



# What is My Responsibility?

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## Lesson Goal

Students will see that everyone in the local church has responsibility in fulfilling the Great Commission.

## Lesson Objectives

1. See how the Great Commission applies to them.
2. Explain what roles they have to play in getting the Gospel around the world.
3. Describe how their role helps further the Gospel around the world.

## Key Verse

1 Corinthians 15:34 – “Awake to righteousness, and sin not: for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”

## Application

1. Identify your responsibility in fulfilling the Great Commission.
2. Be a witness in the community of your local church.
3. Hold the rope for missionaries through giving, praying, and encouraging.
4. Promote missions and the need around the world to recruit new missionaries.
5. Consider if the Lord is calling you to serve on the front line in a foreign field.



# Teacher Planning Sheet

## Prepare

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Application

*As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*Three ways students need to apply this passage are*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Point

*Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Proclaim

*Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.*

**Presentation Ideas**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Praise/Music Ideas**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice

*Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



## Lesson

Introduction As in most any war, America fought World War II on many fronts. These fronts, or front lines of the battles, were certainly where most of the action was. Scores of attacks were planned, countless shots fired, many small victories were gained, and innumerable lives were lost. However, the success of the allied troops on these various fronts was in large part due to the time, effort, and resources invested on the Homefront. Unlike those on other fronts, those on the Homefront weren't outfitted to fight the war up close on the front lines. Rather, those on the Homefront were responsible for the manufacture and rationing of resources for equipping and bolstering the front lines. Additionally, many on the Homefront were tasked with enlisting new men to take up arms and join in the fight on the front lines.

As Christians, we are tasked by our King to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

"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." (Matt. 28:19-20a) As citizens of the Kingdom of God, we are at all out war for the souls of the lost around the world. Our local churches are under orders to get the gospel to them. To accomplish this, we send missionaries to the front lines for evangelizing the lost in the regions beyond, baptizing them, and starting among them local churches to teach them the Scripture and mobilize them in this same mission.

But how then are we to recruit missionaries? Where will they come from? And once we have them, how are they to be equipped and sent? Finally, when they go, how are they to be sustained on the battlefields in various countries around the world?

It is the responsibility of local churches here on the Homefront to shoulder these tasks so that missionaries on the front lines will have success. When we equip them for success we are victorious in fulfilling the Lord's Great Commission.

.Just as those fighting on the front lines during World War II would not have seen victory were it not for the recruiting, rationing, and manufacturing on the Homefront, so too do our missionaries need us in local churches to recruit, ration, and manufacture to maximize victory on mission fields around the world.

Two perhaps more obvious responsibilities, praying and giving, have been discussed in previous lessons separately. This lesson will focus on other crucial responsibilities for those on the Homefront: witnessing, rope-holding, recruiting, and enlisting.



## Witnessing

The first responsibility on the Homefront is that of witnessing. Witnessing is simply the act of sharing one's faith with those around them. If you know Jesus and He's changed your life, you should gladly share what He's done for you with others. It may be easy to think that only pastors, evangelists, and missionaries are in the fight, but we all have been given orders to be witnesses both where we are and around the world. While we certainly don't want to be so focused on witnessing that we don't send and help missionaries, we likewise don't want to be so focused on world evangelism that we neglect the lost around us.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Before ascending into heaven, Jesus charged us to be witnesses both Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. The word "both" is very important here. The early church was to get the gospel to both the area around them and around the world. In other words, they were to make efforts to get the gospel out to all of those places together and at the same time. Jesus didn't leave an "either/or" option. He said "both".

As the remainder of this lesson addresses our responsibilities to missionaries on the front lines, let us not forget that we still have responsibility here at home at our local church to get the gospel out in the community. We should boldly and faithfully be sharing the gospel with those around us.

This can be accomplished in numerous ways. Practically speaking, keep gospel tracts handy on your person so that you can give them to those you encounter day to day. If your local church has a visitation or soul winning ministry, show up ready to go out into the community with the gospel message. Invite people to church and bring them to church. Do all that you can to further the gospel in the area of your local church.

## Rope-Holding

Another Homefront responsibility is that of rope-holding. The term rope-holding refers to the idea that a missionary has a rope tethered to him as he goes into some well, pit, cave, or other uncharted territory while others hold on to the other end of the rope for stability and support.

The missionaries supported by your local church are more often than not going into what may be considered uncharted territory. That usually does not mean that they are going to some remote, uncharted island, but it rather means that they are often going to places and communities where the name of Christ has not been or is seldom named. They are often living planting churches in places where there are no other local churches in the community. There may not be sister churches in the area that the missionary can look to for fellowship, encouragement, and support.



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For these missionaries, communication with partnering local churches in other parts of the world is vital for accomplishing the mission. We on the Homefront hold the ropes for these missionaries with prayer and financial support (as mentioned in previous lessons) as well as by encouraging them to stay strong and keep in the fight. Paul says in Philippians 4:3 that the church at Philippi was a yokefellow of his ministry. This local church partnered with him to reach the regions beyond their own community with the gospel.

“For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” (Phil 4:16-17) The local church in Philippi sent financial support to him “once and again”. They sent multiple times. Also, they sent, “unto [his] necessity”. They somehow knew, whether it be through letters Paul wrote them or messengers Paul sent them, what exactly Paul’s needs were before sending him the help he needed. In other words, they kept up with and had concern for Paul’s missions ministry.

In the present day, your local church might post missionary prayer letters in your church, send their updates to you via email, or report on news and current events happening on a particular missionary’s field. Do you keep up with your missionaries? Do you know their needs? Do you know their prayer needs, both physical and spiritual? While a missionary would certainly appreciate local churches praying “God bless our missionaries,” how much more would they be blessed to have their specific needs prayed for both in those churches and around dinner tables? How much more of a blessing would it be to have their needs lifted up to God both in prayer meeting and in family devotions? Keeping up with their specific needs is vital for partnering with them and holding the rope for them.

In addition to knowing their needs, rope-holding would also involve encouraging missionaries. Missionaries often find themselves in all sorts of dangers, predicaments, and other unusual situations. Compounded on this is the often lack of a listening ear or encouragement that they might otherwise have when met with similar problems at home. You might consider writing your missionaries. Your pastor or missions director would probably have their contact information for you to reach out with an encouraging note. You might share how the Lord has worked in your own life recently or simply mention that you prayed for them. Even the briefest of emails could be a tremendous encouragement to a missionary when he’s down.



## Recruiting & Sending

At the start of World War II, the size of the United States military force was great but still not great enough to meet the challenge of the war. Over the years that followed, the size of the military grew immensely through the draft. Millions of young men were drafted to fill vacancies that were left unfilled through voluntary means. There was a need to put boots on the ground and fight the war, and the United States used the draft to send countless thousands of young men to meet that need.

While there is certainly no draft among churches for missionary service, there is in fact a great need for more boots on the ground. The population of the world is only growing, but unfortunately the number of missionaries on the field is dwindling. We need people surrendered to the Lord and His Great Commission to give their lives to advance the gospel on the front lines around the world.

Oftentimes, however, many potential recruits in our churches don't even realize this need for more missionaries. If they do realize the need, they don't know how to go about enlisting the fill it. This is where another responsibility comes into play, that of recruiting and sending.

The easiest way to recruit for missions is by making the needs around the world known in our local churches. This can be accomplished in many ways. One is to host prayer meetings that emphasize praying for each country in the world by name - asking the Lord to bless the missionaries there, save souls there, and raise up more missionaries to go there. Simply exposing people to the needs around the world can go a long way to influencing them toward missions.

“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”  
(1 Cor. 15:34)

Paul, writing to the Corinthian church reminds them that there are still many people in the world who don't know about God. He is telling them that they need to stop all the sin going on among them and focus their efforts on getting the gospel out. Oftentimes we, too, are prone to get so caught up in sin or the business of life that we forget that there is a wide world out there that still doesn't know the hope of the gospel. They need to hear! And we need to tell them! If we regularly remind ourselves of the need for the knowledge of God around the world, perhaps more among us would surrender to take it to them.

A second way is to regularly put missionary stories and testimonies in a prominent place in church services. Regularly reading missionary letters, showing missionary videos, and hosting missionary preachers to share their burdens and update their ministries are all great ways to help potential recruits know how they might enlist in the Lord's mission service around the world. Would it not be great to have missionaries sent out of our local churches?

Would it not be a blessing to have a missionary that is “home-grown” that can be sent overseas to take the gospel to people who have never heard and start a daughter church among them?



“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.” (Acts 13:2-3)

The church in Antioch sent out its first two missionaries by fasting and praying. When was the last time you and your church fasted and prayed that the Lord would send out missionaries from among you?

“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:37-38) Even Jesus Himself commanded us to pray for more laborers. Will we not pray and ask the Lord for some among our own local church to go and take the gospel to the harvest fields around the world?

#### Enlisting

As some on the Homefront recruit and send, there are obviously those who respond to those recruitment efforts by enlisting and going. Recruiters and senders put the Word of God, His command to “go”, and the need around the world before their local churches and some will be called to enlist and go.

“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.” (Acts 13:2-3) These men at the church at Antioch were praying and ministering to the Lord, and the Lord told them to separate two men to be sent out as missionaries. These men were willing to leave their church home, their community, and their region to take the good news of Christ to the regions beyond. They were willing to go.

Notice that they were already ministering and serving the Lord in their home church. Those that would want to go must first be actively serving the Lord in their own local church. Would you consider taking the gospel to the front lines overseas? Would you consider being a witness for Him in the regions beyond? If so, what are you doing now in your home church to serve the Lord, help your pastor, bless your church family, and witness in the surrounding community?

Do you feel the Lord calling you to a life of full-time overseas missionary service? Has he laid some region on your heart? Has he burdened you for those without the knowledge of God? If so, talk to your pastor and see what your next steps might be. You one day may just be a soldier sent out of your local church to fight on the front lines overseas, winning souls to the Lord and starting local churches in a community on the other side of the world



# What is My Responsibility?

1 Corinthians 15:34

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Write 1 Corinthians 15:34

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2. What task has our King given us as Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What/Who are we fighting for? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who is responsible for sending out missionaries? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the four responsibilities of the "Homefront"?

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## Responsibilities of the “Homefront”

1. W\_\_\_\_\_ - the act of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. R\_\_\_\_\_ - accomplished through p\_\_\_\_\_ and f\_\_\_\_\_ support.
3. R\_\_\_\_\_ and S\_\_\_\_\_ - the easiest way to do this is by making \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. E\_\_\_\_\_ - Would you consider being a witness for God in another part of the world?

### Personal Reflection

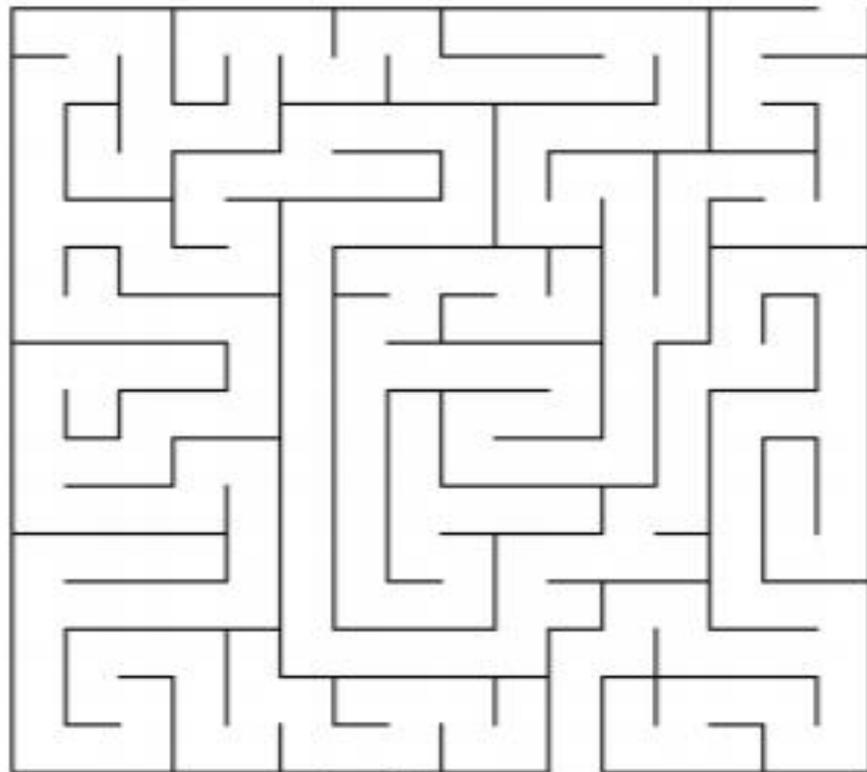
Do you feel the Lord calling you to a life of full-time overseas missionary service? Has God laid some region or people group on your heart? Has He burdened you for those without the knowledge of God?

If so, talk to your pastor and see what your next steps might be. Start serving now so that you can be preparing for the future. You too can be a soldier sent out of your local church to fight on the front lines overseas, winning souls to the Lord and starting local churches in a community on the other side of the world.



**Let's help this missionary family travel to their new home.**

**Can you name one of our newer missionary families?**







## Let's color the missionary's new home!

Most missionaries will not live in a house that looks like this one. Some will live in big city apartments, some will live in simple cinder block houses in villages, and some will live in big houses where they can host visitors.



**Color Code:**  
H - green  
O - Brown  
U - Blue  
S - Red

