

Making Disciples of All Nations

A Small Group Study
Exploring God's Desire for All Nations



LEADERS GUIDE



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How to Use This Study

This study is designed to be done in a small group setting. It's most effective when it leads to a discussion. The first time you lead this group, please write your answers to the questions down as well.

We recommend taking about an hour each meeting for the content. This content is designed to help students gain an understanding of the state of the world, God's heart for the nations, and their place in the Great Commission.

Below are weekly guides with helpful notes and suggestions for weekly study.

Each week, we recommend having students read the verses out loud, before highlighting or underlining in their Bible the places God speaks of the nations, people, tribes, world, etc. Spend time discussing questions, and give students time to record their answers in the attached Student Guide.

If you have extra time after your case study and discussion, we recommend using "Prayer Cast" (Prayercast.com) to finish your meetings. Through Prayer Cast, you can pray for a country together with its people, guided by a local believer of that nation.



Leaders Guide:

Week One: God's Heart for the Nations in the Old Testament

This week, it may be helpful to define some terms for your students. For example:

- **People Group**
 - A group of individuals with the same history, language, beliefs, and culture.
- **UPG/Unreached People Group**
 - A people group that has the gospel but it's not spread to most of the people. Less than 2% of the population is Evangelical Christian.
- **UUPG/Unengaged, Unreached People Group**
 - A group of people who have not yet heard about Jesus Christ or the gospel.
- **A Reached People Group**
 - A people group who hear and accept the message of the gospel, then retell this truth to others in their own group. The church and disciples began multiplying and growing. The church may still be small, but there is more than 2% that claim to be Evangelical Christian.
- **The Nations/Ta Ethne**
 - The language used in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) meaning "All people [groups]" or "distinct ethnolinguistic groups."

The "What is a UPG?" Video by Global Frontier Missions is a fantastic resource to break down these definitions:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nbXRuStiiE>

Notes for Week One:

- **Question 3 is specifically focusing on verses 6&7. Verses 4-5,8 are given for context.**
- **When beginning the case study; ask students in the group if they can retell the story of Jonah, then, fill in anything they might have missed.**
 - Jonah 1:1-3
 - God sends His prophet to a foreign nation. God calls Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah runs away
 - Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 - The nation responds to God. Jonah finally preaches in Nineveh, and the people repent. God relents from the judgment He had planned.
 - Jonah 4:1-2
 - Jonah resents God's mercy. Jonah becomes angry because God showed mercy to Nineveh.
 - Jonah 4:10-11
 - God reveals His compassionate heart. God explains His compassion for the people of the city.

Week One: God's Heart for the Nations in the Old Testament

(Leader) Have students read these verses out to the group. Then have them highlight or underline in their Bible where God speaks of nations, peoples, etc . Lastly, discuss the question and have them write down their answers.

Read these verses and underline them in your Bible. What do these verses show about God's heart for the nations?

Genesis 12:1-3

Isaiah 49:5-6

Isaiah 56:4-8 (Specifically in v.6-7)

Psalms 67

1. In Genesis 12, God blesses Abraham. What was the purpose of that blessing?
2. When you read these passages together, what themes do you notice about God's plan for the world?
3. Several passages talk about the nations worshipping God. How might worship from different people groups look different than worship in your church or campus ministry?
4. How do these passages challenge the idea that the Old Testament is only about Israel?
5. What might it look like for God's people today to reflect His heart for the nations and unreached people groups (UPGs)?

Case Study: The Book of Jonah

1. What does God's concern for Nineveh reveal about His character?
2. Why do you think Jonah struggled with God showing mercy to another nation?
3. What does this story teach us about God's heart for people who do not yet know Him (UUPGs & UPGs)?
4. How do my attitudes, willingness and obedience compare to Jonah's?

Homework

1. Read Psalm 96 once without taking notes. What do you notice initially, just from reading the scripture?
2. Read Psalm 96 again, highlighting in your Bible everywhere the text talks about the nations, all peoples, the whole earth (Te Ethne).
 - a. What does this psalm tell you about God's heart for the nations?
 - b. How should our actions change in response to God's heart?
 - c. What can you pray for for the nations today, after reading this passage?



Leaders Guide:

Week Two: Jesus and the Nations in the New Testament

This week, it might be helpful for your students to give context for some of these passages.

Examples include:

- The Great Commission was Jesus's final charge to his disciples, to make disciples of all nations (Te Ethne).
- The conflict between Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles: In the time of Jesus, Jews and Samaritans did not get along due to conflict as a result of the Assyrian conquests. Samaritans were known to worship idols, and the Jewish people in Samaria were known to intermarry with Samaritan idol worshipers, adopting their idol worship. In Jesus's time, from the Jewish perspective, Gentiles were often seen as pagans who did not know the true God. During Jesus' time, many Jews took such pride in their cultural and religious heritage that they considered Gentiles "unclean," and calling them "dogs." Gentiles and the half-Gentile Samaritans were viewed as enemies to be shunned (see John 4:9; 18:28; and Acts 10:28).

Case Study Notes

- When beginning the case study; ask students in the group if they can retell the story of John 4. Then, fill in anything they might have missed.
 - Jesus intentionally travels through Samaria and speaks with a Samaritan woman—someone who would normally be avoided by Jewish teachers. Through their conversation, she recognizes Him as the Messiah and tells her town about Him. Many Samaritans come to believe in Jesus.
 - Ask the group after reading: What boundaries do you see Jesus crossing here? What is significant about each of them?
 - This chapter in the Bible shows several barriers Jesus crosses: An ethnic barrier (Jews vs. Samaritans), a gender barrier (rabbi speaking publicly with a woman), and a moral barrier (her past).

Week Two:

Jesus and the Nations in the New Testament

(Leader) Have students read these verses out to the group. Then have them highlight or underline where God speaks of the nations. Lastly, discuss the question and have them write down their answers.

Read these verses and underline them in your Bible. What do these verses show about God's heart for the nations?

Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 7:24-30

Luke 24:44-49

1. Looking across these passages, What is significant about the way Jesus interacts with people who are not Jewish? What kind of reactions does He get from them and from the Jews?
2. In several stories, Jesus praises the faith of outsiders. What might this reveal about what God values most?
3. What does the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20) reveal about the mission Jesus gives His followers?
4. How do Jesus' actions challenge cultural or social barriers between people groups?
5. What do I need to change in my life so that my heart and life are aligned with what God values?
6. Read Matthew 4:12-17. Why did the Father choose to have Jesus grow up in a Jewish land known to have Gentiles in it?

Case Study: John 4 - Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

1. Why was it surprising that Jesus spoke with this woman?
2. What does Jesus' interaction reveal about who the gospel is for?
3. What might this story teach us about sharing the gospel with people from different backgrounds?
4. How do His disciples react? What can we learn from Jesus' response to them in v34-38?

Homework

1. Read Isaiah 43:1-13 once without taking notes. What do you notice initially, just from reading the scripture?
2. Read Isaiah 43:1-13 again, highlighting in your Bible everywhere the text says “nations” or speaks about God's People.
 - a. What does this scripture tell you about God's heart for the nations?
 - b. How should our actions change in response to God's heart?
 - c. What can you pray for today, after reading this passage?

Leaders Guide:

Week Three: The State of the World

As previously stated, each week we recommend having students read the verses out loud before highlighting or underlining in their Bible the places God speaks of the nations, people, tribes, world, etc.

Case Study Notes

- Additional time might be needed this week to research the statistics on each country. We have attached a guide with answers to the statistics questions for you to use if you are short on time. However, we believe there is great value in the students researching the data for themselves!
- If time permits, spend time discussing which data surprised students the most, inserting “why” questions.

Week Three:

The State of the World

(Leader) Have students read these verses out to the group. Then have them highlight or underline where God speaks of the nations. Lastly, discuss the question and have them write down their answers.

Read these verses and underline them in your Bible. What do these verses show about God's heart for the nations?

1. Acts 1:8

- a. What are the four geographic areas mentioned in Acts 1:8 where the disciples would be witnesses? What is significant about each?

- b. What does this progression suggest about the spread of the gospel?

2. Matthew 9:36-38

- a. How does Jesus describe the crowds in Matthew 9:36, and what does this reveal about the world's spiritual condition?

1. Luke 10:2

- a. According to Luke 10:2, what does Jesus say about the need for workers in the harvest, and what does this teach about prayer and action?

2. Revelation 7:9-10

- a. In Revelation 7:9-10, what kinds of people are worshiping before God's throne, and what does this show about God's plan for all nations?

3. How do these four passages together show God's heart for the nations and the connection between the world's need, the mission of His people, and the ultimate fulfillment of His plan?

Case Study: The USA vs. Brazil. vs. India vs. The Maldives

Compare the Joshua Project statistics of these four countries.



Answer Key for Leaders

1. The United States of America

a. <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/us>



2. Brazil

a. <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/BR>



3. India

a. <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/in>



4. The Maldives

a. <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/MV>

1. What is the percentage of reached vs unreached in the **population?**

U.S.A - 4.3% Unreached India - 96.0% Unreached
Brazil - 0.4% Unreached The Maldives - 100% Unreached

2. What is the percentage of reached vs unreached in **people groups?**

U.S.A - 18.6% Unreached India - 89.8% Unreached
Brazil - 16% Unreached The Maldives - 100% Unreached

1. How many **souls** are represented among the unreached?

U.S.A - 14,927,000 in 93 people groups
Brazil - 768,000 people in 52 people groups
India - 1,394,871,000 in 2,033 people groups
The Maldives - 508,000 in 4 people groups

2. What are the top two **religions** in this country? What percentage of people follow each of these religions? (Hint: Look in Religions > Adherents) If one is Christianity, then how many actual Christians do you think there are?

U.S.A - Christianity (76.5%) and Non-religious (16.7%). Actual Christians closer to 25%.
Brazil - Christianity, and Ethnic religions
India - Hinduism (79.4%) and Islam (14.5%).
The Maldives - Islam (97.8%) and Hinduism (1%).

3. Under progress: Who are the two largest **unreached people groups?**

U.S.A - Jewish English Speaking and Hindi.
Brazil - The Deaf, and Jewish Portuguese are the largest unreached people groups.
India - Shaikh and Yadav.
The Maldives - Maldivian, Divehi, and South Asian (General).

4. How many estimated **workers** are needed? (Based on 1 worker for every 50,000 people)

U.S.A - 328
Brazil - 63
India - 28,597
The Maldives - 13

Based on These Statistics:

1. What does this data tell us about the state of the world?
2. How should our understanding of this research affect our strategy for missions?
3. What data surprised you? Why?

Homework

Watch this video:

[\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrHC7hXNoV8\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrHC7hXNoV8)

[State of the World by Global Frontier Missions]

1. Which “world” (A, B, or C) do you think you live in? How does that affect your responsibility?
2. How does knowing there are people in “World A” (who have never heard) impact the way you think about missions?
3. What do we know for sure from Scripture about God’s character when thinking about those who have never heard the gospel?
4. How should this topic influence the way you personally live or share your faith this week? Month? Year?



Leaders Guide:

Week Four: Our Role in Reaching the Nations

This week in question 7 we ask the students two difficult questions, “Why is it necessary for people to hear the gospel before they can believe?” and “What do you think happens to those who die before hearing the gospel?”

We suggest taking the time to discuss with students that all people are sinners (Romans 3:23) and separated from God, they need to hear the specific message of Jesus to be saved. Romans 10:14 teaches that faith comes from hearing the gospel—people cannot believe in Christ if they have never heard about Him.

The goal of this is for students to understand the urgency involved in reaching the nations for the gospel.

Case Study Notes

- We suggest breaking students into pairs or small groups. Then have them research the people groups/nations represented at their University (usually accessible through a university's international student website. Ex from University of Florida:

<https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/about-ufic/reports-and-data/international-students-dashboard/>

- If you cannot find data, provide 3 nationalities you know are represented in your area to use as sample data. Then, have them look up statistics from the top 3 international countries represented at their school via the Joshua Project.

Week Four: Our Role in Reaching the Nations

(Leader) Have students read these verses out to the group. Then have them highlight or underline where God speaks of the nations. Lastly, discuss the question and have them write down their answers.

Read these verses and underline them in your Bible. What do these verses show about God's heart for the nations?

Mark 16:15

Romans 10: 13-15

John 20:19-21

1 Peter 3:15

2 Corinthians 5:20

1. What does Jesus command His followers to do in spreading the gospel, and why is it important?
2. Why is it necessary for people to hear the gospel before they can believe (Romans 10:14/Romans 3:23)? What do you think happens to those who die before hearing the gospel?
3. Believers are described as witnesses or ambassadors; What does this mean for our daily lives?
4. How do these passages together show the connection between God's heart for the nations and our personal role in fulfilling His mission?
5. Based on our study last week, what do we know about who has access to the saving knowledge of Jesus and who does not?

Case Study: The Nations Around You

- What people groups/nations are represented at your school?
- Within these people groups; What percentage are reached vs unreached?
- What does access to the gospel look like for these nations represented?

What ministry opportunities are available in your city/state/church among international students/refugees? What ministry opportunities are available for overseas work?

What will you do to reach the nations this week? Month? Year?

How can you use your time in college as a strategic time for God's work among the nations?

Homework

1. What is one step you can take towards making disciples of all nations (Ta Ethne) this week?
2. How can you incorporate God's heart for the nations in my circles of influence? (Prayer, Scripture, reaching the nations from your home country, or abroad.)
3. Who else should you invite to go through this Bible study?
4. Pray for one or more of the countries discussed during this study.

- (Optional) Use prayercast.

- India: <https://prayercast.com/prayer-topic/india/>
- China: <https://prayercast.com/prayer-topic/china/>

Connect with OneLink at onelinkinternational.org

For copies of the Bible study visit
<https://onelinkinternational.org/resources/#partner-resources>

