

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2017
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 7

Introduction: *Think about mission statements.*

Read through some of the mission statements of Fortune 500 companies on this website:

https://www.missionstatements.com/fortune_500_mission_statements.html

Choose a few to share with learners. See if they can guess which mission statement goes with which business. Invite learners to share their employer or company's mission statement if they know it.

Ask, "Do you have a personal mission statement? Have you ever considered your purpose, focus, or main idea?" Invite volunteers to jot their personal mission statements on a scrap piece of paper or 3-by-5-inch card.

Ask, "What was Jesus's mission statement?" After a few answers are offered, say something like "Today's passage will reveal Jesus's purpose and focus: His own mission statement."

Point 1: *Reflect on meeting a need.*

Show the following video (1 minute, 38 seconds):

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/humankind/2016/03/07/students-create-new-way-child-special-needs-move-around/81451146/>

Discuss how as parents, friends, and Christians we are called to meet the needs of others. Ask, "When was the last time you saw someone in need and helped? When was the last time you saw someone in need and *didn't*?"

Read the second-to-last paragraph in the first point from the Leader Guide aloud (page 85, beginning with the words "Like Mary..."). Invite learners to share times that others met their needs and how it strengthened their faith.

Point 2: Discuss the purpose of secret identities.

Ask, “What are some of your favorite movies or books that tell the tale of a person with a hidden identity?” You may want to use some of the characters mentioned in this list for ideas to get everyone thinking:

<http://www.ranker.com/list/greatest-fictional-characters-leading-double-lives/ranker-characters>

Engage learners in discussing reasons that these fictional characters keep their true identities a secret. (Answers might include danger, a secret power, or a hidden past.) After you’ve discussed John 2:6-10, ask, “Why did Jesus keep his identity as God’s Son a secret?”

Conclusion: Consider your identity and mission statement.

Remind learners of the Introduction activity of considering their personal mission statements. After reading the Conclusion from the Leader Guide aloud (page 89), engage learners in re-writing their mission statement based on their own identity as one who glorifies God and points to Christ. Ask, “Considering your specific identity in Christ, how might that change your decisions or your life this week?”

Teaching Tip of the Week

Stay on topic. This is a lesson in which it’s easy to talk about memorable weddings or debate whether or not believers should consume alcohol. Neither of those is the point of this passage, so be sure to gently but with authority guide the discussion back to its primary purpose.