

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Topic of Bible Study Questions: Missions

4 – Main points for Bible study

- **The Great Commission**
- **Missions in the Old Testament**
- **Missions in the New Testament**
- **The Goal of Missions**

1) The Great Commission

- Read the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Would the great commission make sense without the phrase - “of all nations”?
 - **Matthew 28:19-20** *Go therefore and make disciples , baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*
- Discuss why you think it was important for Jesus to add “of all nations”.

2) Missions in the Old Testament (pay attention to the phrase – all nations)

- Read and discuss the following quotes from Genesis concerning the birth of Israel and its purpose.
 - **Genesis 18:18** *seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation (Israel), and **all the nations** of the earth shall be **blessed in him**?*
 - **Genesis 22:18** *and in your offspring (Israel) shall **all the nations** of the earth be blessed...*

- **Genesis 26:4** I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. (Israel) And in your offspring **all the nations** of the earth **shall be blessed**.
- **Genesis 28:14** Your offspring (Israel) shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall **all the families** of the earth be blessed.
- **The call of Abraham**
 - **Genesis 12:1-3** Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you **a great nation** (Israel), and I will bless you and make your name great, so **that you will be a blessing**. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed**.”
- **God's covenant with Abraham**
 - **Genesis 17:3-5** Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, 4 “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the **father of a multitude of nations**. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you **the father of a multitude of nations**.
- **Read Psalm 67** and answer the following question according to this Psalm. Why did God bless Israel?
- **Read Jonah 4:1-11** answer the following questions.
 - What is Jonah most concerned about?
 - What is God most concerned about?
 - And how does this passage and your answers challenge the modern day Church, especially in its calling to reach the nations?
 - **John Piper:** Jesus identifies himself as “something greater than Jonah.” He is greater not only because his resurrection is greater than surviving a fish’s belly but also because he stands in harmony with the mercy of God and extends it now to *all the Nations*. – Unlike Jonah

3) Missions in the New Testament

- **Read Acts 2:1-13** (without getting sidetracked on the spiritual gifts) Focus on verses 5-6 and discuss why it is significant that the first time the Gospel was preached it wasn't preached in Hebrew but instead in "every language".
- Why did God allow persecution to the early church?
 - *Leaders cheat: to spread the church throughout the nations*
 - *Acts 8:1 & 4*
 - *Acts 11:19*
- Answer the following questions and discuss what it says about God's priority in missions and outreach?
 - Will the majority of people on earth be saved?
 - *Leaders Cheat: Matthew 7:13-14*
 - Will there be someone saved from every "people group" on earth?

4) The Goal of Missions

- Read the following prophetic verses then discuss how diversity in culture and race glorifies God.
 - Revelations 7:9-10
 - Revelations 14:6-7
 - Revelations 15:4
 - Daniel 7:13-14
 - Isaiah 19:23-25
- Read the 4 reasons why diversity magnifies the glory of God according to John Piper's book "Let The Nations Be Glad".
 - **First**, There is a beauty and power of praise that comes from unity in diversity that is greater than that which comes from unity alone.
 - **Second**, The fame and greatness and worth of an object of beauty increases in proportion to the diversity of those who recognize its beauty.
 - **Third**, The strength and wisdom and love of a leader is magnified in proportion to the diversity of people he can inspire to follow him with joy.

- **Fourth**, By focusing on all the people groups of the world, God undercuts ethnocentric pride and throws all people back upon his free grace rather than any distinctive of their own.
- In light of this study reread Matthew 28:18-20 and discuss what our calling is as a church and why “Cross-Cultural Missions” needs to be a priority.
 - **John Piper** - God is infinitely passionate for his glory and for its praise among the nations. He has been, is now, and always will be supreme in missions, until the Lord Jesus himself returns and brings history as we know it to a close. The price of finishing this mission will be much sacrifice and many lives (Col. 1:24, Rev. 6:11). The fuel of that sacrifice will not be the love of money or a passion for prosperity; it will be a love for Christ and a passion for his glory. May the Lord purify his church. May he refine like gold the growing faith of the Global South. And may he remember mercy and grant Europe and America a great awakening for the glory of his name and the gladness of the nations.
- Spend some time praying for the nations, especially the unreached people groups of the world.