

INTRO

- Christ's Whole Life was a mission
- The Church Must Continue Christ's mission

Orthodox mission is centered around the CHURCH

“Orthodoxy is not a confederation of Churches, but the 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church' to which the Lord entrusted the continuation of His redemptive work, the salvation of the whole world"
-Mission In Christs Way, Archbishop Anastasios

“The Church is 'apostolic' not simply because of the apostolic succession, but also because she preserves the apostolic fire and zeal to preach the Gospel to the whole creation"
- Mission In Christs Way, Archbishop Anastasios

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF ORTHODOX MISSION?

- The goal is for all to worship and glorify the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- Not converting humans to a religion, but that the Glory of God fills the world
- Partaking of God's Glory occurs through Worship in the **Divine Liturgy**
- Taking God's Glory from liturgy to the World is called **liturgy after the liturgy**

WHAT IS THE BEST METHOD IN MISSION?

The best method of mission is having **Incarnational Love!**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. -John 3:16-17

“He became what we are, that He might make us as He is" -St. Athanasius

WHAT SHOULD DRIVE OUR MISSION?

- Orthodox mission should not carry any human achievements.
- It is focusing on loving the souls to return back to God.
- Eternity Should always Drive our Mission

Let us Taste the sweetness of the Kingdom of God and share it with others.

RECAP:

- **Starting Point** - Centered around the Church
- **Goal** - For all to worship the Holy Trinity
- **Method** - Incarnational love
- **Driver** - All would taste the Kingdom

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

1. What is something in the Church that encouraged you to draw nearer to God?
2. Think about a person that showed you incarnational love, how did that impact your life?
3. Write down something that you remember about what God did so amazing in your life. Describe how sweet that was.

Faith Must Lead to Action (Orthopraxis)

SESSION 2
MISSION FOUNDATION CLASS

INTRO

- The right worship is called **Orthodoxy**
- The right action is called **Orthopraxis**

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. -James 2:14-17

“We are not asked merely to call ourselves Christians; we are asked to BE Christians through our deeds.”
-St. Ignatius of Antioch

ORTHOPRAXIS STARTS WITH OBEDIENCE TO GO

- “**Go** therefore and make disciples of all nations...” -Matthew 28:19
- “woe to me if I do not preach the gospel of God.” -1 Corinthians 9:16
- **If we don’t go, who will?**

“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”
-Romans 10:13-15

ORTHOPRAXIS IS TO ALL NATIONS

- “Go therefore and Make disciples of **all nations**” -Matthew 28:19
- God wants Mission Everywhere to **Everyone!**

🔖 *Whenever we try to limit God's unconditional love to a particular group of people; we need to ask ourselves do we have the mind of Christ within us?*
-Fr Luke Veronis

🔖 *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8*

ORTHOPRAXIS BEGINS AT HOME

- We are missionaries right where we are
- Together, we as Missionaries in every location, should cover God's glory to all the world.

It is time to Act right by doing the right action (Orthopraxis)

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

1. What are some of the challenges to sharing your faith to someone not from the Church?
2. When God says All Nations, who does he mean specifically?
3. How does action strengthen your faith?

INTRO

- Before you can teach you must **learn**
- Learn & practice **our own** Faith

🔖 *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue **knowledge**, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness **love**. -2 Peter 1:5-7*

🔖 *Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which **you were taught**, whether by word or our epistle. -2 Thessalonians 2:15*

LEARN ABOUT OTHER NATIONS & CULTURES

- We need to **build bridges** not walls

🔖 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. -Galatians 3:28*

METHODS TO LEARN ABOUT OTHER CULTURES

1. See the Beauty in All God's People
2. Observe and Imitate Behaviors
3. Learn the Things You Shouldn't Do
4. Ask Good Questions
5. Seek to Learn and Grow
6. Incarnate Not Isolate

Isolation takes place when a church and its people are so far removed from the community around them

Domination occurs when a church lashes out harshly at what are perceived as evil aspects of culture around them

Incarnational method occurs when the Church connects with the community and brings a positive impact to the people around them.

TIME TO SHARE

1. Share our Faith in the **context** of others Cultures

☞ *“to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. -1 Corinthians 9:22-23*

2. Love & Embrace People **where they are**

Learn so you can share your faith

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

1. What is one area in your faith you want to learn and grow in?
2. What are some things in the culture of the land you live in that should learn and understand?
3. Do you feel you lean towards isolation, domination, or incarnation? And Why?
4. What are some ways that you can build bridges with the people around you in your community?

History of Missions: Old Testament

SESSION 4
MISSION FOUNDATION CLASS

INTRO

- Looking Back to Learn, helps me to **go forward** in God's Mission

MISSION OF ADAM & EVE (GENESIS 1-3)

- To worship God and enjoy perfect harmony with Him.'
- Fall of Adam & Eve:

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise. -Proverbs 12:15

Now It was mission critical!

NOAH (GENESIS 6-9)

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. -Genesis 6:5

God's mission was still to **restore** mankind

TOWER OF BABEL (GENESIS 11)

- They went back to the bad habit of trying to figure it out on their own
- Trying to reach paradise their own way

ABRAHAM (GENESIS 12)

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**” -Genesis 12:1-3

JOSEPH FROM DREAMER TO DELIVERER

- God can make **anyone** a blessing to all

MOSES WAS MURDERER TO MISSIONARY

- God Calls the Weak so **God's strength** can shine through them

☞ *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* -2 Corinthians 12:9

JOSHUA (ANOTHER TYPE OF CHRIST)

- God will use **different people** to complete His mission

OTHER LEADERS (ATTRACTING OUTSIDERS)

- We must draw people into the **magnetic field** of God's grace

ISAIAH MISSIONARY MESSAGE (ALL NATIONS)

☞ *"And they will declare My glory among the nations"* -Isaiah 66:19

Declare God's Beauty to **every person**, not just those inside the Church

DANIEL & THREE YOUTH

☞ *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.* -Daniel 1:8

Decide in your heart to **live differently**

PSALMS MISSIONARY PRAYERS

☞ *"I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples"* -Psalm 57:9

☞ *"That your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations"* -Psalm 67:2

JONAH'S REPENTANCE LED TO NINEVEH'S REPENTANCE:

📖 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."
-Jonah 1:2

God wants us to love and pray for our **enemies**

ZEPHANIAH MISSIONARY PROPHECY

📖 "I will give to the people purified lips that all of them may call on the name of the LORD" -Zephaniah 3:9

MALACHI: TO THE GENTILES

📖 "From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering ... says the LORD of hosts" -Mal. 1:11

OLD TESTAMENT - UNFOLDS GOD'S PLAN FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

- The mission of God is to **bless all nations** on earth

📖 "Turn to me and be saved, all you end of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other" -Isaiah 45:22

Looking Back to Learn, helps me To Go Forward in God's Mission

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

1. What is one thing you learn from the Old Testament that you can apply to your life? Be Specific.
2. Which character do you relate to the most in the Old Testament and why?
3. What are some of things that you learned from your past that can help your future in serving God?

History of Missions: New Testament & Beyond

SESSION 5
MISSION FOUNDATION CLASS

Looking Back to Learn, helps me to go forward in God's Mission

CHRIST'S INCARNATION

- Christ's Incarnation Brought Peace on Earth (Luke 2:14)
- The fulfillment of the Old Testament was Christ Coming to this earth to restore us to Paradise

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. -Matthew 5:14-16

MISSION OF THE APOSTLES

After the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles the Mission continued to move in the book of Acts

ST. PAUL

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; -2 Corinthians 3:2

Be careful how you live; **you may be the only Bible** some people will ever read

MISSION IN CONTEXT

ST. MARK

- St. Mark was one of the 70 Apostles that took the faith from Christ directly and gave it to Egypt
- Take the Ancient Faith into the **Culture & Context** of the World we live in

ST. ATHANASIUS

- One of the great pillars of the faith who defended the faith and allowing it to spread was St. Athanasius
- We can't hold the faith to ourselves, but must allow it to flourish to reach all people

ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA

- A fifth century pope, Cyril of Alexandria, also used this early missionary spirit to appeal to the pagans of his time.
- Make the Ancient Faith **Relevant**

☞ *Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you. -Acts 17:22-23*

POPE GABRIEL II

- Mission to translate scripture & liturgical texts was critical in restoring people back to God

MISSION HISTORY: WITNESS

- Witness actually comes from the Greek word for Martyr
 - The first meaning of Martyr is **martyria**, meaning "I offer my testimony."
 - The second meaning of Martyr is **martyrion**, meaning "sealing that witness with blood."

St. Demiana

Being a Witness will have many challenges, but God will **carry us** through them all

St. Catherine

St. Catherine of Alexandria was a renowned missionary and converted hundreds, even her own persecutors, through her bold witness.

Missionaries to Sweden

- Missionary martyrs from Egypt were witnesses to Christ as far as Switzerland.
 - St. Maurice and the Theban legion. Felix, Regula, and Exuperantius
 - Their witness led to many in this region to be converted

21 Martyrs of Libya

Our **Strong Faith** can lead to many others to be encouraged

Little Simple Girl

Another example is a little girl, after her parents were killed in a bus by Islamic terrorists,

- She boldly proclaimed that she would never deny Jesus
- The terrorists tried to convince her but to their face she said I will never deny Jesus
- Trying to show you how having a strong faith can even start at a very young age.

We can find ways to **carry our cross daily**

MONASTIC MISSION

- Living a **Life of Holiness** Can Transform Many lives Around us
- Unless people see in us the **light and the love of Christ** they will not believe.

📖 *For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your **faith toward God has gone out**, so that we do not need to say anything.*

-1 Thessalonians 1:8

St. Anthony

- Fourth century Egyptian monk known to be a father of all monks
- His life sparked so many other monks to live in solitude. A light was spreading throughout the Egyptian desert and reached many more areas.
- Monasteries were later built near pagan temples which was instrumental in converting these pagan villages.

- Monks traveled far distances to preach the gospel, their holiness impacting hundreds of communities around them.
 - Recently, the discovery of the **Seven Egyptian Monks buried in Ireland** “puts forth the theory that the desert monks of Egypt greatly influenced the behavior and lifestyles of the Irish monks.”
- Because of their holiness, the monks exhibited hospitality and love.
- This love impacted and transformed numerous pagans.

St. Pachomius

- One example is St. Pachomius, a traveling Roman soldier,
 - who stopped in one monastery for food and drink and was impacted by the love and holiness of the monks.
- St. Pachomius later stayed in that monastery and eventually founded an order of monasticism.

St. Moses the Strong

- St. Moses the Strong was a murderer and thief who was impacted by the monks’ holiness and love that he changed his life and became a monk himself.
- The transformation of our own lives leads to the transformation of others.

☞ *“Acquire inner peace, and thousands around you will find their salvation.”* -St. Seraphim of Sarov

MISSION IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Diakonia is a call to serve the poor and oppressed

☞ *“for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”* -Matthew 25:35-36

St. Basil the Great

☞ *“Our soul suffers because it needs to connect with and give to one another.”* -St. Basil

St. John Chrysostom

☞ *“If you pray without giving to the poor, you gain nothing.”* -St John Chrysostom

St. Verena

- One who cared for the orphans and lepers

Bishop Abraam

- Known as the Friend of the Poor
- Through his ascetic life, he offered shelter, food, clothing and more to the poor that they may find rest and hope in the Church.

Pope Cyril VI

- Pope Cyril VI also known as Pope Kyrillos VI
- He lived a life of holiness that sanctified the entire Church
- He also felt a strong desire to care for the needs of sub-Saharan Africa.

Bishop Samuel

- In 1962, Pope Cyril VI ordained a bishop, Bishop Samuel, to care for the most vulnerable of society.
- Bishop Samuel had a “love for the poor, destitute, uneducated, and the illiterate”

Pope Shenouda III

- Pope Shenouda III expanded this missionary zeal for social justice by supporting bishops to care for the needs in areas around the world.
- Ordained Leaders in Africa, South America, Fiji, and other parts of the world

Bishops in Africa such as Bishop Antonious Markos and Bishop Paul

- Set up Churches, hospitals, Schools, and homes for orphans and street children.
- Social Justice projects were a big part of the mission in Africa to care for the poor.

☞ *Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.” -Matthew 15:32*

Fr. Samaan of the Mokattam Mountain

- Another hidden missionary was found serving secretly for some time in the mountain of Mokattam in Egypt
- He served in the slum area where people who were addicted to drugs, alcoholics, thieves, violent people, and even suicidal people.

We are also called to continue the work that was done throughout history.

WHAT IF I FEEL I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SERVE IN A MISSION?

“There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?” -John 6:9

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. -Acts 4:13

THE BEST PLACE TO START IS THE CHURCH

1. Community Service

The goal is to do something in the community that supports those with **critical needs**

2. Community Events

The goal is to **build a bridge** with the community by finding ways for them to enter the Church Building

3. Evangelism Services

The goal is to be more focused on **sharing the faith** even in a small way.

- **Friends & Family**
- **Find out more**
- **Street evangelism**

Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.
-Acts 17:17

- **Campus Evangelism**
- **Relational Evangelism**
- **Media Evangelism**

4. Community Service

The goal is to learn how to have a **mission mindset** wherever you go

What does a missionary look like?

Missionary must be someone who is **striving** to live with God and ready to learn and listen and grow.

What does our Mission look like?

Expect God to do something amazing in your mission

5. Consult a Mentor

66 *And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.* -Proverbs 24:6

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

1. What are some of the gifts and talents that you have that could be levered for mission in your church?
2. What are some things that you are afraid of that could hinder you from mission activities?
3. Take some time to brainstorm ideas of how you can get mission going in your church. Speak specifically about:
 - i. Community Service
 - ii. Community Events
 - iii. Evangelism Services
 - iv. Mission Trips