

DISCERNING, DEFINING, & ENGAGING SHARED MISSION

Since God designed us to live life with others, and since most elements of discipleship to happen best together, displaying and declaring the gospel is often best in the context of a community of sisters and brothers in Christ. It can be difficult to define a shared mission — but such definition is often less about creating something brand new, and more about discerning and discovering what God is already doing among your community, together.

Part One below offers questions to ask, to help your community discover what shared mission might exist. Part Two leads you to consider what God might call you to. Part Three can help you wisely engage those opportunities together.

This process is less about strategy and checking boxes, and more about discovering what God's doing, and how your community might live on mission well among the people and places you exist, by his power and for his kingdom.

PART ONE: DISCERNING WHAT ALREADY EXISTS

Each household (person/couple/family/etc.) in your community can pray through these questions, and compile your answers together as you consider what overlap God has created in your lives, and what that means for shared mission.

WHAT ___ EXIST?	EXAMPLE (ONE HOUSEHOLD)	HOUSEHOLD 1	HOUSEHOLD 2	HOUSEHOLD 3
...PLACES & SPACES YOU'RE OFTEN IN...	> Clayton Elem (school) > Siriuux (Jim's job - home) > KPMG (Jane's office) > Brewed Coffee (Jim/Jane) > Home (all)			
...RELATIONSHIPS (NON-BELIEVERS)...	> Mr K & Ms T (teachers) > Jerry/Terry (Jim's job) > Shelly/Tam (Jane's yoga) > Bob/Barb, Steve/Sharon, Nigel? (Neighbors)			
...HOBBIES & PASSIONS...	> Gym, concerts (Jim) > Yoga, trivia, soccer (Jane) > Photog, pub trivia (both) > Kids' sports			
...RHYTHMS BEYOND WORK/ SCHOOL...	> Tue pub trivia/Wed yoga classes; Fri music (Jane) > M/W/F gym, Tue pub trivia, Fri concert (Jim) > Sat a.m. sports field (all)			
...OTHER IDEAS/ THOUGHTS...	> Jim: try home-brew? > Jane: office happy hour?			



PART TWO: DEFINING YOUR COMMUNITY'S SHARED MISSION

Having considered existing realities, your community now asks God to lead you into relationships and spaces, to display and declare God's good news with each other. **First, compile info from Part One (+ jot down new ideas too):**

WHAT ___ OVERLAP?	EXAMPLE (MULTI-HOUSEHOLD)	WHAT OVERLAP EXISTS FROM PART 1?
...PLACES & SPACES YOU'RE OFTEN IN...	> Jim/Jane, Toby/Tess's kids' school (& sports?) > All: pub trivia	
...RELATIONSHIPS (NON-BELIEVERS)...	> Clayton elem teachers > Jane/Tess/Barb know Tam > 3010-3030 block neighbors	
...HOBBIES & PASSIONS...	> Jim/Toby/Tess/Bob: gym > Jim/Jane/Tess: music > Guys: excited re: brewing	
...RHYTHMS BEYOND WORK/SCHOOL...	> Tue pub trivia: all > Concerts: Jim/Jane/Tess > J/T/A/B: same gym?	
...OTHER IDEAS/THOUGHTS...	> Home brew club? > Neighborhood parties? > Join the school PTA?	

Now, given the overlap above, pray and consider ways God might be inviting you to focus on sharing mission:

QUESTION TO CONSIDER	EXAMPLE (COMPILATION)	CONSIDERING THE OVERLAP, HOW MIGHT GOD BE INVITING US TO SHARE MISSION?
ARE THERE <u>PEOPLE</u> GOD IS INVITING YOU INTO TOGETHER?	> Kids' teachers > Pub trivia friends > 3100-3030 neighbors > Little league fans	
ARE THERE <u>PLACES</u> GOD IS INVITING YOU INTO TOGETHER?	> School > Pub & concerts > Neighborhood (3010-3030 blocks)	
ARE THERE <u>CAUSES/NEEDS</u> GOD IS INVITING YOU INTO TOGETHER?	> Classroom renovat'n > Neighborhood assoc > Kid teams' coaches	
OTHER IDEAS/THOUGHTS?	> Parties & home brew w/ neighbors > Invite neighbors to concerts/pub trivia	

Finally, finish one of the two sentences below to define your community's shared mission, maybe in one of these ways:

OUR PROACTIVE* SHARED MISSION(S) WILL BE...

(*unified people, places, causes/needs we'll all engage together. Example: "...our neighbors, including our kids' school & sports teams")

OUR SUPPORTIVE* SHARED MISSION(S) WILL BE...

(*multiple people, places, &/or causes/needs some of our community will engage, while others will offer prayer & advise, & engage occasionally. Example: "Jim/Jane/Toby/Tess's kids school; Jane/Tess/Barb with Tam & Shelly (yoga); everyone: colleagues")

PART THREE: ENGAGING ON MISSION WELL, TOGETHER

Doing anything well often starts with prayerful intentionality: after defining how mission might look for your community, here are a few questions to help you discover and plan specific ways you can engage that mission well:

WHO WILL OWN EACH OF THOSE NEEDS?	EXAMPLE (MULTI-HOUSEHOLD)	YOUR COMMUNITY'S ANSWERS
EXIST? (Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, seasonally, etc.)	> 1x/day: pray/walk/meet neighbors > 1x/wk: invite neighbor to trivia/concert; serve @school; "family dinner" > 1x/mo: dinner; 1x/qtr: block party	
WHAT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED? (Like time, money, supplies, etc)	> Walk to school @ same time (8am) > Food/drinks/\$ for quarterly dinners > Desire to slow down & know people	
WHO WILL CONTRIBUTE VARIED RESOURCES?	> Jim/Jane: \$100/mo, Toby/Tess: \$50 > Dinners @ Toby/Tess's home > Ladies join same yoga class; all who work out join n'hood gym	
WHAT COORDINATION/ COMMUNICATION/ ETC. IS NEEDED?	> Trivia/concert invites > Quarterly party & home brew planning > Join the PTA/sign up to coach	
WHO WILL OWN EACH OF THOSE NEEDS?	> Barb: food/drinks/party invites > Bob/Jane: concert/trivia invites > Toby: look into home brew needs > All: PTA apps; Bob: coach sign-up	
WHAT NEEDS STILL EXIST FOR THIS TO HAPPEN WELL?	> Help to know how to share gospel > Bob & Barb need help connecting to this shared mission (or their own) > Figure out Tue childcare	