

A Missionary Mindset

Seeing Opportunities to Share Jesus Wherever You Are

A Bible Study & Devotional Guide

Let's get real for a minute. When we hear the word *missionary*, many of us picture someone packing a suitcase, getting on a plane, moving across the world, and serving people in a completely different culture. And yes, sometimes God absolutely calls people to do exactly that.

But what if having a missionary mindset is bigger than moving to another country?

What if it starts with simply being willing to notice the people God has already placed around you?

Mrs. Roseanne's story is a beautiful picture of that kind of faith. God eventually led her and Roger into years of missionary service across multiple countries, but their ministry didn't begin overseas. It began in ordinary places—with a bookstore, a local church, young people, families, relationships, and a willingness to say yes when God opened a door.

Their story reminds us that ministry is not always about going somewhere new. Sometimes it is about seeing where you already are differently.

You don't have to wait for a plane ticket to start living like a missionary.

Central Theme: A missionary mindset means being available to God, loving people well, recognizing open doors, and looking for opportunities to point people toward Jesus wherever you are.

Session 1 — What If Your Mission Field Is Right in Front of You?

We can become so focused on what God might do someday that we miss what He is doing today. Mrs. Roseanne and Roger eventually served internationally, but they had already spent years serving in their local church. They taught, worked with young people and children, sang in the choir, participated in missions, and built relationships.

Their story shows us something important: **you don't have to go far away to be faithful.**

Your mission field might be your workplace. Your classroom. Your neighborhood. Your family. Your church. The person sitting beside you. The friend who keeps calling when life falls apart.

The question isn't only, "Where is God sending me?" It is also, "Who has God already placed in front of me?"

Scripture

Matthew 28:19–20 — Jesus calls His followers to make disciples and promises to be with them as they go.

Acts 1:8 — Jesus describes a witness who begins where they are and reaches outward.

Go Deeper

Sometimes we imagine ministry has to look impressive before it counts. But Jesus never measured faithfulness by how impressive something looked. He cared about people.

A missionary mindset begins when we stop seeing people as interruptions and start seeing them as opportunities.

Journal Prompts

- Who are the people God has already placed around me?
- Where am I currently positioned that could become a place of ministry?
- Have I been waiting for a "big" opportunity while overlooking small ones?
- What would change if I started praying, "Lord, help me notice the people You want me to notice"?

Session 2 — God Can Use What You Already Know

One of the most encouraging parts of Roseanne and Roger's story is that God used something they already knew how to do. They had operated a Christian bookstore. When the opportunity for missionary service arose, the mission board needed people with bookstore experience.

God didn't ask them to become completely different people before He could use them. He took the experience, skills, relationships, and interests they already had and gave them a place to use them.

That matters because you may be overlooking something God wants to use simply because it feels ordinary to you.

Maybe you're good at encouraging people. Maybe you know how to organize. Maybe you love children. Maybe you are good with teenagers. Maybe you can teach. Maybe you know how to run a business, cook a meal, listen well, create, build, write, lead, or simply make people feel welcome.

What feels ordinary in your hands can become ministry when surrendered to God.

Scripture

1 Peter 4:10 — God gives each believer gifts that can be used to serve others.

Colossians 3:23 — Whatever we do, we are called to do it wholeheartedly as unto the Lord.

Reflect

You don't have to become somebody else to be useful to God. Ask Him how what you already have can become a blessing to someone else.

Journal Prompts

- What abilities or experiences has God already given me?
- What do people often come to me for help with?
- How could I use those strengths to serve someone this week?
- Is there something I have considered “just a job” that God could use for ministry?

Session 3 — Serve With All Your Heart

One of the most powerful lessons from Roseanne's life is simple: **if you are going to serve, love the people you are serving.**

She talked about working with children and teenagers—the hard days, emotional moments, difficult circumstances, and unexpected phone calls. She had experienced young people who could push her away one day and tell her how much they loved her the next.

That is ministry. People are messy. People are hurting. People don't always respond the way we hope. And sometimes serving people means staying when things become difficult.

But love changes the way we serve.

You can complete a task without loving people. You can fill a position without caring deeply. But when you truly love the people God has entrusted to you, they can often tell.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 16:14 — “Let all that you do be done in love.”

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 — Spiritual activity without love misses the heart of what God desires.

Ask Yourself

Am I serving because I love people, or am I serving because I love being needed?

Am I willing to keep loving someone when they are difficult?

Would the people I serve describe my service as loving?

Prayer

Lord, teach me to love the people You place in my path. Help me not to serve simply to complete a responsibility. Give me patience when people are difficult, compassion when they are hurting, and a genuine desire to help them know You.

Session 4 — Recognizing God's Open Doors

Roseanne and Roger didn't have every detail figured out when they began their missionary journey. They prayed. They talked with people they trusted. Opportunities appeared. Assignments changed. Doors opened in unexpected places.

At one point they expected one assignment and were redirected to another. What looked like a change of plans became something God used for years.

That is a reminder that an open door may not look like what you expected.

Sometimes we ask God to open a specific door, and He opens a completely different one.

Faith doesn't mean insisting that God follow our plan. Faith means trusting Him enough to walk through the door He opens.

Scripture

Proverbs 3:5–6 — Trust the Lord rather than leaning completely on your own understanding; acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.

Revelation 3:8 — Scripture speaks of God setting before His people an open door.

Discernment Questions

- Have I been asking God to open a door while ignoring one He has already opened?
- Is there an opportunity in front of me that I have dismissed because it isn't what I expected?
- Who are the wise, godly people I can talk to as I pray through a decision?
- Am I willing for God's answer to look different from my plan?

Session 5 — When God Changes the Plan

Imagine preparing for one assignment and then being told, “Actually, you're going somewhere else.” That happened to Roseanne and Roger more than once.

Yet their story doesn't sound like a story of God abandoning them. It sounds like a story of God redirecting them.

We often treat unexpected changes as evidence that something has gone wrong. But sometimes a closed door is simply God's way of moving us toward something we could not have seen from where we were standing.

You may have prayed for one opportunity and received another. You may have thought your ministry would look one way and discovered that God had something completely different in mind.

A changed plan does not necessarily mean a failed plan.

Scripture

Isaiah 55:8–9 — God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours.

Romans 8:28 — God works in all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Journal Prompts

- What plan have I had to surrender recently?
- What unexpected change might God be using to redirect me?
- What would trusting God look like in this situation?
- Can I thank God before I understand what He is doing?

Session 6 — You Don't Have to Be Young to Be Used by God

Roseanne and Roger began their missionary service in midlife. They were not teenagers starting an adventure with their whole lives ahead of them. They had already built careers, raised children, established a life, and served faithfully in their church.

And then God called them into something new.

That should encourage anyone who has ever thought, “Maybe I missed my chance.”

You are not disqualified from usefulness because you are older. You are not disqualified because your life hasn't followed the timeline you expected. And you don't have to compare your season to someone else's.

God can use a lifetime of experience, relationships, wisdom, mistakes, lessons, and faithfulness.

Scripture

Psalms 92:14 — Those who are planted in the Lord can still bear fruit in old age.

Joel 2:28 — God's work and calling are not limited to one generation.

Reflect

What if the things you have lived through are not wasted years, but preparation for the people God wants you to help?

Your age does not limit God's ability to use you.

Session 7 — A Missionary Mindset Sees People, Not Just Places

One of the most beautiful parts of this story is the way Roseanne viewed the people around her. When new people came into the church, she didn't stand back and wait for someone else to introduce themselves. She walked up, smiled, and started building relationships.

That is a missionary mindset.

It notices the person who feels awkward. It welcomes the newcomer. It asks someone's name. It listens to a story. It notices a need. It chooses to care.

You don't need a microphone. You don't need a stage. You don't need a title.

Sometimes ministry begins with, "Hi. What's your name?"

Scripture

Philippians 2:4 — Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Hebrews 13:2 — Scripture encourages believers not to neglect hospitality.

Challenge

This week, intentionally notice one person you might normally overlook. Learn their name. Ask a real question. Listen. Pray for them.

Session 8 — The Open Door May Be in Your Own Church

Roseanne and Roger saw their local church through a missionary lens. When new people and families became part of their church community, they didn't simply think, "That's nice." They saw an opportunity to reach people.

That is a powerful shift in perspective.

A church isn't just a place where Christians gather. It can be a place where hurting people find hope, families find community, young people find mentors, and people who don't know Jesus encounter His love.

You can walk into the same building every week and see something completely different when you start asking God to give you His eyes.

Scripture

Matthew 9:36–38 — Jesus looked at people with compassion and called His followers to pray for workers.

Journal Prompts

- Who might be new, lonely, or disconnected at my church?
- Where could I step in and serve?
- What need have I noticed that I could help meet?
- How could I help make my church feel more like an open door?

Session 9 — Your Ministry Does Not Have to Look Like Someone Else's

Roseanne and Roger didn't serve in exactly the same way. They had different strengths and different roles. She was drawn toward youth. Roger was drawn toward children. Later, their missionary assignments used their abilities in different ways.

That's important because comparison can steal the joy out of serving.

You don't have to serve like the person beside you. You don't have to have their personality, their gift, their platform, or their story.

Ask God where *you* fit.

The goal isn't to be the most visible person in the room. The goal is to be faithful with what God has entrusted to you.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:4–6 — There are different gifts, services, and activities, but the same God works through them.

Galatians 6:4–5 — Examine your own work rather than constantly comparing yourself with someone else.

Reflection

What kind of serving brings me genuine joy? Where do I naturally notice needs? What do I care deeply about?

Session 10 — Ministry Is About Relationships

Publishing books, running bookstores, teaching classes, serving in churches, managing practical responsibilities—all of these were parts of Roseanne and Roger's ministry.

But underneath all of it were people.

They built relationships with coworkers. They served alongside churches. They worked with missionaries. They invested in young people. They welcomed families. They cared about people with physical and spiritual needs.

Programs can be useful. Events can be powerful. Organizations can accomplish great things. But people are not projects.

Ministry happens when we care about the person in front of us.

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 2:8 — Paul describes sharing not only the gospel but his own life with others.

John 13:34–35 — Jesus connects love for one another with the witness of His followers.

Journal Prompts

- Do I see the people I serve as people God loves?
- Whose story do I need to slow down enough to hear?
- Who needs encouragement from me right now?
- Where can I replace efficiency with compassion?

Session 11 — Be Willing to Go, But Be Willing to Stay

A missionary mindset is not simply about going. Sometimes obedience means going across the world. Sometimes obedience means staying exactly where you are and loving the people in front of you for decades.

Roseanne's life contains both. She spent years in one local church, then years serving internationally, then returned to continue investing in people at home.

The location isn't what makes the ministry meaningful.

Obedience does.

If God sends you, go. If God asks you to stay, stay. If He redirects you, follow. If He gives you a small assignment, don't despise it.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 7:17 — Walk faithfully in the situation God has assigned to you.

Luke 16:10 — Faithfulness in little things matters.

Prayer

Lord, make me willing. If You say go, help me go. If You say stay, help me stay. If You change the direction, help me trust You. I don't want to chase an impressive assignment. I want to follow You.

Session 12 — Look for the Spiritual Need

One of Roseanne's final observations in the conversation is especially important: there are physical needs, but there are also spiritual needs.

A missionary mindset sees both.

Sometimes a person needs a meal. Sometimes they need a ride. Sometimes they need practical help. Sometimes they desperately need someone to listen. And sometimes underneath all of it is a deeper need for hope, truth, forgiveness, belonging, and Jesus.

We don't have to choose between caring for practical needs and caring about someone's spiritual life. Jesus cared about the whole person.

Ask God to help you become sensitive to both.

Scripture

Matthew 25:35–40 — Jesus connects practical acts of love with serving Him.

1 Peter 3:15 — Be ready to give an answer for the hope within you, with gentleness and respect.

Journal Prompts

- What physical needs do I see around me?
- What emotional needs might be underneath those needs?
- Who might be spiritually searching?
- Am I prepared to talk about the hope I have in Jesus?

7-Day Missionary Mindset Devotional

Day 1: Ask God to Open Your Eyes

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

Before you ask God for a bigger assignment, ask Him to help you see the people already around you. Slow down. Pay attention. Notice.

Today's Action: Pray: "Lord, show me who You want me to notice today."

Day 2: Use What You Have

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10

You don't need someone else's gifts. God can use what He has already placed in your hands.

Today's Action: Use one ability you have today to bless someone.

Day 3: Love the Difficult People

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:14

Some people will make serving easy. Others will test your patience. Ask God for love that doesn't disappear when things get difficult.

Today's Action: Pray for someone who is difficult for you to love.

Day 4: Watch for Open Doors

Scripture: Colossians 4:5

Opportunities often arrive looking ordinary. A conversation. A need. A new person. A problem you can help solve.

Today's Action: Ask God to make you alert to one opportunity today.

Day 5: Trust the Redirect

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5–6

When the plan changes, God hasn't necessarily lost control. He may be leading you somewhere you couldn't see.

Today's Action: Write down one plan you're surrendering to God.

Day 6: Serve Where You Are

Scripture: Colossians 3:23

Don't postpone obedience until your circumstances change. There is someone you can love and serve right now.

Today's Action: Choose one practical act of service.

Day 7: Live Sent

Scripture: Acts 1:8

You don't need to cross an ocean to live sent. Every ordinary place can become a mission field when you belong to Jesus.

Today's Action: Write one sentence describing your current mission field.

Group Discussion Guide

Use these questions with a Bible study group, women's ministry, youth group, or a few friends.

1. When you hear the word “missionary,” what do you normally picture?
2. How has this study changed the way you think about a missionary mindset?
3. Who has God already placed in your everyday mission field?
4. What gift, skill, or experience could you use more intentionally for God?
5. Why is loving the people we serve so important?
6. Have you ever experienced a change of plans that later made sense as God's direction?
7. What is one open door you may have overlooked?
8. How can a local church become an open door to its community?
9. What makes comparison dangerous when it comes to serving?
10. What practical step will you take this week to live with a missionary mindset?

Personal Reflection Worksheet

People God has placed around me:

A gift, skill, or experience I can use for God:

An open door I may need to walk through:

Someone who needs encouragement from me:

A practical way I can serve this week:

One area where I need to trust God's direction:

My current mission field is:

When You Need a Missionary-Mindset Reminder

I don't have to wait for a perfect opportunity.

I don't have to go somewhere impressive.

I don't have to have someone else's gifts.

I don't have to know the entire plan.

I don't have to be young to be useful.

I don't have to do everything.

I simply need to be willing.

I can notice people.

I can love people.

I can serve people.

I can meet practical needs.

I can point people toward Jesus.

I can trust God when He redirects me.

I can walk through the doors He opens.

I can live right where I am.

Because **my mission field is wherever God has placed me.**

Closing Prayer

Father,

Give me a missionary heart.

Help me stop waiting for some huge assignment before I decide to serve You. Open my eyes to the people already around me. Help me notice the person who feels invisible, the person who needs encouragement, the person who needs practical help, and the person who needs to hear about Your love.

Teach me to serve with my whole heart. Give me patience when people are difficult and compassion when people are hurting. Help me use the gifts and experiences You have already given me instead of constantly wishing I had someone else's.

When You open a door, give me courage to walk through it. When You close a door, give me faith to trust You. When You change my plans, remind me that You are still leading.

And Lord, if my mission field is my home, help me serve there. If it is my workplace, help me serve there. If it is my church, help me serve there. If You send me somewhere else, help me go.

I don't want to miss the opportunities You put directly in front of me because I'm waiting for something bigger.

Give me Your eyes to see people, Your heart to love people, and Your courage to tell people about Jesus.

Make me willing. Make me faithful. Make me available.

Amen.

Final Scripture

Colossians 3:23–24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Let that be the heart of your service: not performing for people, not chasing recognition, and not waiting for the perfect opportunity.

Serve where you are. Love who God puts in front of you. Watch for the open door. And be willing to say yes.

Girl Get Real Truth

You don't have to cross an ocean to live like a missionary.

Sometimes the mission field is across the world. Sometimes it is across the table.

Sometimes God calls you to go. Sometimes He calls you to stay.

But wherever He places you, there are people who need to see the love of Jesus through someone who is willing to notice them, love them, and serve them.

Go where He sends you. Serve where He places you. And don't miss the mission right in front of you.