



THE MISSION ROAD

Props: Signs on display as follows: Stop Sign, Detour, Curve, Handicapped, Speed Bump, Roadblock, Yield Right of Way, Green Light, Exit
Mite Box

Scene: Ahead of time, play tape, "Mission Impossible." When finished, Actor #1 comes out, sits at card table, picks up a large brown envelope, opens it and removes a cassette tape and places tape in player. It plays:

"Good morning! This is God. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to take the LWML down the Mission Road. You are to help them find ways to serve the Lord. A team has already been dispatched to handle the details. There may be danger along the road.. I will help prepare you. This is a lengthy assignment. We will rendezvous at the end of the road. One more thing - remember - your mission will be impossible without me. This message will self destruct in 5 seconds."

THE MISSION ROAD

Actor 1: Ladies! Our LWML theme this year is "The Mission Road." We invite you to travel with us down that road this year. We're going to explore ways to serve the Lord and discover our mission in life. We are sure to meet people who need help and guidance along the road. We may talk to some who are unsaved. Like other roads, there can be danger at any given turn in the road. Therefore, we will pack our suitcase accordingly.

Actor 2: We should wear the whole armor of God.

Actor 1: And we need the truth at all times.

Actor 2: Let's bring our breastplate of righteousness for protection.

Actor 1: Remember to take along a good pair of shoes for the gospel of peace.

Actor 2: It will be hard to fit into our suitcase, but we must have the shield of faith.

Actor 1: And don't forget the helmet of salvation.

Actor 2: Take the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. This is very important, and it should be kept in our minds at all times, ready to defend ourselves and to give an account of our salvation.

Actor 1: Occasionally we may come to a stop sign. On the road to Damascus, St. Paul came to God's stop sign! He met head-on with the Lord Jesus and his life was totally changed. Murderer that he was, God had a mission for Paul, a mission that would affect the entire world forever. Like Paul, on our mission through life, we will be stopped by Him from time to time, so that we will listen and obey Him.

Actor 2: There will be detours on the Mission Road. One day Paul came to a detour. He had a vision of a man of Macedonia who begged him to come over to help the people there. So Paul changed his travel plans and took the road to Macedonia. He knew what God's mission was for him: to preach the Gospel to those people. Later, when there was a severe famine in all the world, Paul took up a collection from the churches to help feed the people of Macedonia. (*Hold up Mite Box*) By the way, when you and I pack for this trip, let's be sure to include our Mite Box. In this way we can send help around the world.

Actor 1: Sometimes on a road, there will be a sign that says "Curve." One day as the apostle Philip went around the curve on a desert road, he met an Ethiopian man parked in his chariot. He was reading Isaiah. The Spirit told Philip to go talk to the man.

Actor 2: "Good day, sir. Isn't it hot today? I see you are reading something. What is it?"

Actor 1: "I'm reading from the prophet Isaiah, but I don't understand it. I need someone to guide me. Please, do you have time to read with me and explain this?"

Actor 2: "Of course, I'd be glad to."

Actor 1: And Philip told him the Good News of Jesus. As they went along the road, they came to some water and the Ethiopian said, "See! Here is some water! What is to prevent my being baptized?"

Actor 2: And so Philip baptized him. Legend tells us that this man went back to his own country and spread the Good News of Jesus to many of his countrymen. Both of these men had a mission - to tell others about Jesus.

Actor 1: "Handicapped" - We may see this sign when we pull off the road to park. One day Jesus and his disciples left Jericho, and they met one who was handicapped, a blind beggar who sat by the roadside. Perhaps he was homeless. When he saw Jesus, the man cried out:

Actor 2: "Jesus, Son of David! Have mercy on me!"

Actor 1: “What do you want me to do for you?”

Actor 2: “Master, let me receive my sight.”

Actor 1: “Go your way. Your faith has made you well!”

Actor 2: Immediately, the man received his sight and followed Jesus down the road. That man had a mission - to be there at just the right time when Jesus happened to be passing by and to follow Him. Jesus fulfilled His mission by healing the man. We, too, are going to meet the handicapped and homeless on the Mission Road. When we do, we will want to show mercy to those in need.

Actor 1: Sometimes there will be speed bumps along our road. This tends to slow us down. One day as Jesus was going down the road, He was delayed by a rich young ruler who ran up and knelt before him asking:

Actor 2: “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? I have observed all the commandments from my youth.”

Actor 1: “You lack one thing. Go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me.”

Actor 2: We may meet someone who will be quite up-front with us, asking very pointed questions. When someone asks us how to be saved, He will give us the answer for them. We will not travel down this road again, so we need to take along our first-aid kit - the Bible. When we slow down because of a speed bump, we can always be ready to bring the healing words of salvation to all. We can learn what Scripture says and then tell others how Christ has made a difference in our lives.

Actor 1: We will come to roadblocks for various reasons on our trip, such as an accident or a traffic jam. One instance of a roadblock was a festive occasion - a parade! There was this huge crowd of people that jammed the street. This parade was the Triumphal Entry! The crowd came all decked out in their best attire. They wanted to catch a glimpse of the One who was riding the donkey - Jesus, the Grand Marshal of the parade! As He got closer, they took off their garments and threw them on the road for Him to pass over. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. As the excitement grew, they all cheered.

Both: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!”

Actor 1: The mission of every person at the parade was to welcome the King of kings and Lord of lords, to pay Him honor and respect. We, too, will welcome Jesus into our lives and we will praise Him! But Jesus had a different mission. His roadblock ended at the cross.

Actor 2: Sometimes on the Mission Road we will be asked to yield the right of way. Scripture tells about a time when the flow of traffic was diverted to make room for someone else. It was on the road to Calvary. As they led Jesus away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country. They laid on him the cross to carry behind Jesus. Most certainly, we will have the opportunity to help others in distress. In fact, we can't get through life without meeting people who need help with their problems. God gives us special abilities and talents that we can use for the good of the church and to help others. Let's always be ready to yield the right of way. As we walk down the Mission Road, we will have opportunity to make room for those who need us. We can bear one another's burdens.

Actor 1: Most of the time we will have green lights on the Mission Road that allow us to travel without interruption. On the road to Emmaus, two disciples were walking along, talking about what had happened on Good Friday and Easter morning. Suddenly a third person joined them and began to carry on a conversation. Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about?"

Actor 2: "What! Haven't you heard? Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, was crucified!"

Actor 1: "Yes! We had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. But it's now the third day since He died."

Actor 2: "Some of our women went to the tomb but they didn't find His body. They told us they saw angels who said Jesus was alive!"

Actor 1: Jesus told them about Moses and the prophets, and He explained to them all the Scriptures that spoke of Himself. These two men invited Jesus to stay the night. They wanted to hear more. As they sat down to eat, they heard Jesus pray, "Father, we thank and bless You for this food." And then Jesus disappeared.

Actor 2: Where did He go? Do you know who that was? It was Jesus, the same One we were talking about on the road!

Actor 1: Yes! Oh, how our hearts burned within us while He talked to us on the road, and He opened to us the Scriptures!

Actor 2: Once more, Jesus accomplished His mission - to let people know He was alive. And the two disciples? They just couldn't wait. Their mission was to hurry to tell the apostles that they had just seen and spoken with Jesus. They recognized Him as He broke bread with them. God gives us all the green light to go ahead with our mission to tell others.

Actor 1: There will be times when you might get lost, but don't worry - God will lead you back home. He might give you a "not-a-through-street" sign, or let you know you're going down a dead end. The Prodigal Son came to a sign like that. It was a dead end - the road that led him only one way, back home. What happiness his father enjoyed when he looked down the road to see his son coming home. Even at a distance, the father recognized the son who had been gone so long. Oh, how the father missed him! He ran to embrace his son, kissing and hugging him repeatedly, pouring out his love because the young man was back home. When we meet those who have come to a dead end in their lives, we can introduce them to the Savior and love them as Christ loves us.

Actor 2: And finally we come to an exit sign at the end of Mission Road. We have come to the Highway of Holiness. This will be the end of the road...our final destination...our rendezvous point. Isaiah described it this way, *And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.* Isaiah 35:8-10 (NIV)

Actor 1: One glorious day our journey will come to an end. We'll exit the Mission Road and change our address. We will move into our mansion already prepared for us. Our new address will be Heavenly Way and on the door there will be a note which reads, "Enter! Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

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