



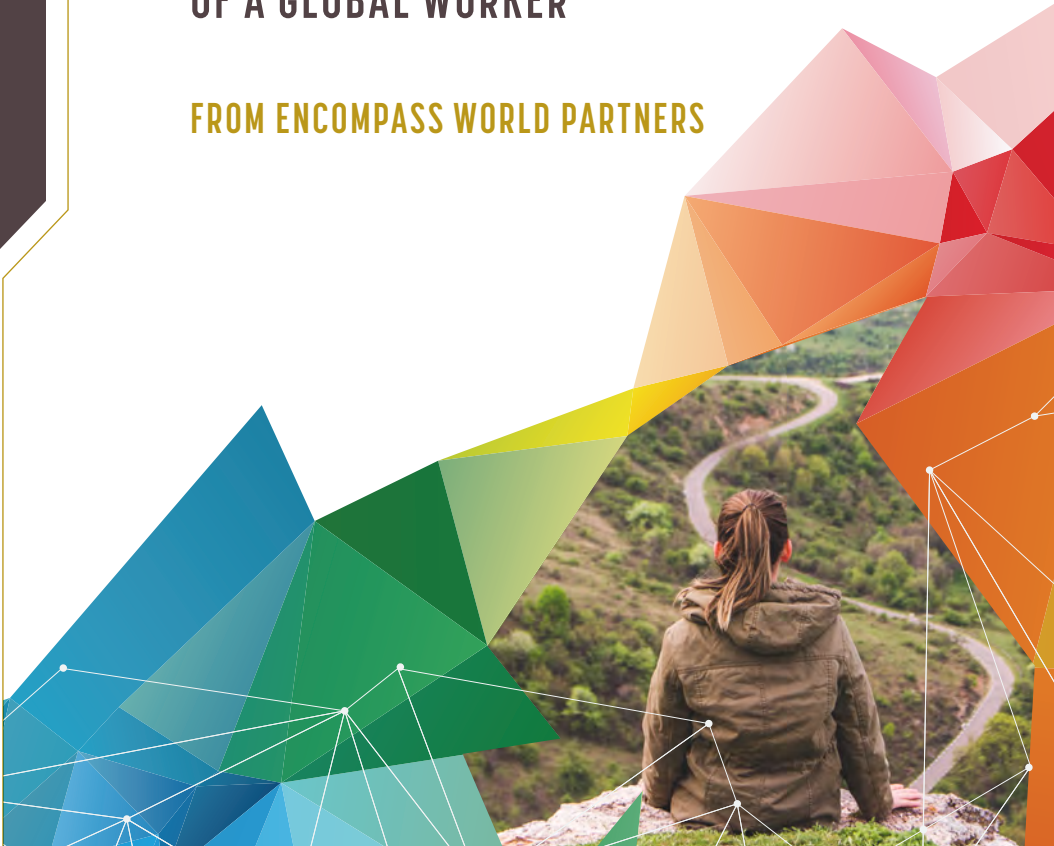
THE PATH // NAVIGATING THE JOURNEY TO GLOBAL MISSIONS



Pursuing Your Calling

DEVELOP THE MISSIONAL HABITS
OF A GLOBAL WORKER

FROM ENCOMPASS WORLD PARTNERS





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Pursuing Your Calling
Develop the Missional Habits of a Global Worker

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ABOUT THE SERIES

THE PATH: NAVIGATING THE JOURNEY TO GLOBAL MISSIONS

Travel tools and resources help us learn about destinations, give us insights, and point the way. Likewise, the titles in this series act as a map, a guide, and a compass to help you navigate the journey to global missions.



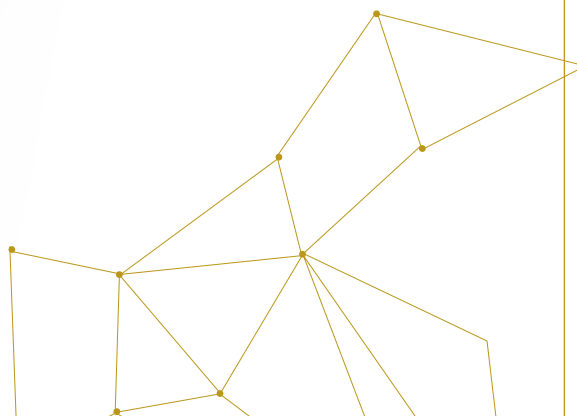
Start down the path to knowing God's heart for the nations and how you can become a part of His global mission.



Next steps on the path for those who are mobilizing individuals and teams into meaningful ministry to the nations.

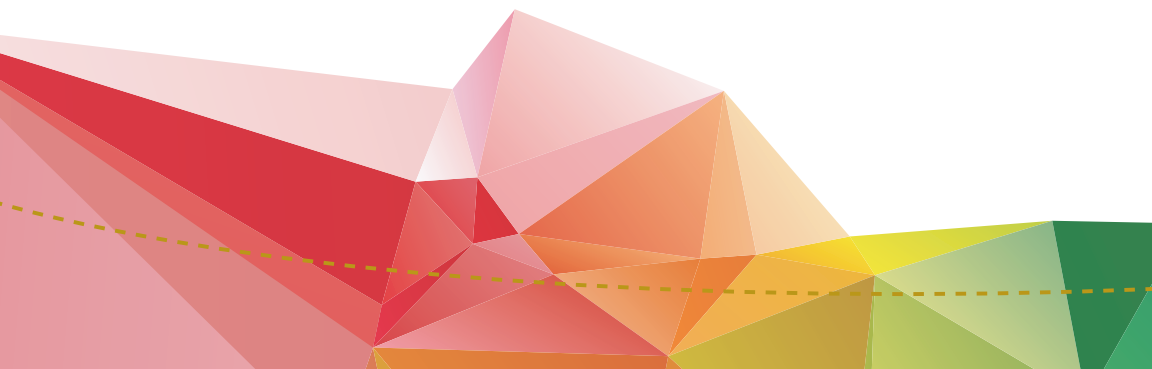


Next steps on the path for potential cross-cultural workers discerning the call to make disciples among the nations.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

THIS BOOK is a combined effort of the Encompass World Partners' training, mobilization, and deployment teams. It brings together the combined knowledge of decades of service among the least reached. We hope that this resource guides you on the path as you *pursue your calling*.





ABOUT THE AGENCY

ENCOMPASS WORLD PARTNERS was birthed in 1900 from a commitment to make disciples among all nations.

Its purpose is: **To mobilize, equip, deploy, and nurture multinational teams of disciple-makers who live and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through engaging in sacrificial service, intentional evangelism, and whole-life discipleship, resulting in the creation of healthy spiritual communities (churches).**

The rallying cry of Encompass World Partners is *more fruitful disciple-making teams among the least-reached peoples of our world.* Learn more about the ministries of Encompass and how you can become involved at EncompassWorldPartners.org.



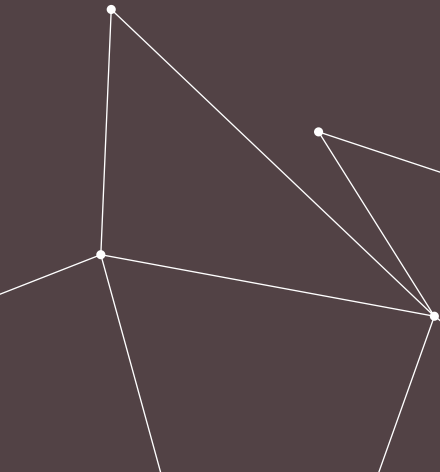


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INTRODUCTION

DEVELOP THE MISSIONAL HABITS OF A GLOBAL WORKER

We are so glad that you are following God by pursuing your calling. In The Path series, this book serves as a compass, showing you how to develop missional habits now while you plan for future cross-cultural ministry.

Not everyone is ready to go the moment they feel God calling them to missions. The same reason it isn't recommended that you show up at the start of a marathon without training is the reason we've compiled these lessons—to prepare you for what you'll face as a global worker. Training is needed just to get to the starting line, much more to finish the race. The path to global missions is not a simple one and requires people who practice good missional habits. We're glad that you're using this resource to help you prepare for a fruitful, growing ministry.

HOW DO YOU LEARN GOOD MISSIONAL HABITS WHILE STAYING FOCUSED ON THE GOAL?

First, pursue your calling with passion, or a sense of purpose.

If you're confident that this is what God has called you to, then even adversity will not divert you from your goal. When you train for any sport, one of the biggest hurdles to overcome is your

own mind. Focusing on the goal instead of the other distractions makes all the difference. In missions, knowing your calling, seeing the need, and depending on Christ will help you to stay focused.

Second, lean on others who know what lies ahead. Pursuing your calling in global missions takes work, training, and focus. Seeking advice from others who have gone before you is critical. Those who have already pursued this path can share their knowledge with you. This is why we set this book up as a guide with lessons for you work through with a local mentor.

Third, focus your energy on what is important. Training for anything in life will have elements of difficulty and struggle. That's why focusing your energy on these missional habits will make you more effective both now and in the future. The challenges you'll face as you seek to apply these habits are a part of what you need to embrace as you pursue your calling. Don't expect to arrive at your goal without the difficulties and challenges of training. Practicing these missional habits will not only prepare you as a global worker, but the process you go through will also help you be more resilient when you face adversity.

Fourth, find others to partner with you and hold you accountable. Share your dreams with others and help them to understand and become invested in helping you get there. It is much easier to train with a coach or mentor. Work closely with your mentor through this book and let them cheer you on in your pursuit.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This book includes 24 lessons covering eight missional habits. It is meant to be completed at a pace that works for you. It is designed to give you a cursory knowledge of the habits and practices you will learn and apply as you work through the lessons. Your church and missions agency may have additional training that they want you to gain beyond these lessons. If so, you can work with them on a plan to accomplish those training goals in addition to what you put into practice from this book.

Each lesson is divided into four sections. The first contains a few explanatory paragraphs that discuss the topic of the lesson and prepare you to answer questions. The second is comprised of a set of tasks; these may be questions you can journal about and answer, or they may be assignments that allow you to put into practice what you are learning. The third is a mentor discussion section; this is particularly where you can go through with your mentor and discuss the lesson and its implications on your life. The fourth and final section includes resources. These may be links, books to read, or online assessments that provide you with information for further study and growth.

While you go through this book, keeping a journal (digital or paper) where you can record your thoughts and questions will help you track your progress. As always, keep your Bible close at hand as well.

This book is meant to be used in conjunction with two key relationships:

// **A Local Mentor**, preferably from your church or a respected voice in cross-cultural ministry. Your church may have a designated person who helps prepare future global workers. If not, look for someone who demonstrates godly character and practices many of these missional habits.

// **A Mobilizer** who is there to walk with you through the process, helping you discern God's leading, discovering opportunities to serve, and affirming the right fit in cross-cultural ministry. If you don't have a mobilizer, you can email GO@EncompassWorld.org.

Among the listed resources in this book, there are several required titles. Below is a list of books you will want to have on hand as you make your way through this book:

- **Ministering Cross-Culturally** by Sherwood Lingenfelter and Marvin Mayers (Lesson 13)
- **The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness** by Timothy Keller (Lesson 21)
- **Bondage Breaker** by Neil Anderson or **The Three Princes** by Tom Julien (Lesson 23)

After completing this book, you can use it as a reference guide while continuing a relationship with your mentor. It is not intended to provide a few boxes for you to check off, but rather to teach habits and practices that will continue to pattern your life as you pursue your calling. At the bottom of most lessons is a list of resources to help you dig deeper into these topics.

TIPS FOR MENTORS

Mentoring is a wonderful opportunity to encourage, teach, and equip future global workers. Remember that we all started somewhere, so don't expect your mentees to jump to where you are. Instead, put yourself in their shoes, recalling when you were their age. We recognize that many of you have been doing this for years while others are just getting started. Either way, we want to help you as you journey with your mentees.

What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24–25

HELPFUL TIPS:

// **Initiate.** Although we hope mentees will learn to be responsible for their growth throughout these lessons, you can help them by setting an example.

- Set up a regular time to meet. Weekly or bi-weekly meetings are suggested.
- Ensure the meeting time is prioritized and confirmed and that lessons to complete are determined beforehand.

// **Prepare.** Think through the meeting in advance.

- Plan a few aspects that will be a part of each meeting.
- Follow up on what has happened since the last time you met.
- Connect personally by sharing and asking them about how and what they are doing.
- Be honest and vulnerable.
- Determine with the mentees what lesson or lessons are next.

// **Participate.** Periodically engaging with mentees in the lessons can be one of the most powerful ways to mentor them.

- Go through the exercises yourself.
- Consider what your mentees are thinking and feeling.
- Observe their strengths and weaknesses.
- Offer encouragement.
- Communicate your commitment to them.

// **Model.** Invite mentees to participate in your ministry, especially when it reinforces a lesson they are learning.

- Do ministry together.
- Teach them practically with hands-on learning.

The Encompass World Partners' Team is available to work with you as you seek to walk through *Pursuing Your Calling* with your mentees. We will coach you on how to use this resource and answer any questions you have along the way. To set up a meeting with a member of the training team, send an email to GO@EncompassWorld.org. ●

INTRODUCING MISSIONAL HABITS

At the beginning of each lesson, there is a small icon at the top of the page. These icons correspond to the eight missional habits you will put into practice, sometimes repeatedly, throughout the 24 lessons in this book. Practicing these missional habits will allow you to thrive both in your personal and ministry life.



CONNECTING WITH GOD

Nurture your personal relationship with God.



PHYSICAL HEALTH

Care for your body by healthy eating, physical activity, and adequate rest.



CULTURAL INSIGHTS

Study the culture around you.



PROACTIVE DISCIPLE-MAKING

Encourage others to live as followers of Jesus in all aspects of their lives.



IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Recognize that your identity is based on who you are in Christ.



RHYTHM AND SABBATH REST

Live your life in healthy, life-giving rhythms.



LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Maintain mutual accountability in all aspects of your life.



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Battle for God's truth in both your personal life and ministry.



PART 1 GETTING STARTED



// PART 1 // GETTING STARTED





LESSON 1

LIFE PRIORITIES



PLANNING A WEEKLY SCHEDULE

As believers with a heart for the lost, we likely have good intentions of building relationships with nonbelievers, living life and sharing with them. Likewise, we desire to encourage and be encouraged by other believers. Yet often a week, several weeks, and more can get away from us, and when we look back, we may be discouraged by how we've spent our time.

This lesson encourages the habit of strategically planning your week based on your top priorities. While strategy is emphasized here, we do not intend to minimize the Holy Spirit's work in your life and His prompting throughout the week. Sometimes He will move your heart to take unplanned action, and that is a good thing. The point of this lesson is to prepare you for day-to-day discipline in scheduling your life and accomplishing what you need to week by week.



TASKS:

Begin a routine of planning each week before you go into it.

1. Determine the best time to sit down and plan the following week.

- Give yourself ample time (one to two hours).
- Consider what day feels most natural to think through the next week.
- Make sure you are free of other responsibilities.

2. Have your calendar with you—paper or electronic.

3. Begin your schedule with your top priorities.

Watch this video: <https://bit.ly/PYCBigRocks>

Think about how to incorporate each of these aspects into your week:

- Work hours
- Scheduled appointments
- Sabbath rest
- Family routines that involve set times, such as date night, school events, homework help, etc.
- Time with God (quiet time)
- Anything that already has a place on this week's calendar, such as a meeting, party, etc.
- Meeting with your mentor

4. Fill in other activities. Some items may be equally important but have more flexibility than those in the list above.

- Social time with life-giving people
- Social time with nonbelievers (more on this later)
- Prep time needed for mandatory activities (work, ministry, cooking/meal planning)

5. Examine your remaining free time and determine the best fit for the following:

- Domestic chores
- Proper, adequate rest
- Personal hygiene
- Ongoing projects

The “sand” (games, movies, social media, etc.) does not need to be planned, but will fall into the gaps left over.

The above bullet points will likely not cover everything on your weekly agenda, but they provide a helpful guideline for prioritizing as you schedule them.



Look at your complete week and ask questions:

- Does your schedule reflect your highest priorities?
- Are you trying to do too much or too little?
- Are you being realistic?
- What priorities or people are not in this week that you can make note of for upcoming weeks?

DISCUSS WITH YOUR MENTOR:

Show your first week's schedule to your mentor for feedback and discuss your thoughts and ideas with them. As time goes on, don't hesitate to ask your mentor for suggestions regarding your priorities and how to arrange your week accordingly.

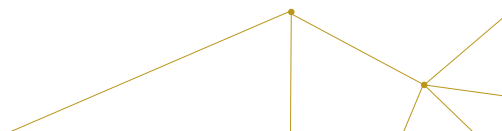
RESOURCES:

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change (25th Anniversary Edition) by Stephen Covey

Published by Simon & Schuster in New York, 2013.

"7 Big Rocks - The Productivity System" by Stephen Covey, found on YouTube, accessed August 3, 2020, <https://bit.ly/PYCBigRocks>.

YOUR THOUGHTS:



“HOW DO I LEARN GOOD MISSIONAL HABITS WHILE STAYING FOCUSED ON THE GOAL?”

Not everyone is ready to go the moment they feel God calling them to missions. The same reason it isn't recommended that you show up at the start of a marathon without training is the reason we've compiled these lessons—to prepare you for what you'll face as a global worker. Training is needed just to get to the starting line, much more to finish the race. The path to global missions is not a simple one and requires people who practice good missional habits. This book will help you prepare for a fruitful, growing ministry.

YOU'LL LEARN TO...

- Pursue your calling with passion and purpose
- Lean on others who know what lies ahead
- Focus your energy on what's important
- Find others to partner with and hold you accountable

ABOUT THE SERIES:

Pursuing Your Calling is part of a series of books and resources called *The Path: Navigating the Journey to Global Missions*. The series presents various tools or applications, with this book serving as a “compass” that helps you learn good missional habits toward making disciples among the nations. Be sure to check out all the resources in the series at PathSeries.com.



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