

Overview of WMU: The Why, What and How of All We Do

Introduction

My name is Pam Smith, and I serve with South Carolina WMU as the Leadership Development Strategist.¹

Why: God's Mission. Our Passion.

The WMU tag line is “God’s Mission. Our Passion.” It captures the essence of what WMU is all about: God’s Mission. And how do we know what God’s mission is? How do we know what He has been and is now doing on mission (so that we can join Him in it)?

God's Story, as told in His Book, the Bible

The plot line runs like this:

- **Introduction—Genesis 1-11.** God creates. Satan introduces sin. God punishes with a flood. God recreates through Noah and his family. Mankind continues to sin.
- **Inciting Moment (that sets the plot in motion)—Genesis 12:1-3.** God calls to Abram: “Leave and go where I will show you. I will bless you and you will be a blessing. Through you all nations will be blessed.”
- **Rising Action—Genesis 12-Malachi.** God is on mission according to plan. Through Abraham, He creates a people for Himself—whom He will bless and whom He expects to be a blessing to the nations. He continually redeems His people from their continuing sin. From them, He promises His Messiah to come.
- **Climax—Matthew-John.** God comes in the person of Christ Jesus. Jesus dies to make redemption possible.
- **Resolution—Acts-Jude.** God comes in the person of His Holy Spirit, establishes His Church and enables her to take the Gospel to the nations.
- **Conclusion—Revelation.** Jesus returns to set up His earthly kingdom, and people from all nations worship Him.

Point: God’s story is ongoing; the conclusion has not yet come. We live in the resolution part of God’s story when responsibility for the redemptive missional activity of God has been entrusted to us and the resource of His Holy Spirit born in us to accomplish it.

The central message of God’s story is God’s mission. And God’s mission is WMU’s passion, our motivation for all we do. God’s mission is our *why*.

What: Making Disciples of Jesus who Live on Mission

WMU’s mandate (i.e., purpose statement) is “making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.” Jesus commanded us to love God and others (Mark 12:29-31); we recognize that our relationship with Him carries with it responsibility for sharing Him with others. Jesus

¹ For more information about Leadership Development opportunities available through South Carolina WMU, feel free to contact me at PamSmith@scbaptist.org or 803.277.6073.

commissioned us to “Go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them” (Matthew 28:18-20); we acknowledge that disciple-making is our primary task.

Definition of a disciple (Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:17)

A disciple of Jesus is one who is:

- **“Follow Me”**—learning of and from Jesus, in relationship with Him
- **“and I will make you”**—being transformed by the Holy Spirit into Christlikeness
- **“fishers of men”**—and involved in the mission of God.

Jesus’ command and commission make our task clear. Making disciples of Jesus who live on mission is WMU’s mandate, the end goal of all we do. Disciple making is our *what*.

How: Disciple Making the Jesus Way

WMU, fueled by a passion for God’s mission and focused on making disciples of Jesus who live on mission, has as our model Jesus Himself. How did Jesus make disciples who would reproduce themselves in all the world? What can we learn from His methods?

Jesus made disciples by:

- **Connecting with people.** He went where people were (into their homes, workplaces, houses of worship...) and built relationships. He spent time with people. He responded to people who sought Him out. He invited people to be part of His life, to do life with Him.
- **Modeling and teaching.** He taught the Kingdom way in synagogues and on hillsides. He also modeled Kingdom living—how to pray, how to love God and others, how to serve others, how to minister, how to see those others overlooked, how to be led of the Holy Spirit and walk by faith...
- **Involving them in the mission.** He had his disciples problem-solve in real time (as when he had them find food to feed crowds of people), took them with Him on mission trips (as when he had them accompany him through Samaria/Sychar), and sent them out to practice ministry (as when he charged them to go out in His name). Then, He debriefed with them their experiences to highlight the learning.
- **Sending and blessing.** Ultimately, He turned the mission over to His disciples.

We can learn from Jesus. His model, His methods, must be ours. Disciple making in the same way that Jesus made disciples is our *how*.

Application

Let us be faithful to:

- Recognize WMU as the platform God has given us to use in fulfilling His mission and mandate. He has given us a wonderful gift (when He called us to lead in WMU)!
- Use the variety of WMU resources—organizations, materials, ministries, and leadership development opportunities—with intentionality to accomplish our task.
- Keep our eyes on the goal: disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

For notes and worksheets to accompany this training session, go to www.saludabaptist.org.