



# Forge



Forge Guides for Missional  
Conversation

Available October 2013

\$40, 5 guides, paperback

978-0-8308-1043-7

**Scott Nelson** is the director of theology for Forge America, where his roles include creating partnerships with academic institutions and producing curriculum to be used by local Forge hubs for on-the-ground training of missionaries. Scott helps lead a Forge hub in Chicago and often teaches at other Forge hubs around the country. When not working for Forge, Scott spends his time as a stay-at-home dad while also finishing a Ph.D. in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Most significantly, he and his family do their best to live as missionaries in their everyday lives in and around their home in Downers Grove, Illinois.

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## Joining God at Work in the Neighborhood

If mission is central to the character of God, then why don't more of God's followers conceive of themselves as missionaries in their own communities?

For small groups who recognize the need to turn their focus outward to their neighbors and beyond, the Forge Guides for Missional Conversation will provide the ideal formation. Each of the five guides focuses on a different topic – mission, culture, power, vision, community – but all are designed to help participants ask good questions about their local context and to think creatively about how they might join God on mission.

As author Scott Nelson explains, “My hope is that these guides will give people a new way to engage the Word of God, a new way to gather together as a group, and a new lifestyle based on a wide-open imagination for how God is at work in the world and how God might be calling them to participate in what he is doing.”

Each guide is structured around four practices:

- **Dwelling in the Word:** The same Scripture passage is studied for the duration of the study (six weeks or more). As participants listen to God and to each other, a collective imagination and a shared receptiveness to the work of the Spirit will begin to develop.
- **Contextual Analysis:** To share the gospel effectively, believers must be able to contextualize it appropriately. This section will help participants translate the gospel into their local contexts.
- **Theological Reflection:** Seeking to understand who God is and what he does will enable participants to get a better idea of how to join in God's redeeming work.
- **Missionary Imagination:** The creative activities in this section will challenge participants to be innovative and experimental in their attempts to live missionally.

The guides also come equipped with two appendices: tips for small group gatherings and resources for further study.

“The five guides that make up this series will each be valuable on its own; thoroughly scriptural, accessibly theological, highly practical and fundamentally spiritual, each will give you a fuller appreciation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus on God's mission,” explains Alan Hirsch, co-founder of Forge Mission Training Network. “Taken together, however, they are a sort of curriculum for a movement: you and your friends will be fully equipped for every good work that God has in mind for you in the place where you find yourself.”

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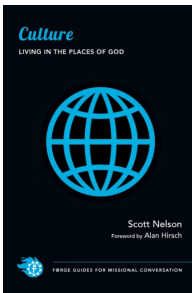


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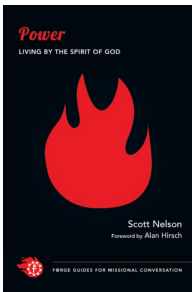
*Mission: Living for the Purposes of God*  
\$8, 80 pages,  
paperback  
978-0-8308-1044-4

In your group, consider how your faith can grow when you learn to see yourselves not as church members but as ambassadors for Christ. As the discussion unfolds, you'll begin to envision a mission-shaped life for your context.



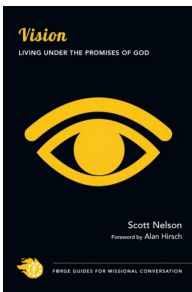
*Culture: Living in the Places of God*  
\$8, 80 pages,  
paperback  
978-0-8308-1045-1

Focus on the context in which God has placed you. Much like the church in the book of Acts, you will learn to ask: What type of people do we need to be to live on mission where we find ourselves?



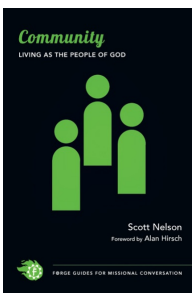
*Power: Living by the Spirit of God*  
\$8, 80 pages,  
paperback  
978-0-8308-1046-8

Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in making God known, making community flourish and making peace. Come and relish the present power of God's Spirit as you move more boldly into God's mission.



*Vision: Living Under the Promises of God*  
\$8, 80 pages,  
paperback  
978-0-8308-1047-5

Discover what a theologically informed vision for the future can do for your day-to-day life. The more hope you invest in God's promises, the more your life will take on the contours of God's mission.



*Community: Living as the People of God*  
\$8, 80 pages,  
paperback  
978-0-8308-1048-2

Explore the dynamic image of church not as an institution to support and serve but as a movement of people using their skills and gifts to spread the good news of God's kingdom to the ends of the earth.