Final Faith Lesson/Promise

The thought of making a significant change is scary; yet significant change may be necessary in order to begin to live “on Mission 24/7.” Those kinds of changes don’t happen overnight – but do require initial steps. Consider memorizing this verse. You may also want to write it on the right side of your collage.

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”
Deuteronomy 31: 8

Leader

Thank your group for coming. Finish your interactive experience in prayer. Spend some time taking photos of the collages.

A Special thank you to Ed and Melissa Troutman and to Michelle Eble who graciously allowed their faith journeys to be captured for this *Mission 24/7: A Heart to Know Him Interactive Small Group Experience*.

How to Use This Resource

What materials are needed for a successful experience?

- A copy of the DVD titled: *Mission 24/7 – a Heart to Know Him*
- DVD Player
- A Bible
- Small Group Interactive Experience Guide – (One per person)
- A stack of magazines that you don’t mind having cut up. Ideally the magazines will contain lots of pictures of people. (Examples: sports magazines, housekeeping or parenting magazines, business weekly, travel magazines, car and driver, outdoor magazines)
- Scissors for cutting paper
- Glue sticks
- Miscellaneous markers
- One sheet (per participant) of heavy weight paper, (12 X 18 or larger – Larger is preferable. If you did not pick up paper at the training session and cannot locate large sheets of paper – contact Kat Hannemann at 636-779-2343.
- Large/flat surface to work on
- Digital Camera – Take pictures of your group at work – then take pictures of some of the finished collages. Send them to ghughey@stjstl.net.

Helpful to know

The DVD is designed to begin with the end in mind – thus allowing each participant to consider where they are now, where they have been, and then begin to create a vision for what their life might look like as they begin to live on Mission 24/7. Participants in this small group interactive experience, after watching the video and participating in the discussion, will be creating their own *Mission 24/7: a Heart to Know Him* collage. This collage will visually answer the question: **What would it look like if I lived my life on Mission 24/7?**

Faith Lesson

This portion gives participants the opportunity to reflect on several heroes from scripture who lived on Mission 24/7 – not because they were fully trained or prepared, but because they responded to God’s call. Discussion from this section may be carried on while participants work on their collages.

Timing

The DVD is approximately 12 minutes in length and created with pauses that allow for discussion and collage development. This small group interactive discussion guide is designed around the three sections of the DVD. Optimum time for the experience is 1 ½ hours.

Intergenerational

This is a great experience to do with your school age children. Though the DVD focuses on three adults – you could interpret what the video says for the children and turn them loose creating their own collage. Consider having a separate table for children. Provide them with children’s magazines, and encourage them to put together a collage that visually shows how they live on mission for Jesus. Make sure to give the children time to “show and tell” the adults what they have created.

Youth

Though the testimonies come from the perspective of individuals beyond the teen age years – their stories reflect the commonality of all generations. Use the DVD as a point of reference and then turn the youth free to reflect about how to live on Mission 24/7.

grace.” What about Michelle and Ed? How did the realization of God’s grace look for them?



Leader

Play the third portion of the DVD – choose from the drop-down menu. If you have trouble restarting simply remove the DVD and reinsert and you will be taken to the menu again.

Leader

Introduce this final interactive time by sharing the following:

The final phase of your collage might well be a work in progress. That was certainly the case for Ed, Melissa and Michelle. In fact Ed went so far as to say: “Mission 24/7 is a tough thing.”

Since this whole concept of living on Mission 24/7 is probably new for most of us – it might be difficult to finish the final portion of your collage—the right side. You may only be ready to add a few pictures there. Maybe you will cut out or draw lots of question marks. If that is the case, – that’s okay! You will probably be in good company since most people ask themselves over and over: **“What would it look like if I lived my life on Mission 24/7?”**

Faith Lesson Guided by host or facilitator

Leader

Look up Genesis 12: 1-5. Ask someone in the group to read those verses. Use some of the following questions to guide this final Faith Lesson section.

Perhaps you weren’t able to identify with Ruth when she chose to follow Naomi to Bethlehem. Remember that required making a break with all that had been familiar in her life. Is her decision any different than that of Abraham? Before you answer, – re-read verses two and three. God makes quite a few promises to Abraham to encourage him on his journey of faith. There didn’t appear to be any promises given to Ruth.

Without the promises would Abraham have gone? What role do promises play in your ability to live on Mission 24/7, and like Abraham, to move forward toward the promise land God has prepared for you?

Leader

Pause the video and introduce some of the following questions to generate discussion and continued collage building.

How did you get where you are? Ed refers to his high school years? What did those years look like for you? If you are in school right now, how are those experiences shaping you?

Think about the many events in your life that have brought you to your present situation? What has happened in your life? Have you had a prolonged illness? Experienced the death of a child or spouse? Where are you in the birth order in your family? What educational level have you attained? What life events have happened that you didn't count on?

What do your responses to those things have to say about your faith walk? About your ability to live a life that is on Mission 24/7?

Go back through those magazines that have been provided. Take some time to pictures or words or phrases that might help define who you are based on your unique story of who you have become. Begin to position those items on the left-hand side of the large piece of paper. *Glue is still optional.*

Faith Lesson *Guided by host or facilitator*

Many versions of the Bible include this phrase as a heading for Ephesians chapter two: "Made Alive in Christ." Read the following verses together in your group:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2: 8-10.

Maybe another way of getting at the original question, "**What would it look like to live a life on Mission 24/7?**" is to ask another question: "If I have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, what does that look like for me?"

Melissa finally came to the place where all her hurrying and scurrying left her worn out. She said: "I can't do anything—it is only by God's

Before You Lead

For the best experience it's important to preview the entire DVD so that you can be familiar with the content. Then begin your own collage. Having a head start on your own collage will allow you as a small group leader to be a resource to others during the group session.

This will also ensure that you are familiar with the drop-down menu allowing you to select the appropriate portion of the DVD during your small group experience.

Extending Your Experience

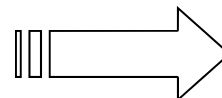
If you are serving as a host for this small group interactive experience you may find some of your guests interested in meeting a second time. That would be wonderful. Quite honestly, some may not feel ready to complete the collage – especially if answering the question might create the need to make some changes in priorities. If you sense this response from any of the guests in your home – please let them know that you are available to host a second discussion – and then work with the group to set another date before this experience ends.

If your existing small group has changed their regular routine in order to participate in this interactive experience you may also find group members who would appreciate a second opportunity to consider the question. As a group, determine what the next step should look like, and then set that meeting date prior to closing this experience.

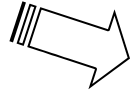
New Small Group Participants

Our prayer is that participants will have such a powerful experience that many will want to become part of an ongoing small group experience. Contact Kat or Grace at (khannemann@stjstl.net/ghughey@stjstl.net) to help make those connections.

Thank you for being part of *Mission 24/7: A Heart to Know Him!*



Turn the page to begin the Mission 24/7 Small Group Interactive Experience.



MISSION 24/7: *a Heart to Know Him*

“I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.” Jeremiah 24:7

Opening Thoughts

The goal of this small group interactive experience is to answer the question “What would my life look like if I lived on Mission 24/7?” Your response will be as unique as you are. The collage you develop will reflect your uniqueness.

The video is designed to generate discussion. It’s the starting point, but your involvement allows the video to come full circle. If what you see generates personal application in your life, we will have been successful in creating an interactive small group experience.

In the video three special friends from St. John share their faith walk. As you listen, think about your own life. Where are the intersections of faith and life for you? Where does your experience intersect with theirs? Or, if yours is totally different, let your collage reflect your experience.

DVD Presentation



Leader

Introduce the DVD at this point. Choose section one from the drop down menu. The DVD will automatically pause at the end of the approximate 3 ½ minute section.

Interactive Discussion

Getting started with your collage!

Leader

Participants may follow along as you read the following:

Ed, Melissa and Michelle all began at different points. Michelle sees herself serving and connecting, Melissa sees herself aligning her focus to God’s, and Ed is beginning to see how his reaction to customers

determines the next step in a relationship. How about for you? What is your starting point as you think about what it would mean to live on Mission 24/7?

Where are you right now—not physically—but in terms of how you spend the hours of a day, the days of a week, the weeks of a month? Begin flipping through the stack of magazines that your host or small group leader has provided. Cut out a few photos that define you at this point. Begin to arrange them in the middle of the large piece of paper. Wait until later to begin the gluing process.

Faith Lesson *Guided by host or facilitator*

The story of Ruth is really a short story about a woman – not initially a follower of the true God – who took what life gave and turned it into a life on Mission 24/7. Turn to the book of Ruth. That’s the 8th book of the Bible and found the Old Testament. Read chapter one. As you read, make a list of the events in the life of Ruth that propelled her into living a life on Mission 24/7. What comes to mind as you reflect on those verses? What are some of the events in your life that God might be using to propel you into a place where you have never been? **Leader note: Depending on how well your group knows one another – some may not feel comfortable adding to the discussion. As a leader – your own vulnerability sharing may allow participants to share more openly.**

Leader

The following should provide the transition into the next section of the DVD.

Perhaps this self examination has created a sense of “I’m just getting by” and you can’t imagine adding one more thing to your place. You might even feel like withdrawing from some of your current activities – it’s okay to let that show in your collage. For others the response to what life is throwing at you is over-commitment – think super hero mindset – and involvement becomes an end in itself. It’s okay to reflect that as well. In other words – let the collage reflect where you are – the good, the bad, and the ugly.



Leader

Restart the DVD. Choose the second portion from the drop-down menu. If you have trouble restarting it, simply remove the DVD and reinsert it and you will be taken to the menu again...