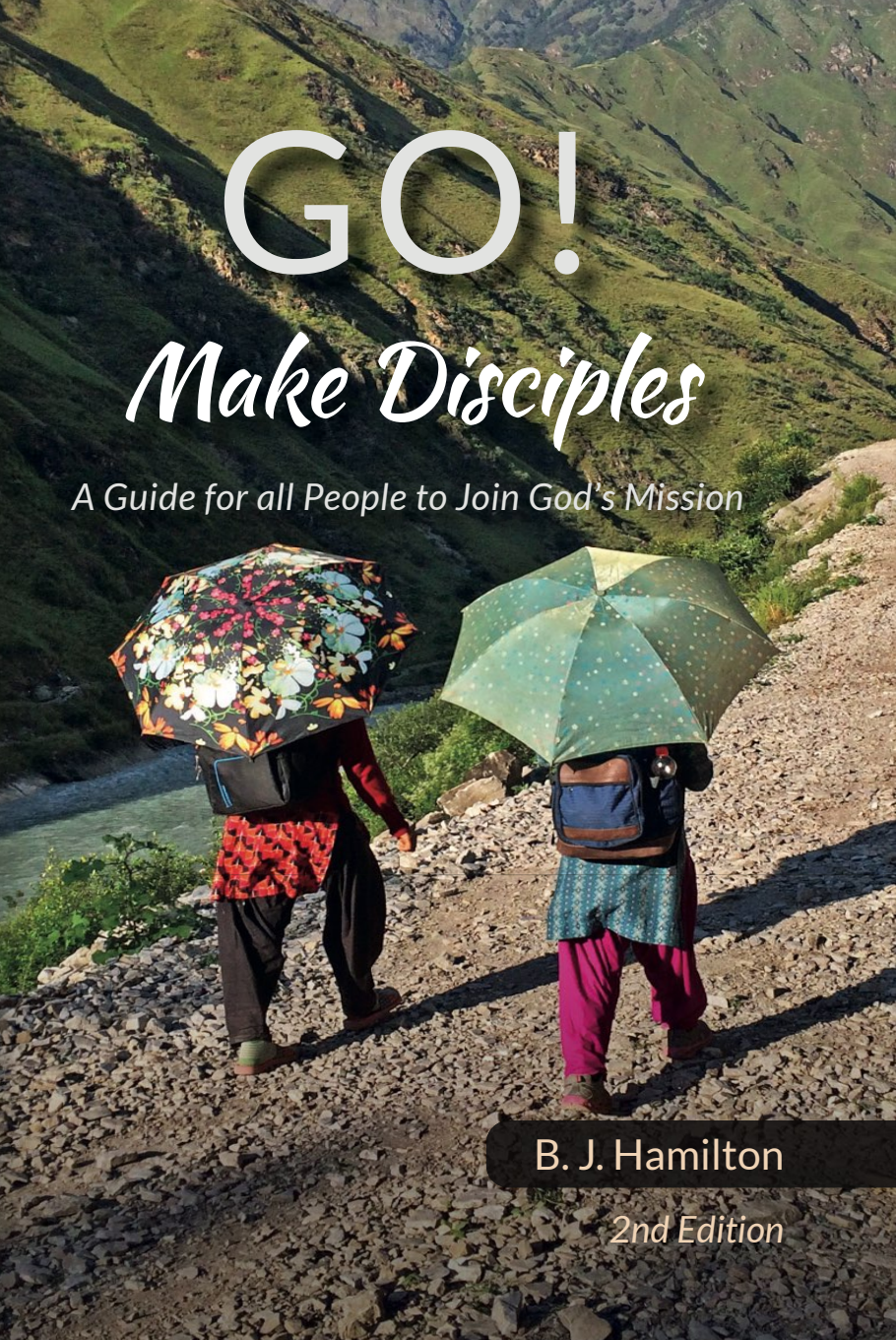


The background of the cover is a photograph of two people walking away from the viewer on a steep, rocky mountain trail. The person on the left is wearing a red and black patterned tunic and dark pants, carrying a black bag, and holding a large umbrella with a colorful floral pattern. The person on the right is wearing a blue patterned tunic and pink pants, carrying a blue bag, and holding a green umbrella with white star patterns. The trail is made of loose rocks and leads up a green, hilly mountain slope. A river is visible in the distance on the left.

GO!

Make Disciples

A Guide for all People to Join God's Mission

B. J. Hamilton

2nd Edition

GO!

Make Disciples

A Guide for all People to Join God's Mission

2nd Edition

B. J. Hamilton

GO! Make Disciples - A Guide for all People to Join God's Mission

Copyright © 2018, 2020 (2nd Edition) by B. J. Hamilton

Published by B. J. Hamilton
Lalitpur, Nepal.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the author.

This book has been written and published to bring God glory through the willing obedience of the Church to go out and make Him known among the nations. The author welcomes offers to translate or reprint with written permission from the author.

Illustrations by B. J. Hamilton
Cover photo by Garrett N, layout and design by Herman.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

All emphases in scripture quotations has been added by the author. Because this Bible version uses American English, some word spelling may differ from the author's text who used UK English.

ISBN 978-9937-0-8697-4

First Print English Edition 2018 – 800 copies
Second Print English Edition 2020 – 500 copies

Printed in Nepal by the Kishor Offset Press Pvt. Ltd.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used for
ministry amongst the least-reached.

*This book is dedicated to
the glory of God*

Contents

Introduction.....	1
PART 1: GOD'S MISSION	3
A Goal.....	4
A People	6
A Mission	10
To Make His Name Great.....	14
To Redeem and Rule	18
To Restore and Return	23
To Revive and Rediscover.....	27
Punishment and Praise.....	32
God with Us.....	36
God in Us.....	40
PART 2: OUR MISSION.....	44
The Unfinished Task.....	45
Why Least-Reached?	49
Why Me and Why Now?	54
A Responsibility	59
The Cost.....	64

PART 3: WHAT CAN I DO?	70
Love	71
Pray	75
Give	81
Go	85
Share	92
Make Disciples	102
Gather	110
Trust in God.....	123
 Reflection.....	 126
Appendices	128

Introduction

Years ago, when I was a boy, I would listen to the Bible as I lay down to sleep. The words challenged me, and I remember thinking that if Jesus is who He said He is, then I simply had to respond and let it shape everything in my life!

Sadly however, I didn't. Like many other Christians, I had little idea of the scores of unreached people totally unaware of the Jesus I knew, and the way of salvation only available through Him. I was not only unaware, but also ill equipped to make Him known. Consequently, throughout my years at school, university, and then into the workplace, I was unable to shine His light, simply because I had never been trained to. My faith remained largely hidden and undeveloped, trapped inside me, unable to spread.

How many others in the Church today share a similar experience? How many people desire to do more but feel unprepared having neither received training nor witnessing living examples of ordinary people doing what they could to make a difference.¹

¹ Two of the most significant books that shaped me and helped spur my faith into action were about the lives of Keith Green (*No Compromise: The Life Story of Keith Green* by Melody Green) and David Wilkerson (*The Cross and the Switchblade* by David Wilkerson). I was struck by these ordinary people of faith who lived their lives out differently.

What about you? Are *you* a Christian?

If so, then you are an important partner in God's plan to rescue people! Billions of people today have never heard of Jesus and the way to be saved through him. Apart from Jesus, they cannot be saved and are headed for Hell²

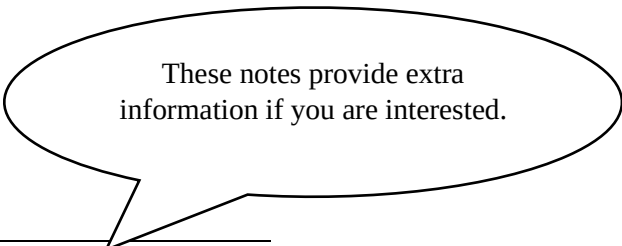
Because of God's great love for the people of the world, God works to change this fact, through people like you.

But how?

This book has been written to help you discover God's mission and learn how to live it out.³ It provides a biblical basis for this work, and ways to get involved.

Mission is not something God calls *some* of us (Christians) to do, but instead something *all* of us were made for!

I pray this book helps you to discover your God given purpose and encourages you further into a life that pleases Him.



These notes provide extra information if you are interested.

² John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:11-12. Without Jesus people cannot be saved.

³ This book grew out of a desire to raise awareness about mission. Much of my initial inspiration to write this book came from attending a Kairos Course – See www.kairoscourse.org

PART 1

GOD'S MISSION

*“If you take missions out of the Bible,
you won't have anything left but the covers”*

NINA GUNTER

A Goal

Have you ever wondered why God made people? Why God made *you*? Answering this foundational question is critical if we are to ever live lives of significance.



God's ultimate purpose for creating people and everything else is so that He would be glorified.⁴ While this may seem odd or perhaps even conceited to us, God as the supreme Creator of all things is just, right, and worthy in this cause.

*Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth —
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.*

(Isaiah 43:6-7)

Therefore, the ultimate purpose of people is to glorify God.

We do this by

- Trusting Him through faith
- Praising Him with worship
- Enjoying Him and His presence
- Obeying Him with our willing service

⁴ God desires to be praised, honoured, adored, exalted, and recognised for good things He has done. See Isaiah 43:7, 48:9-11; Habakkuk 2:14.

We have all been created for God's purposes, to do these things which glorify God. There has never been anyone created who was not created for the purposes of God. God wants us all enjoying and serving Him for His glory. Doing this is not only pleasing to God, but also the best for us.

The Bible tells God's story. He is the main character and focus as the only true and living God. It was God who made us, loved us, chose us, came to us, suffered and died for us, forgave us, saved us, accepted us, and who promises to come again to take us to be with Him.⁵ God did it all, and that is why He deserves all the glory!

*Praise the Lord, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*

(Psalm 117)

God's goal is to be glorified and enjoyed forever by those He created.⁶ He works and acts daily through His creation to

⁵ All religions except for Christianity demand good works to be saved. They demand followers to *do, do, do*. In contrast Jesus did it all for us and says it is all *done* for those that trust in Him. All other gods demand that their followers reach *up* to them, but the God of the Bible is different; He alone reaches *down* to save. Therefore, *grace* sets followers of Jesus apart. We get what we do not deserve; forgiveness of sins, and eternal life with God for our sin, simply because we accepted God's free gift of grace through faith (Romans 3:21-25, 6:23).

⁶ From the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

http://www.reformed.org/documents/wsc/index.html?_top=http://www.reformed.org/documents/WSC.html, Accessed (11 Mar.2018). (See Isaiah 43:6-7; Jeremiah

achieve this. We glorify God when we trust Him, praise Him, enjoy Him, and obey Him.

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why did God make people (you)? How does this compare with your culture's view?

How do we bring God glory?

Why does God deserve to be glorified?



13:11; Matthew 5:16; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11; Philipians 1:11). John Piper writes that *"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."* Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993. p.26

A People

God's goal is to be glorified by people. He wants them all to trust Him, praise Him, enjoy Him, and obey Him.

Yet sadly, none of us glorify Him as we should. All people have separated themselves from God by their sin.⁷ We have turned away in disobedience and chosen to live for ourselves, instead of for Him.⁸

Nevertheless, God worked and still works to change this because He loves us. In an act of compassion and grace, God unfolded His rescue plan by giving Abraham a promise.⁹

*"I [God] will make you [Abraham] into a great nation
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and **all peoples on earth**
will be blessed through you."* (Genesis 12:2-3)

⁷ Romans 3:23

⁸ Why didn't God create people to always love Him? Because forced love is not real love. God gave us a choice to love and obey him; he gave us free will. Therefore, we could and still can freely chose to love or hate God.

⁹ Genesis 12:1-3. Named *Abram* at that time. God's rescue plan began immediately after sin entered the world when He announced that Satan would be defeated by the man's offspring (Jesus) in Genesis 3:15. God showed that he would be victorious over Satan! I have left that out at this point to keep the book brief.

God began His rescue plan by choosing one man (Abraham), through whom He created one nation (Israel).¹⁰ God loved and blessed the nation of Israel so they could be a channel of God's blessing to the world. Israel were set apart *from* the nations *for* the nations.¹¹ Through Israel, God's mission was to reach *all* people. They were blessed by growing in size, strength, and fame, so that they could be a blessing to the nations of the world.¹² Israel were to bring God glory by spreading His name to the ends of the earth!

"I [God] will also make you [Israel] a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

(Isaiah 49:6)

Yet, even more importantly, through Abraham and Israel the promised Saviour, Jesus, would be born. Through Jesus, all people on earth would be blessed through His act of redemption on the cross!¹³

Therefore, God's plan from the beginning was to save people through people!¹⁴ He does this so that one day, people from every diverse ethnic group will unify as one under His rule, in His Kingdom, as His people, for His glory!

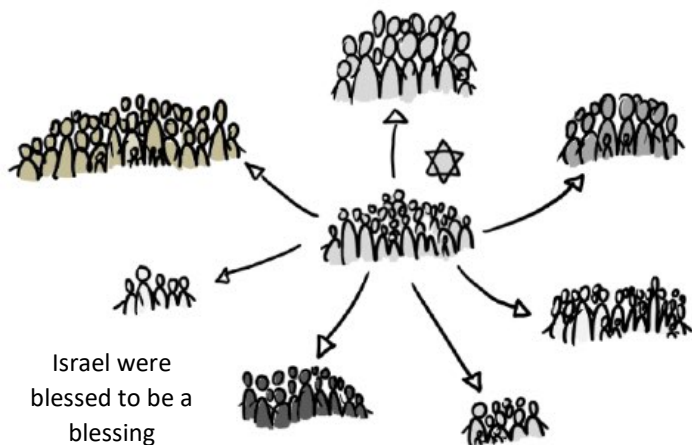
¹⁰ When I say *Israel*, I am not referring to a geo-political nation, but rather an ethnic people group, not connected to land but connected together by a common culture and ancestry. So, when I refer to *Israel*, think of a people group, not a place.

¹¹ "Nations" refers to all other people groups of the world.

¹² Genesis 12:1-4

¹³ "Redemption" or "to redeem" in this case refers to the way Jesus acted to save us from sin and purchase our lives in exchange for his life on the cross.

¹⁴ Exodus 19:6; 2 Timothy 1:9-10.



Questions for further discussion and learning.

What did God promise Abraham?

Why did God choose Israel as His people?

How are people today still blessed through Abraham?

A Mission

The people of Israel were chosen by God for His mission.

When God chose Israel, He was not limiting His love and blessing to one nation but wanting that one nation (Israel) to communicate His redemptive plan to *all* nations.¹⁵ The people of Israel were His first missionaries.

They were to be a “...*kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*”¹⁶ This means Israel was to reflect God’s holiness and fulfil their “priestly” duty of bringing people closer to God by making Him known among the nations.

Psalm 67 is a good example of this.

*May God be gracious to us [Israel] and **bless us**
and make his face shine upon us,*

Selah

*that your ways may be known **on earth**,
your salvation **among all nations.***

*May **the peoples** praise you, O God;
may **all the peoples** praise you.*

¹⁵ Throughout the Bible the word translated “nation” refers to a specific people group rather than a geo-political area such as India, Malaysia or Australia or a general people group located in such countries like Indians, Malaysians, or Australians. When the Bible refers to the “nation” of Israel for example, it is specifically talking about the Jewish people scattered throughout the world, not the people living in the location of Israel, but an ethnic group that generally share the same genealogy, customs, culture and language.

¹⁶ Exodus 19:6

*May **the nations** be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples justly
and guide **the nations** of the earth.*

Selah

*May **the peoples** praise you, O God;
may **all the peoples** praise you.*

*Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.
God will bless us,
and **all the ends of the earth** will fear him.*

(Psalm 67)

So, the Israelites were chosen, blessed, and called to bless the nations by making God known. God placed them in the Middle East, which was the centre of the world's population and between Europe, Asia, and Africa.¹⁷ Israel was given the perfect opportunity to be a witness to the nations of the world.

But what does this have to do with you and me?

In the New Testament we see how the apostle Peter made it clear that believers (the Church), have the same purpose, calling, and role as Israel.¹⁸ The task given to Israel has now been given to us as the Church. We too, are to be set apart from the world and united to be a witness of God's greatness.

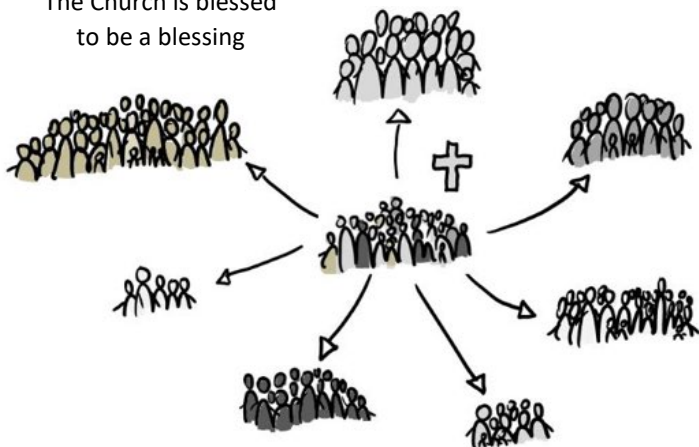
¹⁷ Ezekiel 5:5

¹⁸ Throughout the book, I have capitalised the word "Church" to make it clear that I am referring to a group of people who believe and follow Jesus and not a place to meet (church building). The group could be of any size or in any locality such as a local Church in a certain village, or the Church in Africa, or the worldwide Church.

But you [Church] are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

(1 Peter 2:9-10)

The Church is blessed
to be a blessing



These days, the Church is well placed around the world to be a blessing. We have the opportunity just like Israel, as God's chosen people, to shine His light to the ends of the earth.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

(Matthew 5:14-16)

We have been created to know God and to join Him in His work which we call mission.¹⁹ This mission is to make God known so that He is worshipped!

God first loved us, so out of response to this love, we are to make Him, His ways, His salvation, His glory, and His greatness known among the nations.²⁰

Questions for further discussion and learning.

What was *Israel*'s mission?

What is *our* mission as believers (The Church)?

If we are a “*royal priesthood*”, then what kind of work does that imply we should be doing?

¹⁹ Isaiah 43:7

²⁰ Paraphrased from Platt (Platt, David. “*Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream.*” 2010, Colorado Springs, CO. Multnomah Books. p.70)

To Make His Name Great

God's purpose is to increase His glory through His chosen people (Israel and now the Church) by the way He acts for them and through them.

In the book of Exodus, God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt by sending different plagues on Egypt to punish that nation for its sin.²¹ God did this to display His mighty power in order to make His name great.

*Then the Lord said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, **so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.** For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that **I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.**"*

(Exodus 9:13-16)

God continued to display His power after Israel was set free. He parted the Red Sea so *"The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and*

²¹ Exodus 6-12, Genesis 15:14.

his horsemen.”²² God also provided water from a rock,²³ manna and quail to eat,²⁴ and stopped the waters of the Jordan flowing to allow Israel to cross into the Promised Land.²⁵ God also helped Israel defeat her enemies in battle.

All these acts added to God’s fame and glory, and the surrounding nations heard about this great and wonderful God who did impossible things to save His people.²⁶

*“We [Rahab and the people of Jericho] **have heard** how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. **When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.**”*

(Joshua 2:10-11)

After Israel received the Promised Land, King Solomon built a temple for God, and there, God placed His *name*. The temple also had a role to play in mission. After the glory of the LORD filled the temple, Solomon prayed:

*“As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land **because of your name—for men will hear of your great name and your***

²² Exodus 14:18-31. Or “Sea of Reeds”

²³ Exodus 17:1-7

²⁴ Exodus 16:1-18 Manna is described as bread. Quail are a type of small bird.

²⁵ Exodus 15:21, 17:6, 16:13-14; Joshua 3:15-16.

²⁶ Numbers 14:13-16; Joshua 2:10; 2 Kings 19:19; 2 Chronicles 20:29.

mighty hand and your outstretched arm — when he comes and prays toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.”

(1 Kings 8:41-43)²⁷

God’s mighty acts, God’s people, and God’s temple were all created to increase God’s fame and therefore glory. People heard about the amazing God that dwelt amongst Israel and came to see.²⁸

God chose Israel and now He chooses the Church, to make His name known among the nations as the one and only God.²⁹

We are to bear God’s name
and make it great!



²⁷ Jesus also described his body as a temple (John 2:19), and our bodies too are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). All these “temples” were created to bear God’s name.

²⁸ 1 Kings 10:24

²⁹ See also David’s prayer (2 Samuel 7:23-24) and the reference to Israel’s crossing of the Jordan river in flood stage (Joshua 4:24).

Questions for further discussion and learning.

What does it mean to “*make God’s name great*”?

Why did God show His power in so many ways?

How did other nations hear about God?

To Redeem and Rule

The Bible tells a story of a loving Father pursuing His lost children. God's mission is to *redeem* a people from all peoples, and to *rule* them as their King in His Kingdom.³⁰ This is the message God wants His people to spread!³¹

Therefore, Jesus is the centre of God's rescue plan. It was Jesus who provided redemption for people's sin on the cross, and it is Jesus who will come again to gather His chosen people and rule them in His Heavenly Kingdom.³²

So, Jesus is both the *Redeemer* and *Ruler*, or as the Bible states, the *Lamb* and the *Lion*.

Jesus is the humble and weak yet unblemished "*Lamb of God*" who was sacrificed at Passover to save us from the penalty of our sin.³³

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

(1 Corinthians 5:7)

³⁰ The Kingdom I am referring to here is Heaven (the New Heaven and New Earth – Revelation 21:1). The King is Jesus (Revelation 19:16).

³¹ Our Gospel message should include how God has redeemed people through Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the cross, but also how Jesus promised to come again soon to judge and rule.

³² Matthew 24:30-31; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 7:17, 22:3.

³³ John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7. Passover is a Jewish festival to remember how God saved His people from Egyptian slavery through the sacrifice of a lamb. Jesus saved His people from their slavery to sin through the sacrifice of himself at Passover.

Jesus is also described as the powerful and strong “*Lion*”, who will rule as King over all people, forever, when He returns.³⁴

“Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed.”

(Revelation 5:5)

In Old Testament times, God used two people to help us anticipate Jesus, the coming Messiah.³⁵ The first was Abraham’s only beloved son Isaac, who was offered as a living sacrifice by his father, just as Jesus was. The second was David’s son Solomon, who gave us an example of what King Jesus would be like. Solomon was wise, powerful, and glorious.

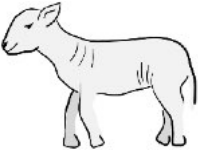
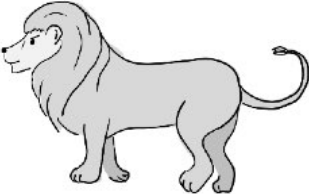
Abraham’s seed³⁶ (Jesus) would bring redemption for people, while David’s seed (also Jesus) would destroy the enemy and rule the world eternally with righteousness.

To make this strong connection between the two sides of Jesus, Matthew’s Gospel account introduces the Messiah as “...*Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham*” (Matthew 1:1).

³⁴ Revelation 5:5-6; Hosea 11:10.

³⁵ “Messiah” is a Hebrew word meaning *the anointed or chosen one*. The word “Christ” is its Greek equivalent.

³⁶ Or son, grandson, or descendant.

Jesus	
Lamb (humble, weak) 	Lion (powerful, strong) 
Abraham's son - Isaac Sacrifice (only son) Willing (obedient) Small 	David's son - Solomon King (powerful and glorious) Ruler (wise) 
Jesus - <i>"the son of Abraham"</i> 	Jesus - <i>"the son of David"</i> 
Redeemer	Ruler

God's purpose, therefore, is both *redemptive* and *kingdom* focused.

God redeems the lost people of the world to bring them under His full love, care, and blessing. He also seeks to rule over them in the most beautiful way and in the most perfect Kingdom for their good, and for His glory. All this happens through His Son, Jesus.

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

(Revelation 5:12)

First Israel, and then the Church, was chosen to proclaim the truth of the Messiah to the nations. This truth includes both Jesus' past redeeming sacrifice, and His coming future rule!³⁷



³⁷ It is interesting to note the contrasts with Jesus' past earthly ministry and His future coming rule. Human frailty vs. power, humility vs. glory, submission vs. authority and rule, humanity vs. divinity.

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why is Jesus described as a *Lamb*?

Why is Jesus described as a *Lion*?

Why is it important for people to know the truth about Jesus' redemptive act on the cross, and His future rule?

To Restore and Return

In the beginning God created the beautiful Garden of Eden.³⁸ It was there that God placed Adam and Eve, the first people He had created. He was fully present among them, walking and communicating with them.³⁹ He was their God, and they were His people.

Sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God breaking their perfect relationship with Him. Consequently, they could no longer live with God and were banished from the garden and from God's presence. Mankind, now tainted by sin and therefore unholy, could no longer dwell with the Holy God.

Yet incredibly, from the beginning, God had a plan to *restore* His people back into a perfect relationship with Him.⁴⁰ He declared that Adam's offspring (Jesus) would "*crush*" the head of the serpent (Satan) bringing victory over the enemy forever.⁴¹ God promised to forgive and forget His people's sin.⁴²

God's mission therefore is to make His people holy and *return* them to the Promised Land; the new Eden.⁴³ He wants only

³⁸ Genesis 2:8-9

³⁹ Genesis 3:8-9

⁴⁰ 2 Timothy 1:9

⁴¹ Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8.

⁴² Jeremiah 31:34

⁴³ Heaven is the ultimate "Promised Land," the land God has promised us (James 2:5). I have no doubt it will be every bit as beautiful as Eden, with one main difference. Eden was a garden paradise, the New Heaven / New Earth will almost certainly also

the best for us. God acts to transform sinful people in a temporary spoilt creation, into a holy nation dwelling eternally in a perfect land and Kingdom.⁴⁴

*I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and **I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.***

(Ezekiel 37:26-28)⁴⁵

God makes it clear that we as God's people will inherit land and dwell there in safety and security under His protective rule.

While the Israelites were looking forward to the *earthly* Promised Land of Canaan, God intended it to be just a foretaste of what was to come, the New Heaven and New Earth; a world that resembles the current earth, yet is *new*, without the brokenness and decay that we have now. This is the *eternal* Promised Land.

be but will in addition include a huge God-glorifying city, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21-22).

⁴⁴ God gave His promise of eternal land firstly to Abraham, and continued to repeat it to Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, the prophets, and throughout the New Testament. Genesis 13:15, 26:3-4, 28:13, 35:12; Exodus 6:8; Joshua 1:6; Ezekiel 20:42; Hebrews 11:16.

⁴⁵ In its most simple description, "Heaven" is used to describe God's dwelling place.

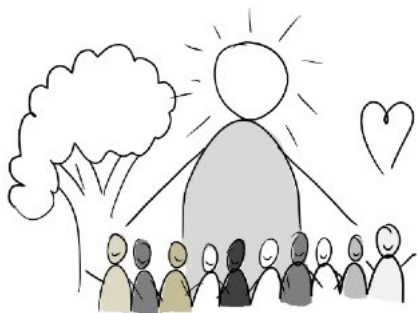
*Then I saw a **new** heaven and a **new** earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the **new** Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “**Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.** They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. **There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.**”*

*He who was seated on the throne said, “**I am making everything new!**” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

(Revelation 21:1-5)

God’s plan is still the same; to fully *reverse* the effects of sin,⁴⁶ to *restore* us into a perfect relationship with Him, to *reinstate* us as members of His family and co-rulers with Him, and to *return* our ability to live in His perfect land.

God’s plan is to make everything new!



⁴⁶ 1 John 3:8

Questions for further discussion and learning.

What is God wanting to *restore* to us?

What is God wanting to *return* to us?

What might “*making everything new*” look like?

To Revive and Rediscover

God's concern has always been for *all* people, and *all* nations.⁴⁷ Yet God's chosen people rarely reflected this concern. God's plan, therefore, was to *revive* the compassion of Israel toward the other nations, and to help them *rediscover* their calling and mandate to bring God's name to those nations.

The book of Jonah has a cross-cultural mission theme and reveals God's heart for the nations. The book highlights Israel's responsibility to carry the message of God to the pagan nations.

In the book, God tells Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and warn its people of His impending judgement. But Jonah runs away, boarding a ship to flee from God and this missionary task. Jonah obviously didn't share God's compassion for the sinful Assyrian people of Nineveh.

God responds by sending a huge storm which the sailors discover was caused by Jonah's sin and was sent by his God who created the sea. Jonah instructs the sailors to throw him overboard to calm the sea. They unwillingly do this as a last resort and the sea immediately becomes calm. As a result, the pagan sailors honour and glorify Jonah's God.

To save Jonah, God graciously sends a large fish to swallow Jonah and spew him up on dry land.

⁴⁷ Genesis 9:8-17, 12:3.

Jonah finally obeys God and goes to Nineveh and shares God's message. The people respond immediately and at the king's command; fast, repent, and "...call urgently on God" (Jonah 3:8). God, who is full of compassion, forgives the Ninevites after seeing their response.

Yet Jonah sulks outside the city, angry that God has not destroyed its people. As an object lesson, God brings comfort to Jonah with a shady plant, but then takes it away. Jonah becomes so angry he wants to die. Then God questions him,

*"You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But **Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people** who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. **Should I not be concerned about that great city?**"*

(Jonah 4:10-11)

What an incredible story!

To understand the message of the book, it's important to recognize that Nineveh is representative of the Gentiles.⁴⁸ Jonah on the other hand corresponds to Israel, representing her favoured position, but also her unwillingness to share God's compassion with others.

⁴⁸ The word "Gentile" refers to all non-Jewish people, those not part of Israel by birth (bloodline).

In this true story, the pagan sailors, Jonah, and the pagan Ninevites all receive God's saving grace.⁴⁹ This is because God is concerned for all and wants all to be saved. He is trying to save Nineveh, *and* patiently working to grow Jonah's heart at the same time. God loves Jonah too. Yet Jonah's heart is cold and hard, he cares only about himself and his own people. Jonah simply doesn't want to share God's blessings with the people of Nineveh.

The book of Jonah teaches us that God's loving concern is without boundaries. God loves Jews and Gentiles, believers, and unbelievers. He loves everyone!

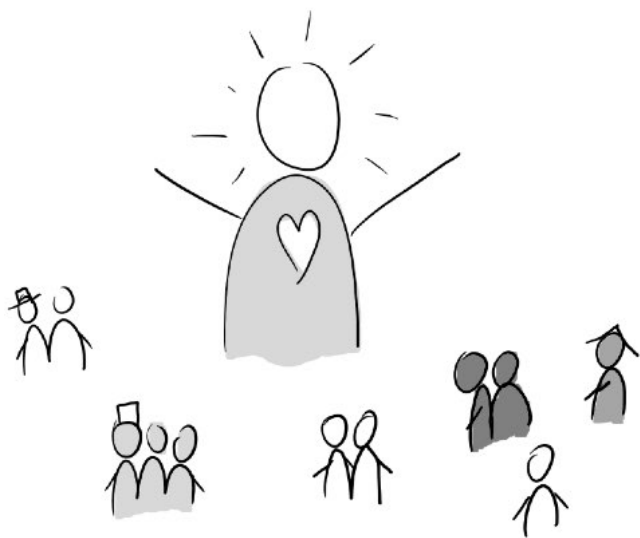
The Jonah account also shows God's purpose for Israel and now the Church. God's desire is to revive the concern for lost people in Jewish hearts (and that of the present-day Church), so they might rediscover their role in acting on that concern.

The book challenges us to have a loving and compassionate heart for all nations. It helps us to look at ourselves, and ask the question, "Are we like God, or are we like Jonah?" Do we share God's compassion for the nations? Will we take seriously Jesus' command to go and make disciples by preaching the truth to the lost and challenging them to repent? Or are we resigned to seeing them perish?

The greatest barrier for us to overcome in mission is not the daily obstacles we face, but the hard hearts we have. It's our reluctance to love God and to love others that continually

⁴⁹ We know this is a true story because Jesus says He will be in the tomb 3 days and 3 nights just as Jonah was in the big fish 3 days and 3 nights. He makes the comparison on the basis that both are real events (Matthew 12:40).

holds us back. We are by nature selfish and seek personal comfort, happiness, and our own way.⁵⁰ In the process we all too quickly forget God and others. We all desperately need God to *revive* our compassion and help us *rediscover* our unselfish purpose, so that we will not fail to obey and go.



⁵⁰ Genesis 3:6, 6:5; Galatians 5:13-26; Romans 3:9-28.

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why did God want Jonah to go to Nineveh?

Why did Jonah not want to go?

Are you more like Jonah or God? Why?

Punishment and Praise

Israel had a unique calling but failed to bless the nations. She was meant to be God's missionary force in the world but remained inwardly focused despite many reminders.

Israel's leaders demonstrate this fact. Rather than displaying God's righteousness and justice, most of the kings of Israel and Judah acted wickedly and selfishly. These kings were unfaithful and prostituted themselves after foreign gods; idols made of wood and stone.

Instead of being set apart as a witness among their neighbours, Israel resembled them. They failed to honour God and be agents of His blessing to the nations. Sadly, this sounds much like the Church today.

Consequently, Israel lost part of her blessing and was punished by God for her sin. Jerusalem was destroyed, and her people carried off into exile, being scattered amongst the nations.

Yet God was still sovereignly working, despite Israel's disobedience. He used even this situation for His glory. This dispersion placed Israel among the nations they were to reach so other people now heard about the God of Israel and how He saves! Israel was becoming a blessing.

The book of Daniel gives many clear examples of this. After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were saved by God from the fiery furnace King Nebuchadnezzar said;

“Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! ...for no other god can save in this way.”

(Daniel 3:28-29)

After King Nebuchadnezzar was released from his insanity he declared “...*to the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world...*” (Daniel 4:1)

*“...I raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then **I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever...** Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the **King of heaven**, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”*

(Daniel 4:34, 37)



And after Daniel was saved from the lions,

King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land saying: [The God of Daniel] "...is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

(Daniel 6:25-27)

From these passages, it becomes clear that through *punishment* (exile and captivity), Israel finally began to fulfil her duty. Through the scattered Jewish people, God's name and fame spread resulting in *praise*. God was still at work, sovereignly ensuring that He would be glorified among the nations.⁵¹ Yet He still expected His people to take their responsibility to spread His glory throughout the earth.⁵²

How about you?

Will you and your Church obediently go and bless the nations? Or will you follow in Israel's disobedient footsteps? Israel repeatedly forgot their purpose and more seriously, their God.⁵³ Let's not do the same.

⁵¹ Psalm 46:10.

⁵² We see here the concept of 'sovereignty' and 'responsibility' interacting. While God is always sovereign, we still have a responsibility to act.

⁵³ Hosea 13:4-6

While God remains sovereign to achieve His goals, will not our willing obedience be more honouring and glorifying for God?

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why and how did God punish Israel?

How did God use Israel's exile for His glory?

How do you understand the interaction between God's sovereignty over situations, and our responsibility to act?

God with Us

God has always wanted to live with His people and be known by them. He was with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and with the Israelites in the tabernacle and temple revealing Himself to them.

In the New Testament, God's rescue plan for the nations continued with the arrival of Jesus, the long-awaited *Messiah*.⁵⁴ God (Jesus) became human and made His dwelling among us.⁵⁵ The angel announced to the shepherds,

*“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for **all the people**. Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”*

(Luke 2:10-11).

A few days later, when baby Jesus was only eight days old, Simeon announced just what this baby would become. He took baby Jesus in His arms and praised God by saying,

*“...For my eyes have seen your **salvation**, which you have prepared in the sight of **all people**, a light for revelation to the **Gentiles** and for glory to your people **Israel**.”*

(Luke 2:30-32)

⁵⁴ “Messiah” is a Hebrew word meaning *the anointed or chosen one*. The word “Christ” is its Greek equivalent.

⁵⁵ John 1:14; 1 John 4:9-10. Matthew 1:23 says about Jesus that “...they will call him Immanuel” - which means, “God with us.”

From birth, it's clear Jesus was (and still is) the Saviour for *all* people, both Jew and Gentile.⁵⁶ Jesus later demonstrates this by mobilizing His twelve disciples among the twelve tribes of Israel, and then the seventy disciples to the seventy nations of the world made up of both *Jews* and *Gentiles*.⁵⁷

Luke's Gospel highlights Jesus' ministry to Jews, Gentiles, tax collectors, sinners, children, unclean women, the blind, the lame, the leprous, the spiritually oppressed, and the hungry.⁵⁸ Without doubt, Jesus' concern extends to all!

Jesus' ministry opens in Luke's Gospel account when He takes the scroll of Isaiah and reads it in the Jewish Synagogue.

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the **poor**. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the **prisoners** and recovery of sight for the **blind**, to release the **oppressed**, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*

(Luke 4:17-19)

It's important to recognize that Jesus' ministry was holistic in nature. He not only spoke about the coming Kingdom bringing spiritual restoration, but also brought physical, emotional, and social restoration. As His heart was motivated by love, His words and works were too, caring for the entire

⁵⁶ Jews are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, while all other people are considered Gentiles.

⁵⁷ In some manuscripts it is unclear whether it was 70 or 72. It is interesting to note that historically the world was considered to be made up of 70 ethnic nations (see Gen. 10). There is almost certainly some deliberate symbolism here.

⁵⁸ Luke 5:13, 5:24, 5:27, 7:50, 8:42, 8:48, 8:54, 9:16, 9:42, 17:14, 18:16, 19:7.

person. He joined the Greatest Commandment(s) and the Great Commission perfectly.⁵⁹ Jesus was the promised *Messiah* many had been waiting for. He had a mission and a love for all people, and His ministry, though initially local, continues to spread to every people group on earth.

*And they sang a new song: “You [Jesus] are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God **from every tribe and language and people and nation...**”*

(Revelation 5:9)

While Jesus walked on earth with us, His words, actions, and worldview each reflected God’s heart for *all* people. A heart that we, too, are to reflect.



⁵⁹ Matthew 22:37-39, 28:18-20.

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why was Jesus described as a “*Saviour*” (Luke 2:11) and a “*light*” (Luke 2:32)?

How does the Bible make it clear that Jesus came for all types of people?

In what ways did Jesus join the Greatest Commandment(s) and the Great Commission? How should we do the same?

God in Us

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised a gift to His disciples that would help them carry out His mission.⁶⁰

“...you [disciples] will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8)

With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were equipped and emboldened, resulting in significant impact.⁶¹

The Holy Spirit equipped the disciples with the gift of tongues, which got the attention of Jews from all over the world who heard the Good News in their own language.⁶² Another clear demonstration that the Gospel was to go to the ends of the earth!

To help the new Jewish Church discover their calling, God gave Peter a vision which he explained to Cornelius and those gathered at his house.

*“I [Peter] now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but **accepts men from every nation** who fear him and do what is right... **He commanded us to***

⁶⁰ Acts 1:4-5

⁶¹ By coming I mean *indwelling* or *filling* of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2.

⁶² Pentecost is one of three pilgrim feasts (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles) that all Jewish men were required to attend (Deuteronomy 16:16), thus the large crowd of Jews from “every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:5).

preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that **everyone** who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

(Acts 10:34, 42-43)

In this scene, Peter is used to open the door for ministry to the Gentiles which is confirmed through the coming of the Holy Spirit.⁶³ God then boosts His missionary force to the Gentiles from the Church by transforming the life of Paul.⁶⁴

...the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! **This man [Paul] is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.**"

(Acts 9:15)

In Paul, God raised up a believer with the passion, ability, and drive to go beyond his culture to demonstrate God's love for the nations. God remained committed to seeing the Good News go beyond Israel, and Paul became one of His main workers. Through him, God brought the Gospel into Asia Minor and deep into the Roman world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Paul, a dramatically redeemed sinner himself, single-mindedly brought the message of redemption to the nations. In both ordinary and extraordinary ways, God used Paul to transform the world.⁶⁵

⁶³ Acts 10:44-48

⁶⁴ previously known as Saul of Tarsus.

⁶⁵ Acts 19:11

Through Paul, God reminds us just how significant our lives can be when we allow His Spirit to guide our lives and fully shine through us.⁶⁶ God created us all to participate in His rescue plan. And He can use us in ways we cannot imagine!

God does not leave us alone in this mission, but equips us all with His Spirit, transforming our character and giving us power. The Holy Spirit is just as divine, wise, strong, loving, present and ready to help as Jesus was for His disciples.⁶⁷

God was with His people in the past, and we must never forget He is still with us and *in us* today.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

(Philippians 4:13)



⁶⁶ 2 Corinthians 4:6-8

⁶⁷ To summarize Torrey, (Torrey, R.A. *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1974. p.59)

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why did Jesus give us the Holy Spirit?

In what ways did God use Peter and Paul?

With the help of the Holy Spirit, do you think you can be like Peter and Paul? Why or Why not?

PART 2

OUR MISSION

*“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered;
it is a command to be obeyed”*

HUDSON TAYLOR

The Unfinished Task

“The evangelization of the world waits not on the readiness of God but on the obedience of Christians.”

BILL M. SULLIVAN

So many people are lost. They are away from the Father and do not know their way back. It's our role to help them find their way home.

Jesus left us with the key task of evangelising the world, and He is still waiting for us to do it before He returns.⁶⁸ The Church has done many good things, but sadly has yet to take seriously the thing Jesus specifically commanded us to do.⁶⁹

Around 41% of the world population or 3 Billion people (3,000,000,000) are regarded as *unreached* or *least-reached*. That's over 7,400 different people groups!⁷⁰ It is likely that

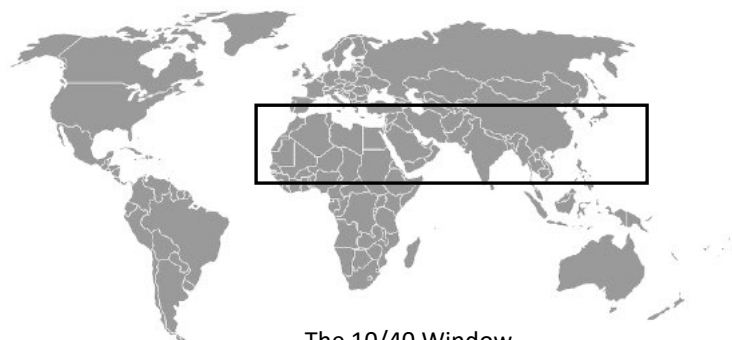
⁶⁸ Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10, 16:15.

⁶⁹ The Church has built schools, seminary's and hospitals and helped people in need, all of which are great things which should have been done, but we have still not done the key task we were specifically commanded to do, the evangelisation of the world (Mark 16:15).

⁷⁰ <https://joshuaproject.net/>, Accessed (15 April 2020). An unreached or least-reached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelise this people group without outside assistance. Joshua Project uses the terms "unreached" and "least-reached" to mean the same thing. The terms are used interchangeably on their website. The original Joshua Project editorial committee selected the criteria to be less than or equal to 2% Evangelical Christian and less than or equal to 5% Professing Christians.

these people will live and die without hearing, not even once, that Jesus loved them enough to die giving them the opportunity to receive eternal life and hope. Tragically, so few are working to change this.

The majority of these people groups are Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist and live in an area referred to as the *10/40 Window*.⁷¹ Here the majority of the world's poor and oppressed live. Countries in this area are often politically unstable and human trafficking is common, as are abortions and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Many are living without hope.



The 10/40 Window

If things remain as they are, hundreds of millions of people will live and die without ever interacting with a Christian. If these people are to be reached, then we as the Church must be willing to cross barriers; social, political, cultural, linguistic, and or geographical barriers. While culturally similar workers

⁷¹ The 10/40 window is an area between 10 and 40 degrees latitude, north of the equator, extending from West Africa to East Asia. Of course, there are some least-reached peoples and nations outside this area too, but most live within it.

are often best, it will take both local and foreign workers to finish the task with speed and depth.⁷²

It's incredible really, that God has entrusted this work to us! Despite our weaknesses, we remain God's chosen way to get the Gospel to the nations. We must play our part to finish the task of bringing the Good News of Jesus to everyone. Sharing the Gospel is not only the most important work, but also the most satisfying. It has eternal significance and comes with an eternal reward.⁷³ We have the unique opportunity to participate in God's work with him!

He [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation..."

(Mark 16:15)

⁷² In some cases, there are simply no culturally similar Christians and so outsiders must be mobilised. Regardless of this fact, with so much work to be done, there's really no good reason not to mobilize all willing workers, both foreign and local who can unite and complement each other in this urgent work. The "Body of Christ" is meant to be diverse (1 Corinthians 12:21-25).

⁷³ Revelation 2:7, 17, 24; 3:12, 21.

Questions for further discussion and learning.

How many people are considered least-reached, and what does “*least-reached*” mean?

What is “*The Unfinished Task*” and why does it remain unfinished?

What barriers do you think God is challenging you to cross in order to reach the least-reached?

Why Least-Reached?

“I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light.”

JOHN KEITH FALCONER

So many people live without knowing Jesus, and too few are working to change this. Some people groups have the opportunity to know about Jesus, but many don't. The groups without opportunity are called *least-reached*. Even today, billions of people have little or no Gospel witness, yet sadly only 3% of all missionaries (1 out of every 33) are working to change this.⁷⁴ Workers amongst the least-reached are so desperately needed! *“Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice before everyone has heard it once?”*⁷⁵ It just isn't fair! Things must change.

As an example, at the time of writing, the 3,000 ethnically Tibetan Buddhist *Kyerung* people of Nepal, the 8,118,000 Hindu *Koiri* people of India, and the 42,000 Muslim *Tunni* people of Somalia are unreached with 0.00% Christians among

⁷⁴<https://www.lausanne.org/content/lga/2017-05/finishing-the-remaining-29-of-world-evangelization>, Accessed 21 Aug. 2020.

⁷⁵ Smith, Oswald J. *The Passion for Souls*. Fort Pierce, FL: FBC Publications and Printing, reprinted 2009. p.45. (Later published as *The Challenge of Missions*). Smith also says in the same place *“We talk about the second coming of Christ. They haven't even heard about the first coming yet.”*

their number, and very few missionaries working to reach them.⁷⁶ Without a witness, there is simply no hope. Who will go to them? It's likely the vast majority of these 8,163,000 people will be born, live, and die without *ever* hearing of the name of Jesus and what He has done to save them!⁷⁷ Are you okay with that?

Significant barriers have prevented most least-reached people from hearing the Good News. To reach them will take commitment, resources, risk, and sacrifice. Sacrifice that Jesus and His early followers modelled.

It seems close to impossible, yet God, who is full of love and compassion has made a way! Thankfully, there are more Christians alive today than ever before, and God has distributed them around the world. Never in history has the Church been so close to least-reached peoples as we are today. The Church is geographically, linguistically, and culturally closer than ever before because it has spread to so many places and people groups. Believers can now be mobilised from *anywhere to everywhere*!

These days travel is easier, funds are available (if God's people have a heart for mission), and there's an increasing number of people who desire to use their life for significance. Even in our hometowns we may now find least-reached people living as refugees or recent immigrants. With so many opportunities, we really have no excuse. Together we can significantly

⁷⁶<https://joshuaproject.net/unreached/10?>, Accessed 21 Aug. 2020.

⁷⁷ And this is just a tiny fraction of the unreached around the world.

reduce the number of least-reached people groups in this decade!

I'm convinced the lost will not be reached primarily by organizations. Instead, the majority will be reached by ordinary believers who do all they can to reach those they can.⁷⁸ Mobilizing *all believers* is the key to world evangelisation. Individuals have the freedom to change their priorities.⁷⁹ They can make missions a part of their daily lives no matter where they are and what they do. You don't have to be a "missionary" to be involved in mission.

There is a growing movement of professionals intentionally scattering to live and work amongst least-reached people. Their lives and professions become a witness in word and action. Their place of work is their place of mission. They seek to reflect God's goodness in an irresistible way. Andrew Scott writes, "*It is time for the whole Church to live out all of life in every sector of society. To be who God has made us to be and to do it with excellence 'as unto the Lord.'*"⁸⁰

God has created you to reach the people of this world! Perhaps you are the only one who has access, opportunities, or influence in certain people's lives. Will you join the work to reduce the number of least-reached people going to hell? Or

⁷⁸ By "ordinary" I mean people without significant worldly titles, status and resources, your average citizens.

⁷⁹ Not all, but many people have the freedom to change where they live, what they do, and how they spend their time and money. If they have a paid job, they also have a financial support structure in place to cover their living and perhaps ministry expenses.

⁸⁰ Scott, Andrew. *Scatter: Go therefore and take your job with you*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2016. ebook. p.157

will you instead choose to make your own earthly comfort the highest priority?

*Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! **They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.**"*

(John 4:35-36)

It's harvest time! The fields are ripe, the rewards great, and the work satisfying. Now is the time of salvation, now is the time to act, now is the time to bring the Good News to those that have never heard it!



Questions for further discussion and learning.

Though every unbeliever needs to hear the Gospel, why is it important to focus ministry on least-reached people?

If people do not hear about Jesus, what will happen to them?

What is your opinion on the statement that more people will be reached by ordinary people, rather than by organisations?

Why Me and Why Now?

“The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time”

CARL F. H. HENRY

Missions is the central purpose of the *entire* body of Christ.⁸¹ We must understand that the whole Church is meant to be involved. Not just pastors or paid ministry workers. All of us have been purposely created to bring God glory by making His name known among the nations.

Each person has been given a unique mix of skills and abilities. Together with other believers we make up the body of Christ or *Church*. We need all the various parts to function well. Without you, the body is lacking, and unable to function as it should, just like a body that is missing a finger, an eye, or a foot. There's an important and significant role for you and it's not only attending a church gathering once a week. God has prepared you for your key role in mission.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

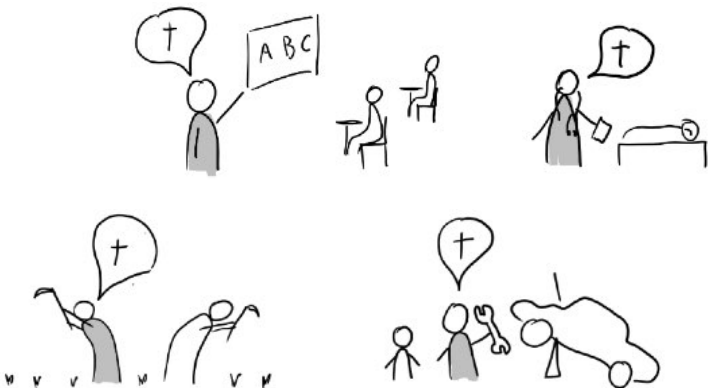
(Ephesians 2:10)

⁸¹ Mission is what Jesus spoke about with his final words (Matthew 28:18-20) clearing indicating that it was to be the main ongoing focus of his followers.

Perhaps you're unique in the sense that you are closer culturally than others to an unreached people group, or you have the ability to visit or live amongst them. It could be you are geographically close to a least-reached nation, can easily obtain a visa, learn a foreign language, or have a Church willing to send you.

Maybe you're able to move and live amongst a least-reached community in another city, district, or state. Or you can apply for a job within a closed country where your profession allows you to interact with unbelievers in a Christ-like manner, work with excellence, love unconditionally, and share the Gospel with those around you.

Perhaps you have specific skills or resources that are helpful to those around you, such as skills in teaching, farming, building or administration, or you have a vehicle or tools that can be put to use. It could just be that you have time. Time to love others and be with those who just need a friend.



Living your life out differently can attract others to God. No matter your skills, age, gender, background or ethnicity, God has you alive for a purpose,⁸² and living that purpose out will be both satisfying and fulfilling. God wants you!

And God wants you *now*. Why? Because Jesus said;

*When he [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “**The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

(Matthew 9:36-38).

When a crop is ripe and ready for harvest, it is critical that many people are rallied to bring it in, otherwise, it *will* spoil and die. The work of mission is absolutely urgent because the harvest will not wait, this generation is perishing by the day. Workers are needed, and they are needed immediately! Without a doubt, the gathered harvest will be greater if we obey Jesus, otherwise He would not have given us this instruction.⁸³

⁸² Acts 17:26-28a

⁸³ It is no coincidence that this passage is immediately followed by the sending out of the twelve disciples (Matthew 10). In Luke's Gospel this statement is also recorded to have been said again at the time Jesus sends out the seventy-two disciples (Luke 10). Clearly *praying* for workers, and *going*, were both expected by Jesus.

Now is the time to go! Let's not keep the message that brings eternal life, joy, and salvation to ourselves! Everyday counts because each day we have opportunities we may never have again.

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

(2 Corinthians 6:2)

Please don't ignore this urgent need. Don't act like the work is done because it's not. Your contribution to reach the least-reached with the Gospel is desperately needed! Every Christian is part of the universal priesthood of believers sharing the responsibility and authority.⁸⁴ We are all to respond by reflecting Christ's loving action.

We need a diverse Body of Christ in all kinds of situations to reach the many different people living around us. The harvest is ready to bring in, but it won't keep for long!

⁸⁴ 1 Peter 2:9

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Who should be involved in mission? Why?

What opportunities do you already have to reach least-reached people?

What more can you do to reach the lost this week, this month, and this year?

A Responsibility

“Go, send, or disobey.”

JOHN PIPER

God’s plan to reach the nations is through His Church. You and me! The challenge remains to “...*go and make disciples of all nations...*” (Matt. 28:19). To bring the message of salvation to the remaining people groups living without a knowledge and understanding of who God is and what He has done for them.

Wherever we find lost people, we as God’s messengers must be prepared to go. We must be challenged to spread out and scatter for the sake of the Kingdom. We should be prepared to move location and set up home among those who do not know Jesus, loving them and bearing witness to the God who saves.

We should be prepared to sacrifice our time and get down on our knees and pray fervently for unreached people and mobilise others to do the same. To be a follower of Jesus means committing yourself to His mission to the nations. We should *go*, or help *send* others in our place, there are simply no other options. We must be prepared to give our lives for the cause.

So, what will you do?

All of us must do something. We not only have an opportunity but also a *responsibility* for which we will be held accountable.⁸⁵

Our primary motivation for mission is love. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to us out of love. The Son died out of loving obedience toward the Father and out of love for us too. In response to this, we too are to have compassion on the lost by loving them actively through our words and actions. If God, out of love, took the responsibility to save us, should we not take the responsibility to help save others?

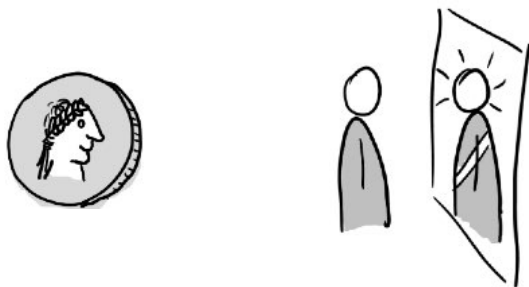


Yet we struggle to put God's agenda ahead of ours. We struggle to love long enough to act. We are not heartless, but things hold us back or distract us from obedience. We rarely consider our created purpose when we scroll over our social media updates on our phones, choose a job, go about our work, educate our children, shop, or prepare our meals. This fast-paced world has made us numb and cold. We see the overwhelming needs daily but quickly move on.

⁸⁵ Ezekiel 33:6; Luke 12:48.

Of course we cannot respond to every need around us, which is why we need to be listening to God for our direction. Each day we sin by doing wrong things, but also by *not* doing right things. Never forget someone *always* suffers for our sin.⁸⁶

When we fail to share the Gospel, people miss the opportunity to hear about Jesus! We must take up our responsibility to share the Good News with others. We are to “*Give to Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.*” (Matthew 22:21) Caesar’s image was on the coin, but God’s image is on us. We belong to God and our lives are to be given in service to him.



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

(Isaiah 6:8)

⁸⁶ It might be you, your family, your colleague, your descendants, or a stranger who suffers when we sin. But if you are a Christian, in every case, it’s also Jesus who suffered (1 John 2:1-2).

What is your response? Are you ready to go in obedience, or will you run from your responsibility like Jonah? According to Jesus' own words, if you truly love Him, you will obey what He commands.⁸⁷



⁸⁷ John 14:15-16; 1 John 2:5-6.

Questions for further discussion and learning.

What should we be prepared to do to help reach the nations?

What is our primary motivation for mission? Why?

What is stopping you from being willing to change where you live and/or what you do to reach the lost? Do you think God would agree with your reasoning?

The Cost

“If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?”

DAVID LIVINGSTONE

While the need for workers is vital, scripture reminds us that God’s messengers are not treated well. Prophets, disciples, and followers of Jesus were (and still are) beaten, stoned, imprisoned, and killed.⁸⁸ Jesus too, was ridiculed, beaten and crucified. I wish obediently following Jesus was always fun and easy, but it’s not.



The early Church was persecuted! To be a Christian meant you were willing to suffer and risk your life for the cause. Paul instructed Timothy saying “...**everyone** who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will** be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12).

⁸⁸ Acts 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 11:23-38; Hebrews 11:32-38.

Jesus knew that the Church would only move forward at the price of suffering. Persecution grew the Church in both maturity and size.⁸⁹ History has shown that persecution helps form strong disciples.⁹⁰ When the world is dark, the light of Christ shines brightly through those who follow him.

*Then he [Jesus] said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must **deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me**. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for me will save it**.”*

(Luke 9:23-24)



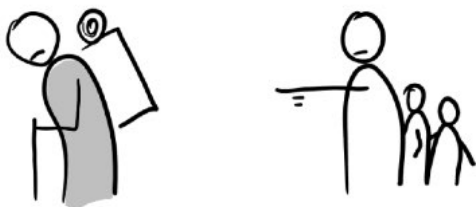
When we follow Jesus with our lives, there is a daily cross to bear. For Jesus to “take up His cross” meant enduring discomfort, abandonment, ridicule, rejection, beatings and death.⁹¹ For us, it may mean the same, or perhaps leaving or being rejected by our family, the loss of a job or financial security, or the shame of being judged as irresponsible or foolish by those we love. Being a Jesus follower was not

⁸⁹ This has been proven throughout the history of the church.

⁹⁰ The church in Nepal for example, grew in both size and maturity during the years of persecution. It was focused and united.

⁹¹ And of course, taking the weight of the world’s sin on His shoulders and being punished for it (Isaiah 53:5).

popular before, and it is still not now. Yet, Jesus calls us to give nothing less than our lives.⁹²



Through our suffering for the sake of the Gospel, we become visible witnesses of Christ's suffering. Suffering puts things in perspective and helps us rely on God. Through righteous suffering, God is glorified, and we are changed.

If we are to reach the least-reached, we must be willing to take risks and lay our lives down for the cause of Christ. Following Jesus requires boldness, discipline, and above all, love. Paul urges us to “...*join with me in suffering for the gospel*” not by our own power, but “*by the power of God*” (2 Timothy 1:7-8). Jesus has already won the war, but the battles continue to rage until He claims the victory.

Why, however, does Jesus delay in His return to begin His Kingdom of peace? The answer is simple. God is giving His Church time to gather the lost before it is too late.⁹³ We suffer

⁹² Mark 8:35

⁹³ Matthew 24:14; 2 Peter 3:15.

temporarily so others don't suffer eternally. God remains full of compassion and grace.

These days, we have become very good at justifying our lives of security, safety, and comfort. However, the purpose of life is not to be comfortable but rather to be obedient to the commands of Christ no matter the cost. Our cultures generally see it as irresponsible to take risks and make sacrifices.⁹⁴ Yet, the examples of Abraham, the prophets, Jesus, His disciples and Paul as well as a host of others shatter this idea.⁹⁵ John Piper writes, *"The early Christians gave their property and lives for [the] sake of others because they knew that on the other side of death Jesus would be their great reward."*⁹⁶ Logically, these early Christians who gave it all were the ones who had the right idea.⁹⁷ They were giving something they could not keep, to gain what they could not lose.⁹⁸

In light of persecution, Jesus encourages us with these words:

⁹⁴ Unless (popular culture says) it leads to personal gain or pleasure. Certain business risks, playing contact sport, travelling for fun, living abroad for financial gain, drinking alcohol socially, and sleeping around are often seen as acceptable these days, as long as it's "not hurting anybody [else]."

⁹⁵ Abraham was called to leave his home and sacrifice his son. The prophets were called to speak out and do things that were dangerous to their health in order to share the message entrusted to them. Jesus took the road to Calvary and was killed, and the disciples and Paul suffered incredibly for the sake of the Gospel.

⁹⁶ Piper, John. *Risk Is Right - Better to Lose Your Life Than to Waste It*. Wheaton, ILL: Crossway, 2013. pp.16-17

⁹⁷ See the parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl (Matthew 13:44-46). The Kingdom is worth giving everything for!

⁹⁸ This is a paraphrase of the famous quote by Jim Elliot, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose."

Blessed** are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Blessed** are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Matthew 5:10-12)

You are created to build His Kingdom, not *yours*, despite what your culture may teach or value. You are called to follow Jesus' example so that Christ might be honoured in your body, whether by life or by death.

*But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. **To this you were called,** because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

(1 Peter 2:20-21)

The obedient Christian life is full of risk and danger. Yet, it is right to risk for the cause of God.⁹⁹

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

(2 Corinthians 4:17)

⁹⁹ Piper, John. Risk Is Right - Better to Lose Your Life Than to Waste It. Wheaton, ILL: Crossway, 2013. p.43

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why and how have Christians been persecuted?

Are there any benefits of persecution?

At this point, what do you feel willing to sacrifice to help others know Jesus?

PART 3

WHAT CAN I DO?

“I believe that in each generation God has called enough men and women to evangelize all the yet unreached tribes of the earth. It is not God who does not call. It is man who will not respond!”

ISOBEL KUHN

Love

*“You can give without loving.
But you cannot love without giving.”*

AMY CARMICHAEL

God’s primary motivation for mission is love.¹⁰⁰ This should be our motivation, too. A love for God resulting in willing obedience, and a love for those we ought to reach.¹⁰¹ God’s love has no conditions, and neither should ours. By loving our neighbour, we can open the door for a relationship that enables our life saving message to be well received.¹⁰²

Through our acts of love, the lost can come to know the God of love.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

(John 13:34-35)

There are many ways we can demonstrate our love for those we hope to reach. The idea is to love the people around you

¹⁰⁰ John 3:16

¹⁰¹ 1 John 5:3

¹⁰² In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus defines a neighbour as anyone in need (Luke 10:29-37).

in any way you can that suits the culture.¹⁰³ Here are some ideas:



- Spend **time** with people to build relationships. Invite them into your home, visit them in their home or workplace, or regularly connect with them in person, by phone or through social media.¹⁰⁴



- **Serve** people by helping them with any tasks they may have. Offer to help in their fields or yard, cut their grass, watch their children, prepare them a meal or make them a cup of tea, especially if they are unwell or going through a difficult season of life.



- Give **gifts** at Christmas, on birthdays, or just any time to show you care. These don't have to be elaborate or expensive, it could simply be some fresh fruit or vegetables or food you made.



- Build others up with **kind words** to encourage them, especially when you notice they are feeling down. Writing a note or card is a powerful demonstration of love and appreciation.

¹⁰³ It's important to be culturally appropriate so you do not offend, so that a relationship can be built. Some of my examples may not work in your culture, so start with the ones that do and add your own ideas too.

¹⁰⁴ In many countries it is culturally appropriate to visit others without an invitation. It is also appreciated when you invite people into your home and life which can build the friendship and bring down walls.



- Show you care through culturally appropriate **touch**. Greet them with a handshake, hug or whatever is culturally appropriate and personally welcome. If they are unwell or sad, sitting beside them, holding their hand, or putting your arm around them may demonstrate your loving concern. Playing sports can help build relationship and bring down barriers, especially for men.



- Offer to **pray** for an area of need in their life to show you care. If you pray out loud with the person then keep your prayers short.



- **Grow** your love for the lost. Learn more about their background and ask God to soften your heart toward them.¹⁰⁵

Our motivation for mission is love because God first loved us. Therefore, we demonstrate our love for others by wrapping our Gospel message in loving action.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ Learning about a person's 'home' culture will give insight into how they feel loved, valued, and cared for.

¹⁰⁶ 1 John 4:19

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why is our primary motivation for mission love?

What ways of loving people stand out to you?

Who can you love this week, and how can you love them?

Pray

“In our lifetime, wouldn’t it be sad if we spent more time washing dishes or swatting flies or mowing the yard or watching television than praying for world missions?”

DAVE DAVIDSON

All great people of God pray because they recognize their need for God’s help.¹⁰⁷ If God alone prepares and changes the hearts of individuals and communities, then asking God to help in mission should become our utmost priority. Nothing of significance can ever be achieved apart from Him. Therefore, we should bathe all ministry in prayer!

Yet why do we pray if God already knows the needs of all people? Does He need reminding? Surely not. God has made us true partners in His mission and therefore our actions affect the outcome. We are asked to take every opportunity to pray for individuals and intercede for communities because prayer unleashes God’s power. Through prayer, others are changed and so are we. We grow in awareness, love, and compassion for those we pray for. Prayer moves God’s mission and lost people from our mind into our heart. Prayer brings us into relationship with the Almighty God.

There are many ways to pray for mission:

¹⁰⁷ Ephesians 6:18-20



- **Pray for workers.** That all believers will use their lives and work (vocations) as a living witness for Christ. Pray not just for missionaries, but for every believer. Our calling is the same.

Then he [Jesus] said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

(Matthew 9:37-38)



- **Pray for the Good News to be heard and understood** by all.



- **Pray that God would help** you to go, love, pray, share, and make disciples.



- **Pray for individuals** such as the sick, needy, or least-reached. When meeting with people, make the most of the opportunity and offer to pray for them. If you need to, ask them for an area of need in their life or some challenges they are facing, then ask if you can ask your God for help. If they agree, you can pray a short and simple prayer in a way they can hear and understand. For example, “*Dear God, please help my friend Sarita with her exam on*

Thursday. She would like to do well. In Jesus name, Amen. ¹⁰⁸



- **Pray for communities, people groups, and nations,** for the breaking down of negative spiritual strongholds, for openness to Jesus, for the Gospel to take root and for the transformation of the community and its people. ¹⁰⁹



- **Gather believers** together and start a regular prayer meeting for the lost. ¹¹⁰ You could even coordinate a prayer chain with others, for a day, week, month, or year. ¹¹¹ Don't forget to regularly gather the members of your household to pray if they share your faith, no matter how young they are. The prayers of children are just as effective as that of adults!

¹⁰⁸ I have met many people who are now believers because a simple prayer like this was answered. God got their attention!

¹⁰⁹ In the past, our family has hung a world map on the wall and prayed daily for a new nation. After each prayer, our children would take turns to put a mark on that nation. In just a short time you can see the potential impact. This motivates!

¹¹⁰ Even just gathering one or two others regularly for prayer is powerful. There are so many great resources for prayer. *Operation World*, *The Joshua Project*, *Open Doors*, *Prayer Cast* and *Voice of the Martyrs* all have great prayer information on their Apps and websites.

¹¹¹ A "prayer chain" is when several people pray at set times. For example, Sally prays from 1pm to 2pm, then Pradip prays from 2pm to 3pm and so on. This can help people to make a commitment for a set time to pray. It helps them see they are part of something bigger and therefore become more likely to participate so they don't break the chain. To organize you just need a sign-up roster, people, and things to pray for!



- **Worship regularly** amongst the community you are trying to reach. Worship and prayer are inseparable. Worship aligns our heart with God's agenda and is an active weapon against the dark forces of this world. Like prayer, God seems to work when we worship.¹¹² Worship dispels the darkness, points us to the Almighty God, reminds us of His character, helps us remember His past actions, and encourages us for mission. Worship is both the goal and fuel of missions.¹¹³

Do whatever you can to pray. Pray by yourself and with others. If you need reminders to pray, like me, then consider placing objects around your home and workplace (notes or items) to remind you to pray!¹¹⁴

There is no need to over plan your prayer time, keep it open to let the Holy Spirit guide your time. He will soon place themes for prayer in your mind.

¹¹² 2 Chronicles 20:20-23. I know a man who heard worship in a nearby house which he was attracted to. He entered, met the believers gathered, and as a result, after hearing the Gospel, believed in Jesus. He is now a farmer, pastor, and church planter amongst the least-reached.

¹¹³ To summarize Piper, (Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993. p.11). Worship is the goal of mission because the result of people knowing and following God is adoration and worship of Him which is exactly what we see at the end of the Bible. Worship is also the fuel of mission because when we love God, we worship him, and our worship builds our worldview which in turn fuels our passion for the lost to know Him.

¹¹⁴ You can also connect prayer to common actions. For example, when you open your door, pray for open doors for the Gospel in an area. Or when you make your lunch, pray for people to be hungry for God.

Prayer is *the* essential ingredient of missions because salvation is the work of God. We plant and we water, but God makes the seed grow.¹¹⁵ Prayer calls on God to act and He will certainly listen when we pray for what is on His heart.

When we pray, God works!¹¹⁶

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened...”

(Matthew 7:7-8)



¹¹⁵ 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

¹¹⁶ To be clear, God is always working, but as mission is a true partnership between God and us, God chooses to act in response to his children's requests despite him already knowing every need.

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why is prayer so important for mission?

What could you specifically be praying for?

What are some ways you can help yourself and others to pray more for mission this week and this month?

Give

"All the money needed to send and support an army of self-sacrificing, joy-spreading ambassadors is already in the church."

JOHN PIPER

Everything we have is God's and we are simply His agents managing it for Him.¹¹⁷ Therefore, let's work to manage it in a way that would please Him. God measures our giving by what we hold back, and not only by what we give, so we need to be generous in every way.¹¹⁸ Remember, the Kingdom is worth everything we have, so let's be willing to give it all for the Kingdom.¹¹⁹



- God has gifted us with life and **time** to give. It's an incredible tragedy that so many waste their lives doing things that ultimately don't matter. How are you using your life to glorify Him and achieve His purposes? How can you give your time to expand the Kingdom of God? Perhaps you could share the Gospel with all you can, visit the sick or lonely, help others practically, pray for the lost, encourage others to get involved in God's work, or do something else

¹¹⁷ Psalms 24:1; Deuteronomy 8:10-18; Matthew 25:14-30. We are stewards, not owners.

¹¹⁸ Mark 12:42-44; Acts 5:1-11.

¹¹⁹ Matthew 13:44-46

for God. Consider using your time to build His Kingdom rather than your own.



- God has gifted us all with skills and **talents** to give. If God made you to speak, then speak to glorify God. If He made you to lead, then lead to glorify God. If you are good at sport, or teaching, or cooking, or building or farming then use these gifts for God's glory. God gave you talents so that you would use them for His purposes rather than burying or wasting them.¹²⁰ No matter what skills you have, use them well so the light of Christ will shine through your life as a witness to those who don't yet know him.



- What **treasures** has God given you to give? (A house, land, farm, vehicle, money, business, clothes, books, family, education, experience, the Gospel etc.). How can these be used for God's glory? We all have something we can use or give no matter how insignificant it may seem. Hold onto them lightly being prepared to let them go as God leads you.

Only giving stops us from becoming self-centred and materialistic.¹²¹ God's riches are in our bodies, belongings, buildings, and bank accounts. Giving unlocks God's riches for mission and ensures we store up our treasure in Heaven which

¹²⁰ Matthew 25:14-30

¹²¹ Alcorn, Randy. *The Treasure Principal: Discovering the Secret of Joyful Giving*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2001. p.56

cannot decay or be taken away.¹²² We are warned by Jesus that our heart will follow our treasure, so we ought to put our treasure in the work of God.¹²³ Luther reminded us that “*Our possessions should be in our hands [to give], not in our hearts.*”¹²⁴ Don’t be fooled, there are no eternal rewards or advantages for hoarding our treasures here on this earth. In fact, doing so is strongly condemned.¹²⁵ Therefore, let’s use our *time, talents* and *treasures* for unselfish purposes to further His Kingdom now. If we ask God and seek to know His will, He will show us how.

*You will be made rich in every way **so that you can be generous on every occasion**, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

(2 Corinthians 9:11)

God blesses us for *His* glory, not for our comfort. He blesses us so that we will generously invest our time, talents, and treasures in the things that last by furthering His Kingdom through mission.

God has blessed us to be a blessing. He has given to us so that we would give!

¹²² Matthew 6:19-21. While many charities do great things, not all have an aim or intention to build God’s Kingdom. So be sure to invest in things that do, that actually make the Good News of Jesus known and/or seek to make disciples. It’s a sad fact that in the USA, only about \$1 from every \$100,000 earned goes to bring the gospel to those that have never heard it. Scott, Andrew. *Scatter: Go therefore and take your job with you*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2016. ebook. pp.13-14

¹²³ Matthew 6:21

¹²⁴ Martin Luther

¹²⁵ James 5:1-5

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why is everything you have God's and not yours?

How does the statement “...*there are no eternal rewards or advantages for hoarding our treasures here on this earth*” impact the way you think about your earthly possessions?

If your life ended tomorrow, would you be satisfied with the way you have used your time, talents, and treasures? Would God feel the same?

Go

[We want to see] “The Whole Church taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole World.”

LAUSANNE MOVEMENT

Jesus commands us *all* to intentionally *go* to the lost rather than waiting for them to come to us.¹²⁶ We are all made to be a living witness among the lost daily, no matter what we do. This is not a calling for only extra spiritual people, but a *command* for us all.



So, if God has made you to farm, clean, parent, nurse, lead or teach, then do this for the glory of God and use your skills to shine Christ's light in your family, workplace, and community.

¹²⁶ Matthew 28:19

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

(Matthew 5:13-16)

As believers, we should be willing to go amongst the least-reached, so our actions and words may transform our environment. Jesus calls us “salt” and “light” (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt always adds flavour, and light always dispels darkness; darkness cannot overcome light.

It only takes a little salt and light to make a huge difference when placed in an environment where they are not already present. For this reason, from the beginning, God’s people have been expected to scatter and take up residence in new places to transform communities that do not know God and His love for them.¹²⁷

God is a relational God who conducts His ministry through relationships. Face-to-face contact builds relationship, and therefore living amongst the communities we are trying to reach can maximize this. Mobilizing believers (especially

¹²⁷ Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 9:7, 35:11; Acts 1:8.

from similar cultures) to go and connect with unreached people is an effective strategy.

Being a follower of Jesus demands that we commit our entire life to the cause of Christ. Although the nature of your vocation may change during different seasons of your life, your purpose and mission remains.¹²⁸

While we can serve God in any vocation,¹²⁹ we should seek the vocation and location that allows us to *most* glorify him. Andrew Scott writes, “...*don't try to be anything you want to be when you can be everything God designed you to be.*”¹³⁰ God designed us to glorify Him in every area of our lives; our work, our home life, and even in our leisure activities.¹³¹

Mission is not just the role of pastors and evangelists, but for all followers of Jesus. The Church has mostly spread through the witness of ordinary people whose names went unrecorded.¹³² We are ordinary people with an extraordinary God! We are all to be involved in God's mission to the nations, but we don't all need to be “missionaries” in the traditional

¹²⁸ So, while you may begin your vocational life as a student, then a mechanic and a parent, then a businessperson and finally a volunteer at the local hospital and grandparent, throughout all of these your purpose remains to make disciples.

¹²⁹ A vocation is a role, job and calling. Like a mother, neighbour, teacher, farmer, mechanic, builder, lawyer, accountant, coach, or professional athlete.

¹³⁰ Scott, Andrew. *Scatter: Go therefore and take your job with you*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2016. ebook. p.183

¹³¹ Being part of a sports, arts or common interest group gives countless opportunities to model and discuss faith.

¹³² Addison, Steve. *Movements that Change the World*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 2011. p.74

sense. Missions will become our priority *if* we allow God to transform us.

Let's recognize everyone's role in mission by commissioning them for mission in their home, workplace and daily lives.¹³³ This will help to demonstrate that regular work can be God's work too.¹³⁴ We can also encourage one another in our daily witness. For example, we could ask each other how we were a witness for Christ recently in our workplace, community, or at recent events we attended. This keeps us valuing, thinking, and talking about what matters most.

Many of us can impact least-reached people in our own communities because they are living amongst us as visitors, refugees, and migrants. Because they often don't feel like they fit in, these people can be quite open to the Gospel, especially if it comes from someone offering holistic love and not just a message. Therefore, be willing to welcome, love, listen, and learn from these new neighbours. There is no need to entertain or impress, just simply share your life as you can.

Going to share Christ's love in word and action is often as simple as stepping out the door, and going for a walk to find people, or sitting next to someone and beginning a conversation. The hardest part is taking the first step.

¹³³ By commissioning I simply mean that we recognize their unique and important role in mission, we as a Church publicly pray for them, and send them out into the world to do what God has made them to do for His glory.

¹³⁴ There is a false idea that real mission is only done by missionaries, pastors, evangelists, and laypeople while on outreach. We must understand that our regular lives and roles are opportunities for mission as we interact with family, friends, work colleagues, shopkeepers, and the general public.

The unfinished task of reaching the lost will not be achieved unless the whole Church deliberately takes the Gospel to the whole world.

His [God's] intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...

(Ephesians 3:10)

Here are some ideas to help you as you go,



- **Pray** before and as you go. Pray that God will lead you to the right people, perhaps even a *House of Peace*.¹³⁵ Before I travel on public transport or walk, I often ask God to put in my path, or place beside me, people who are open and ready to hear the Good News. God often answers this prayer opening the door for faith conversation!¹³⁶



- **Go** in pairs.¹³⁷ Going in pairs keeps us accountable, motivated, helps when we encounter challenges, and helps us share and celebrate success. It is also the most efficient use of human resources.

¹³⁵ See notes under the following point "Look" below.

¹³⁶ Recently I did this on a plane and the young guy who sat next to me asked (unprompted) if I was a Christian and what Christians believed! God sure made that opportunity to talk about Him easy and fun.

¹³⁷ This is Jesus' model (Luke 10:1-11).



- **Live amongst** the people group you are trying to reach.¹³⁸ This may mean moving to a new suburb, city, community, or country!



- **Connect** with people in any way you can to build a relationship. Paul became “...*all things to all men so that by all possible means [he] might save some.*” (1 Corinthians 9:22). This may include deliberately getting involved in things like sport, farming, games or drinking tea to help connect.



- **Look** for a *House of Peace*.¹³⁹ When you find it, build relationships, and share the Good News. Stay there or plan to return regularly to follow up. A House of Peace is a household (or group) of people who are open to your message, and perhaps willing to bring others to hear your message too.¹⁴⁰ Do your best to invest your time in the people who gather there, as they may believe and become a (house) church, which someday may reach others in that town or village and the next one too!

¹³⁸ Scott writes “Your level of acceptance within a new community will be directly related to your involvement in normal life within that community.” Scott, Andrew. Scatter: Go therefore and take your job with you. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2016. ebook. p.155

¹³⁹ Or *Person* of Peace. Luke 10:7.

¹⁴⁰ See the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42), Cornelius (Acts 10:24 and 33), Lydia (Acts 16:13-15), the Jailer (Acts 16:33-34), and Crispus (Acts 18:7-8).

Jesus commands us all to “*Go...*”, and so we must.¹⁴¹ The first step to connect with the lost is to *go* to them, wherever they are, so our daily life can shine Christ through word and action.

Questions for further discussion and learning.

To whom does Jesus’ give His command to go?

How does it look to be “*salt*” and “*light*” in today’s world?

What steps will you take to go to and make disciples this month?

¹⁴¹ Matthew 28:18

Share

"I am convinced the greatest act of love we can ever perform for people is to tell them about God's love for them in Christ."

BILLY GRAHAM

Jesus is the *only* hope for a broken and lost world. While our mission should seek to be holistic in nature, we must never forget to share the Gospel in a way that is understood. Platt writes, *"Fundamentally, the Gospel is the revelation of who God is, who we are, and how we can be reconciled to him."*¹⁴² Therefore, Christian mission can only be done by Christian workers who can share the Gospel. You cannot have Christian mission without a Gospel witness.

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And **how can they hear without someone preaching to them?**"*

(Romans 10:13-14)

The Bible makes it clear that it is *only* through Jesus that people are saved. People *must* know of Jesus and what He has

¹⁴² Platt, David. "Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream." 2010, Colorado Springs, CO. Multnomah Books. p.28

done for them.¹⁴³ Jesus and the Apostles spoke the word of God, and we must seek to follow this example.

People put their faith in Jesus when they *hear* the Good News and *accept* it. The first part is our responsibility, we must continue to share the Gospel to ensure everyone has the chance to be saved. But the second part (accepting) is God's responsibility. There is nothing we can do to make people accept God's offer of forgiveness and relationship.

We share, and God transforms.¹⁴⁴

When we share the Gospel, we need to balance *honesty*, *urgency*, and *joy*.¹⁴⁵

- We need to share with *honesty*, being sure to present the whole Gospel, both the bad and Good News.¹⁴⁶
- People are dying every day without Christ and Jesus promises to return soon. Therefore, we ought to share the Gospel with *urgency*.¹⁴⁷ Tomorrow may simply be too late for some people. There will never be a better offer of forgiveness and reconciliation so we should urge people to choose Christ quickly. People who *almost* repent, believe and trust in Jesus are *not* saved.

¹⁴³ John 3:16, 18, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12.

¹⁴⁴ 1 Corinthians 3:6

¹⁴⁵ Dever, Mark. *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 2007. p.55-60

¹⁴⁶ The "bad" news is that without Christ we are dead in our sin and cannot be saved and will spend eternity in Hell after we die. Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 16:16; John 8:24; Romans 3:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9; Revelation 20:12-15.

¹⁴⁷ Revelation 22:7, 12, 20.

- Be full of joy when you share the Gospel. Because this “good news” has impacted you!

We ought to work hard to develop a culture of evangelism among our family and Church. This means we will *talk, plan* and *pray* about evangelism on a regular basis. We should accept that evangelism is every believer’s role and duty and not just for the pastor to do or those who are gifted at it. It should become part of our everyday lives even if it does not feel natural for us.

By grace, Jesus freely gave His life for us so that we might be reconciled with God and live with Him forever. Knowing this and remembering it often builds and maintains a heart for evangelism.

At times we don’t share the Gospel because we are afraid to offend or waste people’s time. “*We protect our pride at the cost of their souls*” writes Mark Dever.¹⁴⁸ Sadly we seem content to let unbelievers spend an eternity in Hell, and so don’t interrupt their day.

Good cultural manners are no excuse for disobedience to God’s commands, even when evangelism is illegal.¹⁴⁹ While we are to respect the local government and culture as much as possible, we must also recognize the authority of Jesus’ words over both government and culture.¹⁵⁰ We must be more

¹⁴⁸ Dever, Mark. *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 2007. p.27

¹⁴⁹ It was basically illegal during the time of the apostles. Acts 4:1-31 and 5:17-42.

¹⁵⁰ Acts 4:18-20, 5:27-29.

concerned with God's glory than people's response. God made us to speak and so we must.

Here are a few ideas that may help you to share well:



- **Prepare** to share.¹⁵¹ Learn about the people you are trying to reach so you can better connect. What do they value, know, think, believe? Think and plan ways to start conversations, share the Gospel, and work hard to remember what they tell you about themselves.¹⁵²



- **Look** out for opportunities to share the Gospel. Close your eyes to pray for opportunities, open your eyes to look for them!



- **Go** in pairs. It's hard to go alone, and more than two makes a group which can be confronting or intimidating for the people you are meeting. One person can pray silently while the other shares.



- **Share** the Good News with your words and/or by giving someone a tract, Gospel book, or New Testament. Then later follow up by asking them if they liked what they read and what they understood. Using the Bible is powerful, because it is God's word, not ours. Never force your message on people,

¹⁵¹ 1 Peter 3:15 says "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

¹⁵² Remembering information like names, life circumstances and family is key to building trust and strong relationships. Write details down when you can and try to commit them to memory while being careful to maintain people's privacy.

if they are not open to your message, move on.¹⁵³ Present the Gospel accurately and honestly out of love for the person (or people) you are sharing with. Later, pray God changes their heart.

Share your story (a testimony) of something God has done in your life. This can be an effective way to build interest in Jesus.¹⁵⁴ Keep it short, just thirty seconds to three minutes long, otherwise people may get distracted or bored.¹⁵⁵ *God* should be the focus of your testimony, not *you*. To do this say, “*God did...*” rather than “*I did...*” Your story should communicate three things.

1. What your life was like before?
(What was wrong?)
2. What did God do to change your life?
(What happened?)
3. What your life is like now? (What changed?)

Testimonies are a powerful way to show that God is real and changing people's lives today. Yet a testimony must not be confused with the Gospel. A testimony alone is not evangelism unless it is shared *with* the Gospel. To be evangelism, the

¹⁵³ Jesus models this idea when He tells His disciples to “*Shake the dust off your feet...*” (Matthew 10:14)

¹⁵⁴ Some people think of a testimony as a life story, but it is simply giving testimony to the difference Jesus has made in your life.

¹⁵⁵ A short example may be, “Last week I was really worried about my future. I asked God to help give me peace and He did! So now I am not worried anymore, because I know God is with me!”

Gospel must be clearly communicated in some form; written, oral or visual.

Share God's story (*The Gospel or Good News*) in a way that will be understood. The Gospel is what God has done to reconcile people to Himself. Here is one way to communicate it;

*The one and only God who created all things, made us to know and live with him. But all of us have turned away from God and His ways and sinned, and therefore broken our relationship with God. As a result, after this life we will be punished for our sins eternally in Hell.*¹⁵⁶

*Yet, because of God's great love for us, He sent His Son, Jesus, who took the punishment for our sin by dying as a sacrifice, in our place, on a cross.*¹⁵⁷

*Jesus later rose up from the dead to prove that He was God's Son, and to demonstrate that He has power over death and will resurrect those who trust in Him when He returns.*¹⁵⁸

Jesus now calls all people to turn from their sin and trust in Him for forgiveness. If we do this, then we will be forgiven our sin and become part of God's

¹⁵⁶ Genesis 1-2; Romans 3:23, 6:23.

¹⁵⁷ Romans 5:8

¹⁵⁸ Romans 1:4, 6:5, 6:8.

*family. As members of God's family, we receive eternal life in heaven with God after we die.*¹⁵⁹

*If we reject Jesus and His offer of forgiveness, then we will remain in our sin and be punished for it in Hell forever.*¹⁶⁰

There are many good ways to contextualize this message so please try. Essentially *evangelism is simply the act of telling the Good News about Jesus Christ, and the way to salvation through him.* So share in a way that people understand and can connect with.



Share evangelistic media such as the *Jesus film*, a Bible app, or a helpful website with your smart phone. You could also give out information to more resources or transfer media files from your phone to theirs.



- **Tell Bible stories** which can be very powerful, especially in oral cultures. Most people love stories! Stories are engaging, easy to remember and powerful in conveying a message. But do practice them first.

¹⁵⁹ Acts 2:38-39; Romans 8:17; Ephesians 3:6; John 3:16.

¹⁶⁰ John 3:36



- **Invite** an unbeliever to study the Bible with you. It can be effective to ask someone, “*Would you like to study the life and teachings of Jesus with me?*” Then you can read a Gospel together and discuss what you read.¹⁶¹ Remember, God’s word is very powerful even without a perfect explanation.¹⁶²

It’s important not to get the results of evangelism (conversion) mixed up with the act of evangelism (sharing the Good News). Converting people is not our job. Our job is simply to faithfully present the message regardless of the results.

While all of this may sound overwhelming, keep in mind that bad evangelism (with the right intention and prayer) is usually better than no evangelism. The best thing to do is something. Anything! Remember, we are going to the best wedding party ever and we get to invite anyone we like!¹⁶³

So, let’s start practicing and trust God will grow us and use us, even in our inexperienced state. Let’s train and mobilise local believers to share the Gospel amongst their own people and beyond, in ways that lead to multiplication. No fancy

¹⁶¹ Mark or Luke’s Gospel account can be good to start with. Mark is short and clear, presenting Jesus as the powerful Son of God, and the suffering servant. While Luke presents Jesus as the Savior for all people.

¹⁶² Hebrews 4:14

¹⁶³ Revelation 19:7

programs, just wide sowing of the Gospel amongst least-reached people in a way they understand.

“We don’t fail in our evangelism if we faithfully tell the gospel to someone who is not subsequently converted; we fail only if we do not faithfully tell the gospel at all.”¹⁶⁴

Mark Dever

God directs all Christians to share the Good News. Our measure of success for evangelism is not how many believe, but how many hear and understand our message. Therefore, it is essential that we *know* what the Good News is, *can express it*, and are able to *help people understand it*.

¹⁶⁴ Dever, Mark. *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 2007. p.122

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why must we share the Gospel / Good News?

What is the Gospel / Good News? Try to write it out in a simple way using everyday language?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. On the left side, there is a vertical margin line, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled document.

Where, when, and how will you share the Gospel / Good News this month?

Make Disciples

*“Christianity without Discipleship is always
Christianity without Christ.”*

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

Sharing the Gospel is just the start of making disciples. Jesus didn't ask us to make converts, but rather disciples defined by active obedience. This is how we are to impact the world.

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, **baptising them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey** everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

(Matthew 28:18-20)

To make disciples, Jesus commands us to “go,” “baptise” and “teach”. In the Bible baptism generally came before further teaching, so this is an important first step when someone believes.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁵ It is worth noting that there are no biblical examples demonstrating the need to take classes before baptism. While these may be helpful, they should not be demanded.

When it comes to teaching, the Bible is the primary way God reveals Himself to us and His desire for our lives. Therefore, we should work to keep all discipleship efforts centred around the Bible. Believers need the opportunity to listen, discuss, and understand God's word, and have a way to respond with accountability. This helps move God's word from the pages in our Bibles, to our heads, hearts, and hands. From knowing, to being and doing. Jesus wants His followers transformed!

Discipleship is about
changing our mind, heart,
and actions with the Bible



Here are a few key things to help make disciples:



- **Use the Bible.** It is the word of God and has power!



- **Keep training simple and participatory.** Simply reading through a Bible text and discussing what the text is actually saying (nothing more or less) in an informal setting, is often more fruitful than a well-planned and delivered sermon.¹⁶⁶ This is because active engagement by participants is effective for learning

¹⁶⁶ Sermons still have their place, but not as the primary means of Christian growth.

and able to be facilitated by many.¹⁶⁷ We are all disciples on a journey of deepening maturity. There is *always* something new to learn or discover in the Bible, no matter how much we think we know it already. By discovering what the Bible says together, we also limit the risk of false teaching and cultural biases. Throughout this process, interaction, and participation by all those gathered is key.

- **Immediate obedience** to what is learnt is important in any discipleship training. The idea is not to teach new believers everything they need to know, but rather obedience to what they do know. After reading and discussing the



Bible passage, have disciples put into practice what they learnt as soon as possible. This may be going to share the Gospel, giving to the needy, loving a neighbour or choosing to be baptized. Have participants tell others in the group of their plans so they can be kept accountable.

I have found a *Discovery Bible Study (DBS)* approach can deliver well on these three key points. It is effective, adaptable, and flexible enough to suit most groups and cultures. It's also easily reproducible leading to multiplication because everyone can lead (or rather facilitate) the study. The Bible remains the centre of discovery and authority, not the leader of the group.

¹⁶⁷ It is also easy to do regularly without preparation (except for choosing a Bible passage to study). I'm not against sermons, it's just that I am *for* Disciple making!

After one or more people believe in Jesus, meet them at least weekly for training.¹⁶⁸ Their home is the best location to do this, unless those they live with are hostile towards such training. You could start with some introductory Bible studies¹⁶⁹ and then continue with some more or instead start working through a Gospel like Mark or Luke as these are simple to follow.¹⁷⁰ The DBS is designed to form the basis of a regular meeting of believers.

Here is one example of a DBS.¹⁷¹

Pray: Begin the meeting in prayer.

Praise: Worship using songs or words.

Ask: For accountability, ask each other questions about their lives.



Look Back

1. Did you read / listen to the Bible and pray every day?
2. How did you obey what you learned from the Bible / last lesson?
3. With whom did you share the Gospel since we last met?
4. Share prayer requests or testimonies. Then pray for each other.

¹⁶⁸ You can even begin Bible studies before people believe if they are willing to learn.

¹⁶⁹ See an example of suggested Bible studies at the back of this book.

¹⁷⁰ Mark or Luke's Gospel account can be good to start with. Mark is short and clear, presenting Jesus as the powerful Son of God, and the suffering servant. While Luke presents Jesus as the Savior for all people.

¹⁷¹ I say "one" because there are many variations to suit context and culture, but all have the same key ingredients: Prayer, word, discussion, action, and accountability.

Study: Learn from the Bible together.

- ↑
Look Up
1. **Read** the passage being studied out loud twice.
 2. **Talk** about the story (What happened first? Then what?)
 3. Have the group **re-tell** the story from memory.
 4. **Ask** these questions one at a time.¹⁷²
 - a. *What does this tell us about **God** (Father / Son or Holy Spirit)?*
 - b. *What does this tell us about **people (us)**?*
 - c. *What things should we **do, or not do**?*

→
Look Forward

Practice: Do what you can to obey the teaching immediately.¹⁷³

Commit to Do: How will you obey what you have learnt today? Who will you share this with? Who will you share the Gospel with this week? Tell the group for accountability.

Give: Collect an offering and decide as a group what to do with the money (when two or more believers gather).

Pray: Close the meeting in prayer.

¹⁷² I have found it very helpful to have groups write down their discoveries on a piece of paper split in thirds. One part for the question about God, one part for the question about people, and one part for the question about what to do or not do. Then as the group/s work through the passage, they can write their findings and the verse they found it in. For example, "God is Just (v.17)."

¹⁷³ For example, if you are learning about "loving your neighbor", you may immediately write a card, or give a gift to your neighbor. If you are learning about repenting, you can confess and repent real sin with those gathered if appropriate.

Essentially the idea of a DBS is to *hear* from God, *obey* what you have learnt, and then *share* it with someone else. The parts around the Bible study itself are important for healthy fellowship and accountability. The questions and order can be changed to suit the group and culture.¹⁷⁴

To increase the chance of both leadership and fellowship (Church) multiplication, take turns to lead the *Discovery Bible Study*.

While not all of us would regard ourselves as teachers, we are all commanded to teach.¹⁷⁵ If teaching is only done by pastors or church leaders, then we immediately force new disciples into a classroom type approach to discipleship which is generally not as accessible, effective, and conducive to learning and multiplication. Young disciples learn best by journeying one on one (or in small groups) with a more mature disciple.¹⁷⁶ This is the way Jesus taught His followers and

¹⁷⁴ The a, b, and c questions in the example can be changed. For example, some groups just ask; What is one thing God is showing you today from this passage? Others use two questions; What did you learn about God in this passage? And What did you learn about man and our relationship with God? Others ask; What has spoken to you from the passage? How will you obey it? Who will you share it with? As you can see, the DBS can be adapted to suit your context. The key is that people are hearing God's word, acting on it, and sharing it.

¹⁷⁵ Matthew 28:20

¹⁷⁶ By "mature" I mean someone who has a deeper understanding and active application of the Christian life, but not necessarily in every area of life. It certainly does not mean they know it all and have it all together. Therefore, *every* Christian can find another to be discipled by, and to disciple. Just like a duckling follows and leads at the same time when it walks in a line with its brothers and sisters.

changed their lives.¹⁷⁷ Disciples are not mass produced through programs.

Making disciples can be rewarding and fun, but it requires a lot of prayer, patience, commitment, and love. Yet the fruit is worth all the effort and sacrifice!

Our aim as a Church should be to train and mobilise disciples filled by the Holy Spirit, motivated by love, and equipped with the necessary skills to transform the world. Disciples that will enjoy God's grace and extend His glory around the world!¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁷ Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. 2010, Colorado Springs, CO. Multnomah Books. p.100

¹⁷⁸ One might think that we have completed our missionary obligation by passing through one country after another and proclaiming the Gospel. While this is important, it is not long lasting as the 'weeds' of the world will come in and destroy much of the work of evangelism over time. Fields that are planted must be tended and watered to maturity to ensure any significant fruit. So it is with making disciples. Follow up and training is key. A.W.Tozer writes *"To make a few converts, only to leave them to their own devices without adequate care, is as foolish as to turn a flock of newborn lambs in the middle a wilderness; it is as absurd as to clear and plant a field in the heart of the deep woods and to leave it to the mercies of undisciplined nature. All this would be a waste of effort and could not possibly result in any real gain."* Tozer, A.W. *The Root of Righteous - Tapping the Bedrock of True Spirituality*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1986. p.102

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why must we all make disciples (using the Bible) and not just converts?

Why is growing people in their knowledge (head), character (heart), and actions (hands) so important?

How does a Discovery Bible Study (DBS) help to make disciples? How can you use it this month?

Gather

*“A missionless church is no church,
and a churchless mission is not biblical mission.”*

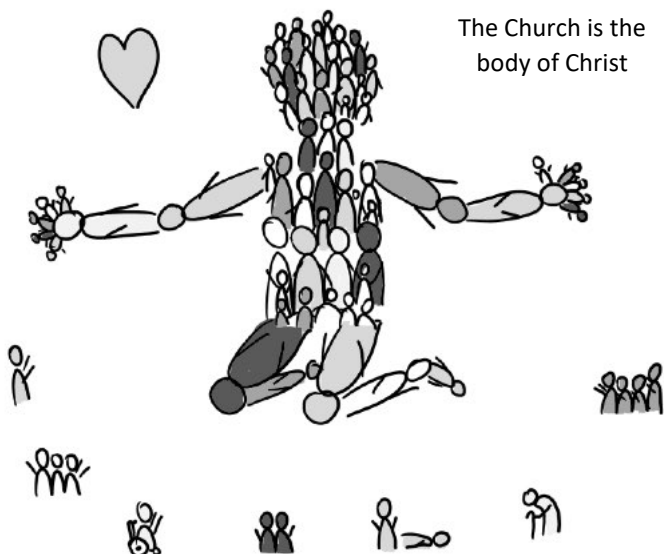
CRAIG OTT

God created the Church. Not a building, but rather a people that would reflect His love and character to those they encounter. A people made in His image to multiply His image around the world. A people who worship Him because worship is the goal of mission! When Jesus returns missions will cease to exist, yet worship will continue forever.¹⁷⁹

Our task is not just to save a few lost people, but rather to continue the movement Jesus began to change the world. The goal of mission is to make disciples that gather to form communities who reflect Christ, live transformed lives, and multiply so that God is known, glorified, and worshipped.

We are to be the *Body of Christ* in the world and reflect God and His coming Kingdom so others will know Jesus too.

¹⁷⁹ Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993. p.11



Our desire should be to see all people with a local witness amongst them. Therefore, we should work to see healthy communities of Jesus followers amongst the least-reached. Communities that know the culture, speak the language, have credibility, and maintain healthy relationships with those they live amongst. These local Churches should have both the vision and passion to reach their community, impact it for Christ, and bring holistic change. They should reflect Jesus' light to overcome the darkness as they gather for united worship, pray for and love their community, plan and conduct evangelistic outreach, and train their members to grow in faith, multiply, and make disciples.

Ideally the local Church should balance being both *set apart* from the community regarding things the Bible condemns, and yet *remain part* of the community's culture and customs as far as it is appropriate and not contradicting the Bible. The Church should follow Jesus' teaching, yet if appropriate, continue to dress, sing, and celebrate like their people group to identify with their community and remain an accepted part of it rather than pulling away totally. This would serve to increase their rapport and witness while not compromising their faith, belief, and ethics.¹⁸⁰

Unless we see healthy communities of Jesus followers established, significant change will not take root, flourish and multiply in the long term. I've learnt that gathering believers is key because communities are rarely transformed by an individual, and individuals struggle to shine without fellowship. We were saved to become part of Christ's body. Individuals can make some difference in a community, but a fellowship of local believers will almost always have a deeper impact and touch more social layers in their community. Therefore, our goal should be to plant healthy communities of Jesus followers amongst least-reached people if we are to see God most glorified and worshipped by the nations.

But how do we do this practically? Here are some ideas:

¹⁸⁰ For example, in Nepal, Christian women tend not to wear the colour red because the Hindu women do. But the Bible does not speak against this. There are no Hindu colours and Christian colours. Choosing not to wear red may separate us from our culture unnecessarily, while continuing to wear red may help us to remain in community with those we are trying to influence.

- Start with a House of Peace.** This can be one of the most effective ways into a community and has many advantages when our aim is to form a Church or community of Jesus followers. These houses are bridges into the community. If the people in them believe, then you immediately have a group of believers (even if it's just two or three), and a place to gather for regular fellowship and discipleship. Houses of Peace can rapidly become healthy communities of Jesus followers because of their local influence. Like yeast added to dough, they have the power to transform the environment around them.



- Gather new believers together** in their homes or in a public place and grow in faith together (perhaps by using the Discovery Bible Study method).¹⁸¹



- Use the Bible to define what “Church” is,** rather than simply following tradition. Acts chapter 2:37-46 is a good place to start. You may find it helpful to study the following questions.¹⁸²



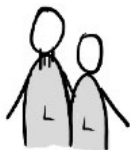
¹⁸¹ It is generally best to discourage church buildings as they tie up resources and almost always limit mission momentum.

¹⁸² Adapted from information found at <http://www.churchplantingmovements.com>

What is “Church”? - Bible study

- **Who** is the Church? (Followers of Jesus) – Acts 2:41
- **What** does the Church do? – Acts 2:37-47
 1. **Worship** (Pray and Sing) – Acts 2:42 and 46
 2. **Fellowship** (Accountability, Baptism, Lord's Supper) – Acts 2:42, 44 and 46
 3. **Discipleship** (Learn from the Bible) – Acts 2:42
 4. **Service** (Collect offerings to help others) – Acts 2:44-45
 5. **Evangelism** (Share the Gospel) – Acts 2:46
- **Where** does the Church meet? (Temple courts, homes...) – Acts 2:46
- **When** does the Church meet? (Everyday, any day) – Acts 2:46
- **Why** does the Church exist? (To glorify God and make Him known) - Matthew 28:18-20, Habakkuk 2:14, 1 Corinthians 10:31

-
- **Appoint local Church leaders** based on what the Bible says about their faith and character.¹⁸³ Raising local leaders will help to keep the Church indigenous, locally owned,



¹⁸³ See Acts 6:1-6 (deacons), 1 Timothy 3:1-7 (overseers), 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (deacons), Titus 1:5-9 (Elders), 1 Peter 5:1-4 (Elders). These passages help us to choose leaders by looking at their heart, character, and skills. In the Bible there is generally no

and locally operated. The long-term success of any Church plant is determined by its local leaders. Without committed local leadership, the Church will simply not fulfil God's purpose and multiply.¹⁸⁴ Like Jesus and Paul, we invest in a few so that they can reach many. Let's work to raise faithful leaders with God's vision and heart who are rooted in His Word.

- Appoint two or more **overseers** (elders / pastors / shepherds). Do not rush.¹⁸⁵ Pray for help and choose the people who are most obedient, not those who are the oldest in age or in faith.
- Appoint **deacons** for any special tasks such as the Lord's Supper, baptism, or the collection of offerings.¹⁸⁶ Assign at least two trustworthy believers to collect the offering, count it, and report what has been given to the entire Church. As a Church, decide how to use the money to help both believers and unbelievers in need.

distinction between overseers, elders and shepherds meaning they are similar roles and what we may call a "Pastor" today.

¹⁸⁴ In my experience, the churches that are healthy and multiply have recognised local leadership. Churches without local leadership simply do not seem to multiply.

¹⁸⁵ We need to choose wisely and seek God carefully (1 Timothy 5:22).

¹⁸⁶ It is important to note that the Bible does not put any restrictions on who can baptize a new believer or lead the church in the Lord's Supper. It's also interesting to see that in Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus commands *all* believers to go and make disciples by baptizing and teaching.

- **Train local Church leaders** on a regular basis so they can continue to grow in their understanding of key biblical concepts. Spend extra time with fellowship leaders to help them understand key theological truths of scripture and to teach skills.¹⁸⁷ Skills are well taught in the following way.¹⁸⁸



- *Model* to them what to do by doing it yourself while they watch.
- *Assist* them to do it for the first (and second...) time.
- *Watch* them do it and guide or correct any areas of confusion or error.
- *Leave* them to do it for themselves.



Don't hold onto authority but pass it on just as Jesus did. Churches rarely become healthy and multiply with power hungry leaders.¹⁸⁹ God will provide the leaders, but we need to be prepared to walk with them.

¹⁸⁷ See in the Appendices at the back of this book for some topic ideas to help prepare leaders.

¹⁸⁸ MAWL: Model, Assist, Watch, Leave. Spend enough time assisting and watching to ensure the disciple is well trained and ready to do it without you being there.

¹⁸⁹ See Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2.

- **Gather local leaders** in small regional groups regularly to help them become mature in faith, Christ-like in character and skilled in leadership. It is helpful if they do the following things.



- Have *Fellowship* together by spending time, eating, and having fun.



- Have each leader share their *Testimony* of what God has recently done through their ministry, including things they are finding challenging.



- Have significant times of *Prayer* for each leader and for their ministry area.



- *Study the Bible* using the DBS method. Everybody is equal as peers with no experts, just the Bible to learn from.¹⁹⁰



¹⁹⁰ You may wish to study the *Further Bible Studies for Leaders* at the back of this book.

This meeting should be self-funded and in a home, or existing church. Not in a hotel. This keeps costs down and leads to sustainable ongoing fellowship and multiplication.

- **Work to build up the fellowship.** Help the Church to love God and love their neighbour by:¹⁹¹

1. Worshipping Him (*Worship*)
(Matt. 22:36-38)



2. Gathering as believers (*Fellowship*)
(Matt. 22:39; Acts 2:42-47)



3. Growing in Him (*Discipleship*)
(Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47)



4. Loving those inside the Church (*Service*)
(Matt. 22:39; Acts 2:42-47)



5. Loving those outside the Church (*Service and Evangelism*) (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:47)



¹⁹¹ Matthew 22:37-40. This is essentially the same list as shared earlier in this chapter under "What does a Church do?" It is repeated here to help keep churches accountable in doing these things.

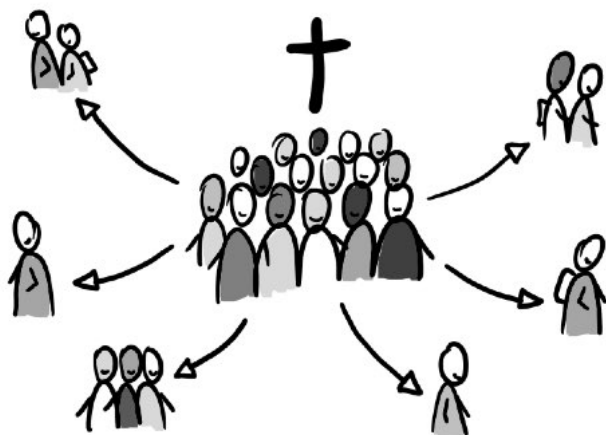
- **Do things that lead to multiplication.** Teach the church to do things that help to multiply and plant more churches from the start.
 - Discourage church buildings.¹⁹² They can tie up resources and slow or stop evangelistic momentum. Instead meet in homes or public places. This may also be more welcoming for unbelievers or seekers.¹⁹³
 - Keep fellowships small so it is easy to meet in a home and do DBS. When the group gets larger, divide into two groups. This helps to bring the Church into new areas and new communities and thereby reaching new people. This also helps to develop more leaders.
 - Have larger gatherings of many fellowship groups at special times such as Christmas and Easter for wider fellowship.
 - Plant new fellowships quickly because new believers and new churches multiply best. Mobilize new believers to share immediately!
- **Gather, train, and mobilize all believers.** Consider this:
 - The purpose of a hospital is to *heal* people and send them out into the world.

¹⁹² It's not wrong to have a church building and God certainly works through many Churches with them. Yet, if the aim of the Church is to spread God's glory into new communities, then meeting in homes or public places tends to be more effective toward this goal. God wants a local witness in reach of everyone. Without the requirement to construct or buy a building, the people of God can establish new fellowships in new places as fast as needed. New church buildings can be unwelcome in many communities, yet homes and public places are already suitably established.

¹⁹³ "Seekers" are people open to hearing and learning about our faith.

- The purpose of a school is to *teach* people and send them out into the world.
- The purpose of a family is to *raise* people and send them out into the world.

The purpose of the Church is the same. It is to heal the sick, teach believers, and raise up mature disciples to be *sent out* of the Church and *into* the world.¹⁹⁴



The purpose of the Church therefore is to glorify God through the training and mobilizing of workers for the harvest.

¹⁹⁴ Turner, Andrew Ian. *Fruitful Church: A Manifesto for Sending*. 2015. p.44 paraphrased.

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God's people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up...*

(Ephesians 4:11-12a)

Therefore, the health of a Church is not measured by the number of people that go *into* it, but rather by the number of people that are trained and *sent out* of it. Together the Church forms Christ's visible and active "*body*" on earth.¹⁹⁵ No matter how limited the local Church may appear, they are the Body of Christ in that location, gifted with the power and authority of Christ. Through them, God can achieve His goals.

If we are to see the nations worshipping God, we must work to make disciples who gather into Christ-centred, Bible-based communities amongst the least-reached; Loving, vibrant communities with local leadership who gather to worship, pray, train, celebrate the Lord's Supper, and practice baptism, in order to obediently give, serve, and tell, so they will multiply and impact! Let's build communities of disciples who live for His purpose shining His light so that God is glorified and worshipped forever!



¹⁹⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Questions for further discussion and learning.

Why is it important to gather people for regular Christian fellowship as the local Church?

What five things should the Church do?

Why is it important to raise local Church leaders?

Trust in God

*“God isn’t looking for people of great faith,
but for individuals ready to follow Him”*

HUDSON TAYLOR

World evangelisation is God’s mission. We have the privilege to participate with Him in it. He has all the power to do it Himself yet chooses to use us. God fills us with His Spirit, so we can overflow His love to others. We have received so we can give, we are blessed to be a blessing.

Only God changes hearts and minds, breaks down spiritual strongholds, opens eyes to the truth, and creates opportunities for breakthrough. Only His word pierces the heart, revealing Jesus as He truly is. Only through a healed relationship with God can our other broken relationships (with self, others, and creation), truly be restored.

Mission begins and ends with God. God will achieve His goal of building a glorious Kingdom. Yet, He calls us to play our part.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child [will] put his

*hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, **for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.** In that day the Root of Jesse [Jesus] will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.*

(Isaiah 11:6-10)

I trust that we will see every tribe and language and people and nation represented and in unity worshipping God in the coming Kingdom.¹⁹⁶ The Bible assures us that God will be glorified, and He invites us all to help make it happen.

*“Be still, and know that I am God;
I **will** be exalted among the nations,
I **will** be exalted in the earth.”*

(Psalm 46:10)



¹⁹⁶ Revelation 5:10

For me, there will be no greater joy than hearing my Heavenly Father say, “*Well done you good and faithful servant!*” (Matthew 25:21). I can’t wait to see the nations in all their diversity worshipping God in unity forever. I look forward to joining them knowing I played my part in making it a reality!

God chose you from the beginning of time and made you for a global purpose; a purpose much greater than yourself.¹⁹⁷ God will equip you and work through you if you are willing to be used by him.

Let’s never forget that God can do “...*immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.*” (Ephesians 3:20). He is the agent of change in us and working in those we seek to love. Without Him, we cannot do anything.¹⁹⁸

Missions exists because God is not yet worshipped everywhere.¹⁹⁹ This is what I and others live to change. But there are still too few of us.²⁰⁰

Come and get involved with God’s mission! Step out of your comfort zone; trust Him, follow Him, and make Him known. God has given you the command, so now it’s your move to *go and make disciples!*

¹⁹⁷ 2 Thessalonians 2:13

¹⁹⁸ John 15:5

¹⁹⁹ Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993. p.11

²⁰⁰ Matthew 9:37

Reflection



I encourage you to take some time to reflect.

Overall, what did you learn or discover while you were reading this book?

How do you feel about it?

How will you respond to what you now know?

Who will you tell for accountability?

Why not share this book with others?

Let me know how this book has impacted you so I can be encouraged, praise God for what He is doing in your life and pray for you. bjh1040w@gmail.com



I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

(Philemon 6)

Appendices



Introductory Bible Studies (Examples)²⁰¹

#	Topic	Bible Reference
1	Repent and Believe	Luke 19:1-10
2	Be Baptised	Acts 8:26-39
3	Pray	Matthew 6:5-15
4	Go and Make Disciples	John 4:4-42 (Teach Your Story (Testimony) and God's Story (The Gospel))
5	Love	Luke 10:25-37
6	Lord's Supper	Luke 22:7-20
7	Give	Mark 12:41-44

Further Bible Studies (Examples)

#	Topic	Bible Reference
1	In the beginning	John 1:1-3
2	Creation	Genesis 1-2
3	Sin and death	Genesis 2:15-17, Genesis 3
4	Murder	Genesis 4:1-16
5	Flood - Promise	Genesis 6:1-9:17
6	Babel	Gen 11:1-9
7	Abraham - Promise	Genesis 12:1-5, 15:1-20
8	Abraham - Test	Genesis 22:1-19
9	Joseph - Israel to Egypt	Genesis 37, 39-50
10	Moses	Exodus 1-2
11	Deliverance	Exodus 3-15
12	Ten Commandments	Exodus 19:3-6, 20:1-17

²⁰¹ Also named the *7 commands of Christ* because He commanded us to do them.

13	Everlasting Kingdom	2 Sam 5:1-5, 7:1-17
14	Elijah - The LORD is God	1 Kings 12:25-30, 17:1, 18:16-46
15	Prophecy about the Saviour Jesus – Exile, Jerusalem captured, Jesus prophecy.	2 Kings 17:1-23, 25:1-30; Jeremiah 23:3-8
16	Birth of Jesus	Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7; Micah 5:2-5; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
17	Baptism, testing and work of Jesus	Luke 2:52; Matthew 3, 4:1-11; Luke 4:14-15, 31-44
18	Calling of disciples	Luke 5:1-11; Mark 3:13-19
19	Jesus calms the storm	Luke 8:22-25
20	Authority of Jesus over evil spirits	Mark 5:1-20
21	Jesus heals a paralytic and forgives sin	Luke 5:17-26
22	Lazarus raised	John 11:1-44
23	The lost son	Luke 15
24	The rich and poor man	Luke 16:19-31
25	The last supper	Luke 22:1-27
26	Jesus arrested, crucified, and buried	Luke 22:39-23:56
27	Resurrection and ascension	Matthew 28:1-20; Luke 24:1-8; Acts 1:1-11
28	Holy Spirit - Church	Acts 2:1-47
29	Final remarks – Jesus returns	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
30	New Heaven and earth	Revelation 21:1-22:6

After this, **study Mark or Luke's Gospel** then the **New Testament** and then the **Old Testament** at your own pace. Or you can choose your own way through the Bible.

Further Bible Studies for Leaders or Mature Disciples
(Examples which can be done in any order)

#	Topic	Bible Reference
1	Mission throughout the Bible (<i>Salvation History</i>)	Genesis 1-2: <i>God establishes His Kingdom: Creation</i> Genesis 3-11: <i>Rebellion in the Kingdom: The fall</i> Genesis 12, 15, 17, 21, 22: <i>The King chooses Israel: Redemption initiated</i> Exodus 6:1-8, Joshua 1-6: <i>A land for His people</i> Matthew, Mark, Luke, John: <i>Jesus the King comes, dies and rises again: Redemption accomplished</i> Acts: <i>The mission of the Church: The Good News of the King spreads from Jerusalem into all the world</i> Revelation: <i>The King returns: Redemption completed</i>
2	Creation and Fall	Genesis 1-3

3	God's Word (<i>100% God, 100% Man</i>)	Heb. 1:1-2, 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:14-17
4	Trinity (<i>Father, Son, Holy Spirit</i>) – <i>Unity and diversity, all knowing, all powerful, everywhere, eternal, Creator.</i>	Gen. 1:26; Matt. 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 14:16; 2 Cor. 13:4
5	God the Father	Ex. 34:6-7; Isa. 40:28-31, 43:1-7; John 3:16-17
6	God the Son - Jesus (<i>100% God, 100% Man</i>)	Isa. 9:6-7; Matt.1:18-25; John 1:1-18, 5:24-30, 14:6; Rom. 3:21-25, 9:5; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 1:1-3:6, 9:28; Rev.1:17-18
7	God the Holy Spirit	John 14:16-17, 25-27, 16:7-15; Acts 1:4-5
8	Fruit of the Holy Spirit	Gal. 5:16-26
9	Gifts of the Holy Spirit	1 Cor. 12:1-31; Eph. 4:11-12
10	Heaven	Isa. 11:6-10, 65:17-25; Dan. 7:13-14; Matt. 19:28-30; Rom. 8:17; Phil. 3:20-21; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-22:5
11	Hell	Matt 3:12, 7:13-14, 25:1-13, 31-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Thes. 1:5-9; Jude 7; Rev. 19:20, 20:10, 20:15
12	End times	Matt. 13:40-43, 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Thes. 4:13-18
13	The Kingdom of God (<i>Already but not yet</i>)	Matt. 10:7, 12:28, 13:24-52, 20:1-16, 22:1-14; Mark. 1:15, 4:26-32
14	Saved by grace alone through faith alone	Acts 10:43; Rom. 3:21-25, 5:1-21, 11:5-6; Eph. 2:1-9; Gal. 2:16

15	Must we hear the Gospel to be saved?	Acts 4:12, 10:1-8, 10:43, 11:11-14; John 3:14-18, 3:36, 14:6, 20:31; 1 John 5:11-13; Rom. 10:12-15
16	Election (<i>chosen by God</i>)	Rom. 8:28-30, 9:11-29, 11:1-33; Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Thes. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:1-2
17	Justification (<i>pardon for sin without the law being relaxed</i>)	Rom. 3-5; Gal. 2:15-3:29; Tit. 3:7
18	Sanctification (<i>a change in character by the Holy Spirit</i>)	Rom. 6:11-14, 15:14-16; 1 Cor. 4:16, 6:9-11, 6:19-20; Col. 3:9-10; 1 Thes. 4:1-8
19	Reconciliation (<i>a change from enmity to friendship</i>)	Rom. 5:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Eph. 2:11-21
20	Church	Acts 2:42-47
21	The body of Christ	1 Cor. 10:14-17, 12:12-27
22	Baptism	Acts 2:38-41, 8:12-16, 8:34-38, 9:17-18, 10:47-48, 16:13-15, 16:27-34, 18:7-8, 19:1-7, 22:12-16; Rom. 6:1-4; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:18-22
23	Communion - Lord's Supper	Luke 22:7-20; 1 Cor 10:14-22, 11:20-34
24	Choosing leaders	Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4
25	Prayer and fasting	Matt. 6:5-18; Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1-13; John 14:13, 16:23-24, 17:1-26
26	Worship	John 4:19-24; Rom. 12:1, 15:4; Rev. 5:9-14, 7:9-12, 19:1-8
27	Discipleship	Matt. 4:18-22, 10:5-8, 28:18-20; Mark 6:30; Luke 6:12-16; John 15:15, 15:27

28	Submission, lordship, obedience	Matt. 28:20; John 14:23-24, 15:9-10, 20:28; Heb. 5:7-10; James 4:7
29	Our identity in Christ	Isa. 49:15-16; Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 1:3-14, 2:10; 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Tit. 3:3-7
30	Satan and his strategy (<i>lies, doubts, fear...</i>)	Job 1:6-12, 2:1-7; Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 13:16; John 4:4, 8:44; Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 4:4, 11:13-15; Eph. 4:26-27; Col 1:16; 2 Tim. 2:25-26; James 4:7; 1 John 3:7-8; Rev. 20:7-10
31	Spiritual warfare - Attack - Possession	Luke 9:37-43, 13:10-13; Mark 1:34, 5:1-20; Acts 16:16-18
32	Spiritually prepared (<i>The armour of God</i>)	Eph. 6:10-18
33	Temptation – Sexual purity	Gen. 39:2-20; Matt. 5:27-30; 1 Cor. 6:18-20, 10:12-14; James 4:7
34	Money	Psalms 24:1; Matt. 6:19-34; 2 Cor. 9:10-12; 1 Tim. 6:6-11, 17-19; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 2:15-17

While this is a long list, you may choose other studies based on the immediate needs of those you are training. What is important is that leaders are growing and understanding key passages correctly to ensure their theology is sound and not at risk of following false doctrine.

God desires that all people know Him and find salvation through His Son Jesus. Yet, billions today remain largely unaware of God's free gift of grace. Many will be born, live and die without ever hearing the name of Jesus and the life that He brings.

In *GO! Make Disciples*, the author lays a biblical foundation for God's mission to redeem a people for himself. He demonstrates how God's mission is our mission, the very purpose for which we have all been created. Finally, the author moves readers towards clear and practical ways in which they can get involved in God's mission today.

The author and his family live and serve in South Asia, leading a team of workers who seek to make multiplying local disciples and fellowships of Jesus followers among the least-reached.

Even after a number of years, they still have struggles with understanding local culture, language, and knowing what to do. Yet, despite these limitations, they remain convinced that God is working in them and through them to build His Kingdom.

