

Missional Community Primer



Introduction to the Primer

The purpose of this primer is to help you establish your missional community well. We want to walk you through the first several weeks.

Each week you will watch a Soma video. After watching the videos, we have a series of questions for your group to talk through.



Videos Available at [somablue mountains.org/soma media](https://somablue mountains.org/soma-media)

The first several weeks of a new missional community are crucial in unifying your expectations. Lay a foundation for what you'd like to see as a group and then hold each other to those expectations that you decide on as a group.

The last week of the primer is your opportunity to put your plan on paper. We understand that your rhythm, mission, and leaders will likely change here and there but that is a healthy expectation. Simply ask, what does God have for this missional community today?

In addition to the primer, we want to encourage you to read *Saturate: Being Disciples of Jesus in the Everyday Stuff of Life* by Jeff Vanderstelt. This book frames what life looks like in a missional community. This reading is required for all leaders.

We are the family of God, on the mission of God, making disciples of Jesus

At Soma, we believe Jesus is using us to see his Kingdom come in the Blue Mountains as it is in Heaven. The main avenue we see this happen is through missional communities.

Missional communities are small pockets of people throughout the city who are living as disciples of Jesus on the mission of God. In time, we see these groups construct their lives in such a way that they become family, celebrating life's victories with one another, shouldering life's struggles for one another, and learning to be more like Jesus together.

Becoming a thriving missional community is not easy. It takes a lot of work. But with hard work comes the knowledge that you have a family supporting you, becoming more like Jesus with you, and sharing the good news of Jesus alongside you.

Over the next 10 weeks you will come together, eat food, work through your primer, engage in healthy conversation about your new missional community, and let the Spirit lead you as you pray and listen to what God.



Definition of a Growing Disciple

Within missional communities, our goal is to be disciples of Jesus who make disciples of Jesus. In order to succeed at that, the question becomes – what is a disciple and how do we grow as disciples?



**Watch Video:
Definition of a Growing Disciple**

Conversation Questions

1. How will we set up our Missional Community in such a way that we could help each other be more like Jesus in everything we do?
2. Which things do we tend to emphasize most in discipleship and which ones do we tend to emphasize least?
3. What are the things we can foreshadow failing to develop in our group? How could we emphasize those things to begin with?

Disciple-Making Environment

Missional communities can be primary vehicles to make and grow disciples. How might we maximize the environment of our missional communities so we might see the greatest discipleship possible?



**Watch Video:
Disciple-Making Environment**

Conversation Questions

1. Do we have a clear definition of what a disciple is that we all agree upon? Could we say “this” is a disciple and “this” is what discipleship is?
2. Where does the Bible come into our discipleship? What are some ideas as to how we might incorporate reading the Bible into our missional community discipleship?
2. As we begin our missional community life together, how will this push us toward living life in community, and life on mission?

Gospel Power

The Gospel of Jesus must be at the center of our missional community. We want to grow as a family of disciples on the mission of Jesus. Our foundation for that growth is the Gospel.



**Watch Video:
Gospel Power**

Conversation Questions

1. The Gospel says, “I have been saved, I am being saved, I will be saved.” Which one of these do I most struggle to believe is true of me today?
2. As a group, practice proclaiming the good news of Jesus to each one of these areas where you struggle to believe. Have a few people in your group share specific struggles of unbelief. As they do, take time to encourage and speak the truths of the gospel to these areas of unbelief.
3. What could we as a missional community do to continue to rehearse all three aspects of God’s salvation in our lives as we gather together? What kinds of practices could we engage in regularly to grow in this?

Gospel-Motivated Living

What we believe dictates what we do. If we want to live as disciples of Jesus on the mission of God then we must live saturated by the Gospel as individuals and in community.



**Watch Video:
Gospel-Motivated Living**

Conversation Questions

1. Where have we, as followers of Jesus, been more prone to emphasize behavior modification as opposed to faith transformation (trying to change the fruit instead of getting to the root of what we believe)?
2. What will it take as a missional community to stop only looking at fruit and start moving towards the root of faith?
3. One person in the group talk about something that has been an ongoing area of struggle in your life. Have the group walk you through asking the questions: 1. What you believe about who God is? 2. What he has done through Jesus for you? 3. Who you are in light of what he has done? 4. How you can respond to this area of struggle in light of these truths?

Everyday Rhythms (Part 1)

How could we, as a missional community, integrate into one another's lives in such a way that the Gospel isn't only moving forwards through a bunch of individuals, but through the community as a whole?



**Watch Video:
Everyday Rhythms (Part 1)**

Conversation Questions

1. How might we see the meals we eat on a weekly basis change in light of being disciples of Jesus? How often should we eat together (it's ok to be realistic)? How often should we eat with those that don't know Jesus?
2. Do you know how to listen to the Spirit? If so, are you practicing that? If not, how could you learn more?
3. Are you listening well to others and getting to know their stories? What are some best listening practices?

Everyday Rhythms (Part 2)

God has given us 24 hours in a day. How can we use our rescues and our time every day to make sure the Gospel of Jesus is moving forward in everything we do?



**Watch Video:
Everyday Rhythm (Part 2)**

Conversation Questions

1. Make a list of everything that God has blessed you with as a group. Then ask, is there any of this that our church family needs that we need to bless them with? And then, what does God want us to use to bless those outside of our church family?
2. What kind of celebrations could we engage in that would display the grace of God we've experienced through Jesus Christ? How can we celebrate as a missional community?
3. How good are we at resting? Do we take time off? Do we play? Are we known as people that are childlike in our faith? How could we better engage in resting, playing, and creating that would show that we trust our father?

Spirit Dependence (Part 1)

The Holy Spirit is alive and well, active in every aspect of our lives. As a missional community, we should constantly be encouraging one another to greater relationship with the Holy Spirit.



**Watch Video:
Spirit Dependence (Part 1)**

Conversation Questions

1. What is something new you had never heard about the Holy Spirit and what he does in your life? And, how does that new idea impact you?
2. What steps might you take personally to create more space for the Holy Spirit to work in your life?
3. What are we doing together as a missional community to help each other grow in the Holy Spirit?

Spirit Dependence (Part 2)

In Acts 2, they proclaim the work of God in words everyone can understand. In the same way, when we receive the Holy Spirit, we must speak about Jesus with boldness and clarity.



**Watch Video:
Spirit Dependence (Part 2)**

Conversation Questions

1. When you hear about the Holy Spirit at work in Jesus followers, what do you struggle with? What do you struggle most with believing about the Spirit and his role in your life? Why?
2. Where do you know you need the power of the Holy Spirit to be effective on God's mission to make disciples?
3. What could we, as a missional community, do to help us grow in learning to depend on the Spirit, especially for the sake of mission (proclaiming the gospel)?

How to Use a Missional Community Meeting

In order to be the family of God, on the mission of God, making disciples of Jesus, you need to create a rhythm. What does this look like? How structured is it? How frequently will you meet?



Watch Video:
How to use Missional Community Meeting

Conversation Questions

1. What's the rhythm of the culture we are reaching and how would that inform what we do in our meetings?
2. Next week we'll be completing our missional community blueprint. Which things need to make their way into the rhythm of our missional community from day one (mission, disciple groups, family)?

Missional Community Blueprint

Complete your missional community blueprint as a group. If you cannot fill out every section right now, set deadlines for decisions to be made.

We are a missional community in _____ serving _____.

Missional Community Leader:

Identities	Missionaries	Family	Disciples
Commitment	Love Serve Share Gospel	Eat Pray Share Life	Read Scripture Pray Take Action
People	Serving	On mission with	Disciple-Making Groups
Rhythms			
Leads	Mission Lead:	Family Lead:	Disciple Lead:

Communitcation Lead: