



# Our Mission

Bless · Bridge · Catalyse



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## Message from Rev Chan Siew Chye

What is the vocation of the Church?

All of God's people, including AMKMC, are called to participate in God's mission to redeem and restore humanity and the rest of the world from the corruption of sin. As Christopher Wright pointed out in his book, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*, "It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world but that God has a church for his mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission—God's mission."

Mission with the Master is such an integral part of who we are. I am so encouraged that as a church we are actively seeking to join God in His mission, to be His salt and light in our home, our school, our workplace, our social circles, our Ang Mo Kio neighbourhood and beyond.

Mission with the Master is not just about what we do (as important as that is), it is also about how we live, and that includes the way we relate with others.

Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

We witness to the beauty of Christ—His greatness, grace and goodness—in our daily interactions with the people around us by being a blessing, a bridge, and a catalyst.

I am thankful to God for the friends He brought into my life during my Junior College days, for it was through their genuine care, prayer, and invitation to church/cell group that eventually led me to become a Christian.



# Introduction



“Mission with the Master” is our church theme for 2023 and 2024.

In the last year our church members have gone out in force to bless and engage with our Ang Mo Kio community through the Easter Bread Distribution and Funtastic Fiesta events. Even so, blessing our community is only just the beginning. While we have extended our open arms to those around us and invited them into our Church, we have to go beyond surface gestures and build meaningful relationships with individuals, one-on-one.

To truly be on Mission with the Master, we must continue to embody what it means to be a “Home with a Heart” (church theme: 2021 - 2022) on not just the Church level, but on a personal level as well. This means we must not only open our doors but also our hearts to those around us – in order to make a lasting impact; and to create a stronger and more connected community that reflects the love and compassion of our God.

This devotion series serves as a guide in illuminating three fundamental facets of our Christian mission: to be a blessing, a bridge, and a catalyst to others. As we discover the power of blessing, the concept of a bridge, and the notion of being a catalyst for transformation, we will gain insight as to how building connections, fostering authenticity, and offering hospitality are integral aspects of our mission.

By following the example of Jesus, let us be empowered by the Holy Spirit to demonstrate the boundless potential of putting our faith into action. Join us on this incredible journey of faith where being a blessing, a bridge and a catalyst become the hallmarks of our Mission with the Master!

Week 1

Our Mission



Be a Blessing



In John 13:34-35, Jesus sets a new standard: "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." To be a blessing is to embody God's love and grace in all interactions. It involves acts of kindness, generosity, and love that can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Jesus' entire earthly ministry was a testament to blessing others (e.g. Matthew 9:35-36). Serving as our model, He displayed a love that was sacrificial and unconditional. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, forgave sinners, and comforted the broken-hearted - these were all embodiments of God's love and grace.

For us to be a blessing to others, we must seek to enrich their lives through acts of kindness, compassion, and genuine care by spending time with them and finding out what they really need. It is to contribute positively to the well-being of others (emotionally, physically and spiritually) without any expectation of personal gain. Being a true blessing to people means being a vessel of God's grace, and manifesting His presence in our lives and to those around us.

We can actively demonstrate the above qualities in our daily lives to be a blessing to others. It means showing compassion, offering forgiveness, lending a helping hand, and sharing the hope of salvation to those around us. Here are some ways we can do so:

- **Serve others:** Look for opportunities to help people in need - be it through acts of kindness, volunteering, or supporting charitable causes.
- **Practice forgiveness and grace:** While it is human to feel upset, we should still extend forgiveness and grace to those who have hurt us, just as God does the same for us. In difficult situations, we must try to show understanding and patience.
- **Offer encouragement:** Be a source of cheer in the lives of others. We may encourage others through offering words of support, affirmation, and hope.
- **Pray for others:** Instead of praying for our own needs, we should also regularly lift up the needs and concerns of others by asking for God's guidance and blessings in their lives.

The path to being a blessing to others is illuminated by the teachings and actions of Jesus Christ. In following Jesus' footsteps, we become instruments of God's love and grace (cf. 1 Peter 4:10) - transforming lives, sowing seeds of hope, fostering unity, and shining His light in a world in need of grace. By this, we can truly become disciples of Christ, fulfilling the commandment to love one another as He has loved us.

Mark 2:1-12 describes an account of Jesus healing a paralysed man. The friends of a paralysed man brought him to Jesus by lowering him through the roof of a crowded house where Jesus was teaching. When the paralysed man appeared before Jesus, Jesus forgave his sins and healed him physically, such that he regained his ability to walk. Jesus' actions revealed His divine authority and power to forgive sins and perform miraculous healings.

Although Jesus was busy teaching in the crowded house, He did not turn the paralysed man away or postpone attending to his needs. His act of compassion and healing reflected His deep concern for human suffering. Jesus was not only concerned about the physical well-being of the man but also his spiritual well-being when He forgave his sins. It is also important to note that the active faith of the paralysed man's friends played a part in his healing. Ultimately, the actions of Jesus deepen our understanding of who Jesus is and the gift of God's healing and salvation for all.



# JESUS

## AS OUR ROLE MODEL



## Reflection Questions:

1. How can you reflect the qualities of compassion, forgiveness, and genuine care in your daily interactions with people - a. in your home, b. in your school/workplace, c. in your community/neighbourhood?
2. In what ways have you experienced acts of kindness, generosity, and love that made a meaningful difference in your own life?
3. Are you actively looking for opportunities to serve others and help those in need? How can you improve in this aspect?



**And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.**

Hebrews 13:16

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school handwriting practice paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Week 2

Our Mission

Be a Bridge



A bridge, in a theological sense, may be used to symbolise the restored connection between God and humanity. Being a bridge for others means serving as a connection or mediator between God and those who are alienated from God - by helping them to draw nearer to God. This may involve finding common ground, building relationships, providing hospitality, and giving testimony about God and what He has done for us.

Romans 5:8 reminds us that because God loved us so much, He sent His only beloved Son, Jesus to die on the cross, such that we may be reconciled to God. Jesus Christ served as the bridge between sinners and God, offering salvation and reconciliation. Jesus declared in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me", establishing Himself as the exclusive path and connection to God.

As believers, we are called to become bridges of reconciliation for others in our fractured world. However, before we can be a bridge for others, we must first be reconciled to God by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour who is our bridge to God (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20).

When we have crossed over from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom through Jesus our bridge and forged a renewed relationship with God, we may in turn be a bridge for others by connecting them to God and helping to grow in their faith and knowledge of God. Here are some ways we can do so:

- **Build relationships:** Creating a foundation of trust and openness is important in relationship-building. We have to show genuine care and concern for the well-being of others and develop authentic relationships with them.
- **Share our faith and testimonies:** Sharing our own faith journey and personal relationship with God points others to Christ. Explaining how our faith has positively impacted our lives is also a testimony to God's grace and goodness in our lives.
- **Invite and include:** Make people feel welcome in our church community by including them in our circles of fellowship. We can invite them to our worship services, programmes such as A Taste of Alpha, and other church events where they can learn more about God and experience the welcoming love of God's people.
- **Answer questions:** As Christians, we must be prepared to answer questions about our faith, and to address doubts or concerns others may have. Read the Bible to equip yourself with the answers, provide relevant Christian resources, or connect them with knowledgeable individuals who can help.

Jesus' role as the bridge paves the way for salvation and reconciliation to all who put their faith in Him (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9). In embracing Christ as the ultimate bridge between humanity and God, we discover how our personal faith journey opens doors of connection for others to God - offering hope, hospitality, and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The tearing of the temple curtain occurred as Jesus was crucified on the cross (cf. Matthew 27:50-51). When He died, the temple curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the Jewish temple was completely torn in two. The curtain symbolised the separation between humanity and God's presence, as only the high priest was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of Atonement.

Jesus' death bridged the gap between a holy God and sinful humanity, hence the tearing of the temple curtain upon His death meant that humanity now has direct access to God through Jesus Christ. We, who believe in Jesus, no longer need a human mediator like the high priest because we can now approach God directly through our union with Christ. The crucifixion of Jesus and with it, the tearing of the temple curtain, underscores the central message of Christianity: that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and it is only through Him that we may enjoy a restored relationship with God.



# JESUS

AS OUR ROLE MODEL

## Reflection Questions:

1. As followers of Christ, not only do we receive the gift of reconciliation, we are also called to participate in the ministry of reconciliation (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:18). How have your experience of God's presence, power and peace in your life enabled and encouraged you to be a bridge for others that they may also be reconciled to God?
2. What specific actions will you take to make people feel welcome and included in your faith community, and how can you invite them to learn more about God?
3. What are your concerns or reservations about being a bridge to connect others to God? In what ways can these fears be overcome?



**All this is from God, who  
reconciled us to himself  
through Christ and  
gave us the ministry of  
reconciliation.**

2 Corinthians 5:18

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Week 3

Our Mission

Be a Catalyst



The concept of a catalyst, in a spiritual context, relates to the idea of how something or someone plays a pivotal role in sparking or facilitating change or growth, such that one's spiritual experience is enhanced or one's relationship with God is deepened.

By embodying God's love and power in His actions, Christ became a catalyst for change. Jesus challenged societal norms when He dined with tax collectors and sinners (cf. Matthew 9:10-13). His radical act of welcome and acceptance shook the conventional understanding of righteousness. When questioned by the Pharisees, He responded, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick", exposing the pride and self-righteousness of the religious leaders, and emphasising the radical nature of Jesus' ministry, that He has come to save the least, the last and the lost.

Through His life and teachings, Jesus inspired many to change, especially when they recognised the life-changing power of His love, truth, and grace (cf. Romans 12:2). He catalysed a shift in how people approached their relationship with God - fostering a deeper understanding of who God is and who we are in light of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Jesus also catalysed a shift in the way we relate with one another as he modelled to us what it means to love and honour everyone including those who are different from us, those who are marginalised by society.

Just as Jesus was a catalyst for change, we, too, may serve as a catalyst for change in the lives of those around us as we are being changed by the power and love of Christ in our lives. By following Jesus' example of loving one another (cf. 1 Peter 4:8),

we have the potential to positively impact the world and bring more people to experience the reality of God's love in our communities. Here are some ways we can do so:

- **Live like Christ:** By living out our Christian values authentically, our lives, words, and actions can inspire others to want to find out more about the Christian faith. To live like Christ is possible because we have Christ in us.
- **Challenge and inspire:** Engage in meaningful conversations that challenge people to think deeply about their faith, beliefs, and purpose in life. We may also share thought-provoking books, articles and even testimonies.
- **Create opportunities:** Organise appropriate and attractive social activities or outreach initiatives that provide opportunities for God's people to bring God's love and truth to those who under normal circumstances don't or won't go to church.
- **Provide support:** We can offer guidance and support to those who express a desire to know more about the Christian faith or to grow spiritually. This is a good opportunity to mentor, disciple, and share resources with them.

Exemplified by Christ's transformative presence and actions, the concept of a spiritual catalyst serves to inform and unite us to God's mission of bringing change and renewal to our world by the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom of God. As we continue the gospel ministry inaugurated by Christ, may God's enduring message of love and grace be ignited in the hearts and minds of every person we encounter.

Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding feast in Cana as recorded in John 2:1-11. During the celebration, the wine ran out – this was considered a significant social embarrassment in that culture. Mary, Jesus' mother, approached Him with the issue. He hesitated at first, but then Jesus instructed the servants to fill six stone water jars with water and He turned that water into the finest wine.

This marked Jesus' first recorded miracle. Jesus responded to a practical problem by turning water into wine, revealing His supernatural ability to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary, to make something out of nothing, and symbolising the arrival of the New Covenant. Additionally, this miraculous act led to the strengthening of faith among those who witnessed it, and played a crucial role in their understanding of His divine nature and mission to restore the broken relationship between God and His people.



# JESUS

## AS OUR ROLE MODEL



## Reflection Questions:

1. Reflect on the changes that God has made in your life through His Word and Holy Spirit. Take time to pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you other areas in your life that require change and the transformative grace of Christ.
2. In what ways can you be a catalyst for change in the lives of the people around you by your life, words and actions so that they can come to hear and experience the gospel of Christ?
3. How will you offer guidance and support to those who express a desire to know more about the Christian faith or to grow spiritually, and what resources can you share with them?



**Be wise in the way you act  
toward outsiders; make the  
most of every opportunity.  
Let your conversation be always  
full of grace, seasoned with salt,  
so that you may know how to  
answer everyone.**

Colossians 4:5-6

[illegible]



# In Summary

There is a great need to embody the theme of “Home with a Heart” on both a church and personal level to reflect God’s love and compassion in the community by being a blessing, a bridge, and a catalyst.

In all of these roles – as a blessing, a bridge, and a catalyst – it is important to remain sensitive to the needs and readiness of the individuals we interact with as well as the leading of the Holy Spirit. We must allow God to work in us and through us as we seek to fulfil God’s mission of drawing others closer to Him and empowering them to grow in their faith and knowledge of God.

## Be a blessing:

- Being a blessing involves embodying God's love and grace in all interactions. It means following Christ's example to transform lives, sow hope, foster unity, and fulfil the commandment to love one another.
- Jesus set a new standard of love in John 13:34-35, emphasising the importance of loving one another with the love of God. His actions in healing the sick, feeding the hungry, forgiving sinners, and comforting the broken-hearted demonstrate His love and grace. The story of the paralytic man lowered through the roof in Mark 2:1-12 illustrates Jesus' compassion and power and His desire to heal and forgive.
- We can bless others by enriching their lives through acts of kindness, generosity, and genuine care, contributing positively to various aspects of their well-being (physical, emotional, and spiritual) without expecting personal gain, and serving as a vessel of God's grace to manifest His presence in our lives and to those around us.

## Be a bridge:

- A bridge symbolises the connection between God and humanity, with Jesus serving as the ultimate bridge. Jesus' sacrificial death atoned for the sins of humanity, thereby bridging the gap between a holy God and sinful humanity, as signified by the tearing of the temple curtain in Matthew 27:50-51.
- Believers are called to be bridges of reconciliation for others, starting with accepting Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour, who is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).
- Just as Christ became our bridge to bring us back to God, we too, can serve as bridges of reconciliation for others, offering hope, welcome, and good news to all in need of a restored relationship with God.

## Be a catalyst:

- A catalyst, in a spiritual context, facilitates change and growth in one's faith journey. We, as believers of Christ, are encouraged to follow Christ's example by being a blessing, a bridge, and a catalyst in our own lives. We are to reflect God's love and compassion to draw others to God and create a more authentic and connected community.
- Jesus personified the role of a catalyst for spiritual transformation by embodying God's love and power. His inclusive and compassionate approach challenged societal norms and inspired change in people's relationship with God as well as our relationship with one another.
- Jesus' first recorded miracle at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11) marked the beginning of His public ministry, strengthened the faith of His followers, and demonstrated His power to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary, symbolising the inauguration of the New Covenant.

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