

ON MISSION TO SHARE JESUS



*“This is the simplest, most powerful
witnessing tool I have found!”*

— Ed Young

A Do-It-Yourself Sermon Idea

Adapted from the preaching of Ed Young, pastor,
Second Baptist Church, Houston, Texas

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I'm on mission! In fact, every person here is on a mission. Some people don't know what their mission is, so they are on a mission to find their mission. Your mission is your purpose in life. It is what a person really hopes to accomplish. It's what they believe would bring the most fulfillment. For example, some of us are on a mission to be better looking. Some are on a mission to make money. Others want to find the "right person" and get married. Some people are on a mission to help sick people. Some, to build buildings or have something to show for their labors. Some want to get more rest, play more golf, or eat more chocolate. Some are searching for peace. Whatever is your driving passion, that's your mission. One of the healthiest things a person can do is to define their mission and go after it.

What is your mission in life? Our Lord gave His followers a mission. It is called the "Great Commission." Let me share with you two of the accounts of this commission. Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Again, in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and Judea, and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Our church has declared today, ***On Mission To Share Jesus Sunday***. I'm going to use a simple, but powerful tool to help us know how to share Jesus with others and fulfill the mission He gave us.

We have been announcing that if you came this morning I would have a gift for you. This gift can open the door to the most expensive, the most wonderful, the very best gift that anyone can possibly receive. Let me make it clear that someone else paid for it. Some of you already know what this gift is and why I'm describing it

this way. As I preach, I'm going to ask you to assemble your gift from the pieces that will be handed to you. Each piece has great symbolic meaning, so please pay close attention and try to remember all you can about it. Later in the service I'll ask you to share its meaning with someone else. I'll need some assistance from the person seated at the end of each row. Our ushers have placed a plastic bag there that has inside several smaller bags.

(The Strap.) Helpers, reach in that bag and take out a little bag of leather straps . . . you take one strap and pass the bag until everyone receives one. Leave any extras in the bag at the other end of the row. **That strap represents your life.**

(The First Knot.) Tie a knot about an inch to one side of the middle of that strap. **That knot represents your physical birth.** You were born. I was born. The Bible tells us that when a person is born, God has a wonderful plan for his/her life. There is a design for your life. The Master Architect, God, has designed a special life for you. He brought you into this world. Before we go to the next part of your gift, let's all say together what the knot represents: my physical birth. That's the knot of your birth. But there is a problem.

(The Dark Bead.) Helpers, take the small bag of dark beads. Take one for yourself and pass the bag down the row. These beads have the letter "O" on them. We'll talk about the meaning of the letters printed on these beads in a few minutes. Right now concentrate on the colors. Everyone please put the dark bead on that strap. Slide it against the knot. **The dark bead symbolizes the darkness of sin.** Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." I have had people debate with me about everything in the world, but I have never had anyone argue with me about whether or not they are a sinner. Somehow that gets through. To even the most pagan among us, that gets through. We all have missed the mark. Not only do we all choose to do wrong, we are all sinners by nature. That dark bead reminds us that we are born with a bent toward sin. No one had to teach you

how to lie, no one had to teach you how to steal, no one had to teach you how to deceive, no one had to teach you how to be duplicitous, you just knew how to do it. That is the original sin. That's the stain of sin in every life. Let's all say the phrase from Romans 3:23: *All have sinned*. We are sinners. Let's review now: the strap represents my life, the knot is my birth and God's plan for me, the dark bead represents my problem . . . sin.

(The Red Bead.) Helpers, now take the bag of red beads. Take one for yourself and pass the bag down the row. These beads have the letter "M" on them. Put it on your bracelet next to the dark bead. **That red bead stands for the blood of Jesus Christ.** This is God's solution for our problem. It did not come cheaply. Many of you know the Bible verse that says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Another verse says, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7b). Aren't you thrilled that it keeps on cleansing us? Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sin, and the blood of Jesus Christ just keeps on cleansing you, cleansing me, cleansing us of our sin.

Let's review again. I look back on my life, represented by the strap and the knot. The dark bead reminds me that I have sinned. The red bead reminds me of Jesus' blood. Because of God's love, and because of my sin, Jesus died on the cross for me.

(The Blue Bead.) Next pass the bag of blue beads printed with the letter "T." Slide it on your bracelet next to the red bead. **Blue means believe.** That blue bead reminds me of the day I trusted Christ as my Savior and Lord. Romans 10:9 and many other verses tell us that to be saved, we must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom. 10:9). This is how we must respond to Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection. Remember what John 3:16 says. Let's say it together: "For God so

loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” We must believe that Jesus . . . “died for our sins according to the scriptures, And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

The blue bead means believe; when I turn to Christ and believe in Him, I must turn away from my sin. The minute I throw my will toward Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit leads me and goes with me to repent and believe on Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

(*The White Bead.*) Next pass the bag of white beads with the letter “S.” **This bead represents forgiveness and cleansing.** Isaiah wrote: “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (Isa. 1:18). When we receive Jesus Christ in our lives, we are cleansed. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us. Here is how it takes place: we are convicted of sin. With the power of God we turn from all known sin and ask Jesus Christ to come into our life. When you receive Christ, you are cleansed. That’s the white bead. You are right with God. God sees you and me only in our purity, because Christ is within us. That is how we became Christians.

Key Question: Now let me ask you, would you like to receive God’s forgiveness, His cleansing, His salvation gift of eternal life? This can be your time, your moment to decide for Christ. The meaning of the white bead can be yours . . . forgiveness. Romans 10:13 says, “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Would you bow your head with me and call on His name in a sincere prayer to be saved? If you will, pray with me right now.

(*Prayer for salvation.*) “Dear God, I know that Jesus is Your Son, and that He died on the cross and was raised from the dead. I know that I have sinned and need forgiveness. I am willing to turn away from my sins and receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for giving me the gift of eternal life. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

(*The Green Bead.*) Pass the bag of green beads with the letter “J” on them. All believers please slide the green bead on your bracelet. If just a moment ago you prayed and received Jesus, put the green bead on your bracelet as a sign that Jesus now lives in your heart. **Green is for grow.** Let me tell you three things that will help you or anyone who receives salvation to grow in Christ.

(1) **Follow Christ in believer’s baptism and church membership.** Acts 2:41 says, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized.” This church would like to be your spiritual family. We will love you and help you grow.

(2) **Bible study and prayer are vital for spiritual growth.** A Sunday School class will help you with Bible study and prayer meeting will help you with your prayer life. You will also need to read your Bible daily and have a private time to talk with God each day.

(3) **Sharing Jesus with others will help you grow.** In just a moment you will have your first opportunity to show that you are unashamed of Jesus. You can walk to where I am standing as a sign that you have invited Christ into your life. Later you can tell someone about Christ by using your new *OMTSJ* bracelet.

(Pastor, please refer to **The *OMTSJ* Promise Form.** This reproducible form is included in the *OMTSJ* file folder.) God wants you to grow in your relationship to Christ. To help you make decisions that will result in growth, we have given each of you a piece of paper called “The *OMTSJ* Promise Form.” I’d like for you to look at it with me for a moment. *OMTSJ* stands for “On Mission To Share Jesus.” Please check the boxes beside the lines that you want to fulfill.

The first line . . . This is your first opportunity to say, “I am not ashamed of Jesus, my Lord!” Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” (Matt 10:32). The apostle Paul said, “I am not

ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16).

The second line . . . “I plan to attend Sunday School and worship every Sunday this month.” This will help us grow in the Lord. Some may be hesitant to make this promise because they think, “What if I’m sick, or something happens to prevent me from being here.” If your intention is to be here, check this box. If you can’t come, don’t worry about it. If you have to travel, attend a church in the area where you go.

The third line . . . “I will invite at least one person to attend Sunday School each week this month.”

The fourth line . . . “I am willing to enroll in witness training as provided by my church. (Pastor, if your church is involved in **FAITH** witness training or any other, use this as an opportunity to invite people to make a decision to enroll. Some people will get a taste of witnessing using the *OMTSJ* bracelet, and then become open to more in-depth training.)

The fifth line . . . “I will wear the *OMTSJ* bracelet.”

You can check the first box if you are willing to wear it every day this month, or the second box if you are willing to wear it until January 1, 2000. When people see your bracelet and ask about *OMTSJ*, say, “If you will allow me to tell you what the colors mean, I promise to tell you what the *OMTSJ* stands for.” In a moment you will receive a special card called “The Master’s In Charge Card.” If you need to, refer to it as a reminder of the meaning of the colors.

The sixth line . . . “I will share the gospel with the following people before January 1, 2000.” Take a moment to write the names of individuals for whom you are spiritually concerned. Pray for them daily and look for God to open a door for you to share Jesus with them.

There are other decisions listed on this card. If you have accepted Christ, rededicated your life to Christ, or decided to become a member of this church today, please note this on your Promise Form.

If you prayed with me and invited Christ into your life today, please check the box under “Other decisions” which reads, “I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.”

We have two more things to do with the bracelet. Tie a knot after the green bead, so that all five beads are close together. This knot also has very special meaning.

If you have received Christ, the last knot represents your home-going to heaven. Someday, by death or Jesus’ return, if you have received Christ, you will go home to heaven. If you prayed with me just now and if you meant that prayer, will you claim God’s promises, and accept that Jesus became your Savior and Lord? If you will, I want you to tie a knot just past the green bead. Tie it tight, because it represents your eternal security. John 14:2-3 says, “I go to prepare a place for you . . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself.” Thank God for this wonderful promise!

Finally, there is one more bead and the small plastic “charge card” to distribute. The clear bead will hold the bracelet on your arm. Just slip both ends of your strap through the clear bead, and tie a knot near each of the two ends. The “Master’s In Charge” card will help you remember what the colors represent. Notice that a suggested “prayer for salvation” is on the other side.

New believers, as a sign that you are not ashamed of Jesus, bring your bracelet down here and one of the helpers will help you put it on. If you are unsure and have questions, please come and someone will talk with you. (Invite new believers to come.)

Now we have our *OMTSJ* bracelet. The strap is your life; the knot, your birth; a dark bead illustrates the fact that we are all sinners; a red bead, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us; a blue bead, which means believe and receive Jesus; a white bead, symbolizing a time in your life when you received Christ, and were cleansed from sin; and the green bead, which means grow, be unashamed of Jesus, be baptized.

If you are now *On Mission To Share Jesus*, let's sign our "Master's In-Charge" card, and put in our billfold, purse, or pocket.

(Pastor, you may ask the people to bring the *OMTSJ* Promise Forms to the front in an act of dedication, or pass the collection plates and ask them to drop them in, or leave them on their seats as they depart.)

