

The Mission Course

Jonathan K. Dodson | Citizens Church | Spring 2025

Course Purpose

Mission is often perceived as a department of the church, or a task for the elite, but mission doesn't begin with the church. It begins with God: *the Father sent the Son, the Son and the Father sent the Spirit, and the triune God graciously sends the church into the world.* But what does mission entail? Justice, evangelism, work, the Arts? How do we communicate the gospel in resistant culture?

This course will help you develop a missiology as big as the world and as small as your neighborhood. It will train you to share the gospel wisely, personally, and prayerfully, rather than in a rehearsed or formulaic way. It will both expand and particularize your practice of mission.

Course Expectations

In order to get the most out of this class, we ask that you:

- Attend 90% of the classes & complete the exercises
- Participate in group discussions & Complete the key project

The final step in learning is to share what you are learning with someone outside the class, e.g. discipleship group, home group, colleagues, neighbors.

Books

Required: Jonathan Dodson, *Mission*

Recommended: Amy Sherman, *Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good*

Course Overview:

3/27: The Mission of God

- Dodson, ch. 1 & do exercises. *Optional:* Sherman, Part I.

4/3: Missionary Presence

- Dodson, ch. 2 & do exercises. *Optional:* Sherman, Part I.

4/10: Considering Evangelism

- Dodson, ch. 3 & do exercises. *Optional:* Sherman, Part II.

4/17: Jesus' Evangelism

- Dodson, ch. 4 & do exercises. *Optional:* Sherman, Part II.

4/24: Gospel Metaphors

- Dodson, ch. 5 & do exercises. *Optional:* Sherman, Part III.

5/1: Communal Evangelism

- Dodson, ch. 6 & do exercises. *Optional:* Sherman, Part III.
- Turn in *Key Project*

5/8: Belligerent Prayer

- Dodson, ch. 7 & exercises. *Optional:* Sherman, Part III.