

Making Disciples of All Nations

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



**STUDENT'S
GUIDE**



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

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 worshiping 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?

Week Two: Jesus and the Nations in the New Testament

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?

Week Three:

The State of the World

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.



1. The United States of America

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



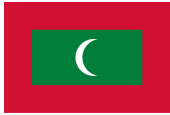
2. Brazil

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?**

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

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

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?

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

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

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>)

[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?

Week Four: **Our Role in Reaching the Nations**

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>

