



EXPLORE

DISCOVER

GOD'S WORD, GOD'S WORLD, AND GOD'S WORK



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CONTENTS

LESSON 1 God's Word: God's Heart. 3

LESSON 2 God's World: THUMB 11

LESSON 3 God's Work: Praying 19

LESSON 4 God's Work: Sending 27

LESSON 5 God's Work: Welcoming 35

LESSON 6 God's Work: Going 43

LESSON 7 God's Work: Mobilizing. 51

RESOURCES & APPENDIX 59



INTRODUCTION

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ...

- *What is the Bible really about anyway?*
- *Is God still at work in the world today?*
- *Is my life meant to be part of something bigger?*

WHAT IS XPLORE ABOUT?

- *It is about God's promise to Abraham.*
- *It is about the passion of Jesus.*
- *It is about the purpose of the Church.*
- *It is about a movement that is rapidly growing throughout the world.*

It is about the very heart of God ... His heart for the knowledge of His glory to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (Hab 2:14).

BEGIN XPLORING!

This study is designed to begin exploring God's Word, world, and work. So get together with some friends and talk about what you are learning on this journey!

Here is what's involved in each of the seven lessons:

- PREP** Evaluate your view of God's Word, world, and work.
- READ** Gain insight into what God is doing and how you can join Him.
- DISCUSS** Prep these questions, study the verses, and express your thoughts in discussion with your *Xplore* study group.
- LIVE** Examine new ways to live out your convictions.
- PRAY** Enter into God's presence and intercede for people groups who have not yet come to know and love Jesus.



LESSON 1

GOD'S WORD: GOD'S HEART

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING OTHER THAN WORKING WITH GOD IN HIS PURPOSE, BUT IT WILL ALWAYS BE SOMETHING LESSER, AND YOU COULDN'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER.

— STEVE HAWTHORNE

PREP

FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

Many of us have grown up learning the Bible one story at a time, with each story applied directly to our personal lives in some way. How do you view and read the Bible?

- ① **Rule book:** It tells me what to do and warns me about what not to do.
- ② **Spiritual protection:** A verse a day keeps the devil away.
- ③ **Crystal ball:** It helps me know God's plans for my future, spouse, job, etc.
- ④ **Spiritual cup of coffee:** It helps me wake up and get the day started right.
- ⑤ **Family doctor:** I turn to it when I need something to make me feel better.
- ⑥ **Treasure map:** It reveals God's promises to bless me with health and wealth.

These are not all bad views, but the result is that many of us see the Bible as a random assortment of spiritual stories with no overriding theme or purpose. The reality is that the Bible is much more about God and His passion to be worshiped by all peoples than it is about us.

There are over 1,600 verses throughout the Bible that show God's passion for His glory to be enjoyed by all peoples of the earth. This lesson highlights just a few of those verses. (For more verses, see the Resources section on page 59.)

[NATIONS]

In the Bible, this word most often refers to ethnic people groups. The words "peoples" or "Gentiles" are also used to convey the same idea.

[WORLD CHRISTIANS]

People who understand God's heart for the world and strategically live their lives in such a way that wherever they are and whatever they do, they are working to see Him glorified among all nations.

[BLESS]

To be blessed in Scripture means we have been given the privileged responsibility of being part of God's family and inviting others to join us.

READ

GOD'S HEART FOR THE WORLD

BY TODD AHREND

What verses come to mind when you think of the word, "missions?" Most of us are hard pressed to name more than the old faithful Great Commission. For years our church culture has singled out this passage to be the theme of our missions conferences and the motivation for those who go. It's no wonder that our obedience is slow — who wants to hang their future on one verse?

The Bible has a lot more to say on this subject than just the Great Commission. We need to understand the concept of a biblical basis for missions. Maybe you're saying, "The biblical basis, is there one?" YES! And not only that, but missions permeates every book of the Bible.

It is in fact the theme of the Bible. If you don't believe that all 66 books can be reduced to one theme, keep reading. You will see that missions is not your pastor's idea, or your campus minister's idea, or even your idea ... it is God's. Since creation, God has been interested in redeeming all peoples to Himself.

As Christians, it is vital that we see the world as He sees it. Let's look at the Bible in light of God's heart for the world, and we will see that from Genesis to Revelation, He is beckoning you, me, and all of His people to join Him in bringing every people group to His throne. The Bible is not a collection of separate books with no common theme or story. It is one book with one theme.



DISCUSS

GOD'S GLOBAL PASSION AND PURPOSE

[OVERVIEW]

AN END PICTURE — REVELATION 7:9-10

A FOUNDATIONAL PROMISE — GENESIS 12:1-3 & GALATIANS 3:8

AN INCREDIBLE PURCHASE — REVELATION 5:9-10

What do these verses reveal about God's overall purpose and passion?

Discuss what God promised to Abram (soon to be called Abraham), God's intentions for Abraham and his descendants, and Paul's understanding of the gospel.

How do these verses inspire and encourage us?

[OLD TESTAMENT]

Though the Old Testament primarily deals with Israel, it is also filled with references about God's heart for all nations, and how His desire has always been for all nations.

1 SAMUEL 17:45-47

What was David's motivation for challenging Goliath?

1 KINGS 8:41-43

As Solomon prayed to dedicate the temple, what was his expectation of the Lord's fame and his desire for foreigners?

DANIEL 6:25-27

Right after Daniel was delivered from the lions, what was the result of his unyielding devotion to God?

EXODUS 19:6

In most religions, a priest's role is to connect the people with their gods. What do you think God intended for Israel when he called them to be a "kingdom of priests?"

PSALMS 46:10

The first half of this verse is familiar to many, but the last half is not. How do both parts of the verse give us security even when the circumstances around us are in turmoil?

PSALM 67

One third of all the Psalms have a direct reference to the nations and God's relationship with them. In this example, what stands out to you?

ISAIAH 25:6-8

What is God's desired outcome for all peoples who believe?

ISAIAH 49:6 and LUKE 2:25-32

Israel thought that their Messiah was only for them and their benefit, but what do these verses teach us?

[NEW TESTAMENT]**JOHN 4:35, MARK 11:15-17, MATTHEW 24:14**

What are some things Jesus taught about the nations?

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (see also MARK 16:15, LUKE 24:45-47, JOHN 20:21, and ACTS 1:8)

Based on these verses, what are Christians commissioned to do, and how does it relate to God's global passion?

ROMANS 15:20-21

Where did Paul seek to preach the gospel? Why did he have this ambition, and how did it fit in with God's desire for all the nations?

How has this lesson impacted the way you see God's Word and His global purpose and passion?

Similarly to Abraham, how have you been blessed by God and in what ways are you or could you be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth?

TRUE STORY

I really started growing spiritually in college. My first summer I attended a discipleship project, and we had a global conference. I heard the guy up front say, "God's Word is not just a bunch of separate books. It's one book with one common theme throughout. God's glory will go out to all peoples on earth, and He wants you to be a part of it!" So I took the next couple of years and started diving into God's Word to truly see His heart for the world. I realized I needed to jump on board with what God is doing and is going to do. Soon after, I found out about an opportunity to go to India and share the gospel with high caste Hindus ... so I went!

— JOHN

IDEAS

- ① Memorize three verses from this lesson that really impacted you.
- ② Complete the 30-Day or 7-Day Challenge found at the bottom of page 59 in the resources section.
- ③ See if you can share this biblical basis of missions with a group of people or even one person.

What is one thing you want to do this week because of what you learned?

Who will keep you accountable?



PRAY

Prayer is the privilege of every follower of Jesus Christ, no matter how old they are, where they live, or what they do for a job. Unfortunately, few believers pray the way Jesus taught us to pray. In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus taught His followers to pray, "Father, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Steve Hawthorne, global author and mobilizer, says about this prayer:¹

This prayer is not a statement of praise. It is explicitly a request in the original language: "Father ... sanctify your name!" To paraphrase, "Father lift up, single out, exalt, manifest, and reveal Your name to the people of earth. Become famous for who You really are. Cause the people of earth to know and adore You!" The prayer can be prayed most thoroughly in the global dimension that Jesus taught: "on earth as it is in heaven."

How exciting to know that even right now we can join God in seeing His singular purpose and passion brought to fulfillment. In this section, we will pray for God's name to be hallowed among peoples of the earth who have little to no access to the gospel apart from a dream or vision.

PRAY

- ① Ask that the Word of God would penetrate the hearts of those who have never heard and result in true repentance and salvation. (Hebrews 4:12)
- ② Pray for a bountiful spiritual harvest resulting in the planting of a network of strong local churches. (John 4:35-36)
- ③ Pray some of the Scriptures you just studied over these peoples groups who have little to no access to the gospel.
- ④ Ask God to send out laborers into these unreached people groups. (Luke 10:2)
- ⑤ Pray that the light of the gospel will reach the nations.



READ

THE 10/40 WINDOW

BY BRYAN LEE

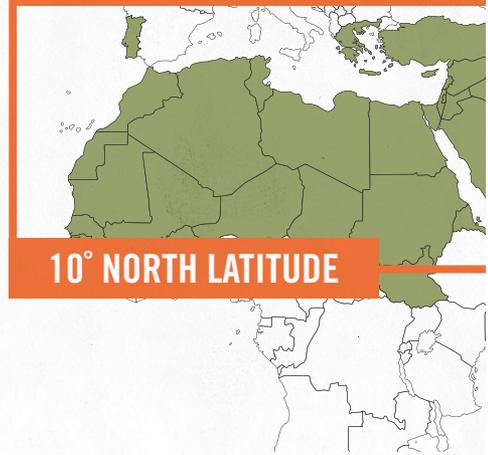
If the command given by Jesus is to make disciples of all nations (or ethnic groups), then common sense would tell us our job is to find those nations (ethnic groups) that have not been discipled (taught to be followers of Christ). People desiring to fulfill the Great Commission need to know where these “unreached” groups of people are, so that our efforts in completing the task will not just be busy, but productive.

The vast majority of these unreached people live in an area of the world nicknamed the “10/40 Window.” The 10/40 Window is simply a term used to describe a region of the world within 10 and 40 degrees latitude from Western Africa to Eastern Asia. If you were to draw it on a map, the top would go from Portugal through Japan and the bottom would go from Guinea through the bottom tip of India all the way to the Philippines. This is an important region to think about as a follower of Jesus because most of the people who have not had an opportunity to hear the gospel live here.

The people who are lost in the 10/40 Window are not “more lost” than your neighbor or family member who does not know Christ. But, they are

“unreached” in the sense that they have not had an opportunity to hear the gospel. The issue is not their lostness, but their access to the gospel. People can be unevangelized without being unreached. There are Han people in China that have not heard the gospel, but they probably could if they sought to. Most people living in the 10/40 Window couldn’t find out about Jesus even if they wanted to! These are unreached people who do not have access to the gospel.

There are more than 2.9 billion unreached people in the world today. Of those 2.9 billion people, about 97% live in or near the 10/40



THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW.



Window. Less than 1% of these unreached people live in North and South America combined!⁴

This area of the world is so unreached for several reasons. First, these people do not live in a spiritual vacuum. The world's major religions began in this part of the world and are firmly entrenched there. In the 10/40 Window, there are about 1.3 billion Muslims, 860 million Hindus, and 275 million Buddhists.⁵ Along with that, many of the countries in this region are oppressive to the spread of the gospel. However, Jesus declared that "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." The biggest reason this part of the world is so unreached is because there is a lack of believers willing to go to these places.

It is estimated that less than 10% of foreign missionaries today are working to reach these unreached peoples. The other 90% are working in unevangelized, but not unreached, areas.⁵ According to the World Christian Encyclopedia, of all the money designated for "missions" in the United States, only 5.4% is used for foreign missions. Of that 5.4%, only 0.37% is used to take the gospel to unreached peoples who don't have access to the gospel. That's about two

cents out of every dollar given to missions! The rest goes toward efforts to further evangelize reached people.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance," and that proves true in our global strategies for advancing God's kingdom. We must take the time to educate ourselves on what the world looks like and evaluate our efforts in line with God's command to make disciples of all people groups.

[The 10/40 Window is a simple way to remember where the majority of the world's unreached people groups are. However, there are many unreached outside this area. For example, Indonesia, located just south of the 10/40 Window, is the largest Muslim nation in the world, while South Korea, which is inside the Window, is one of the largest missionary sending nations. Unreached peoples aren't so much a matter of geography as they are distance from the gospel.]

DISCUSS

THUMB

As you have just read, most of the world's unreached people groups live in the 10/40 Window. An easy way to remember the major blocs of unreached peoples is the acronym THUMB (we'll explore each bloc further in the PRAY sections).⁵

T	TRIBAL	161 million people in 704 people groups 60 cross-cultural workers for every 1 million Tribals
H	HINDU	860 million people in 1,843 people groups 2 workers for every 1 million Hindus
U	UNRELIGIOUS	121 million people in 15 people groups 12 workers for every 1 million Unreligious
M	MUSLIM	1.3 billion people in 1,344 people groups 6 workers for every 1 million Muslims
B	BUDDHIST	275 million people in 227 people groups 13 workers for every 1 million Buddhists

- ① **What is your reaction to these statistics?** In light of Christ's command to go and disciple all peoples, why do you think so few workers go to the unreached?
- ② **2 Thessalonians 1:8-10, Romans 6:23, John 14:6** – Do you believe those who do not trust Jesus will be separated from God forever? What does this mean for unreached people groups who have no way to hear about Jesus? If you really believe this, what are you going to do about it?
- ③ **Habakkuk 2:14, Matthew 24:14** – In light of the previous statistics about the unreached, what hope do these verses give us?

How do these realities compare with what you learned in Lesson 1 about God's heart for the nations?

How has this lesson caused you to see God's world in new ways?

IDEAS

- ① Check out joshuaproject.net and/or operationworld.org and learn about the world's unreached. Specifically look at the THUMB prayer videos at joshuaproject.net/resources/prayer_videos.
- ② Start including prayer for the unreached as a regular part of your day—perhaps before meals, before bed, or at 10:40 every morning.
- ③ Share the THUMB with three of your friends.

TRUE STORY

When I was nine, God placed the Mongolian peoples on my heart. While researching their country for a homeschool project, I learned there were fewer than ten known believers in the entire country. I began to intercede daily, offering up simple prayers based on what I'd learned about the people and what I believed about God ... for Bibles to replace the Buddhist altars inside their tent homes ... for God to send believers to share the gospel with the three million Mongolians who had never heard the name of Jesus.

After two years of praying, a "Hope for Mongolia" article caught my eye. It described a movement of God in which 500 Mongolians came to know Jesus. I think this was God's way of telling me He was answering my prayers.

— Hope

What is one thing you want to do this week because of what you learned?

Who will keep you accountable?

PRAY

THUMB – TRIBAL

Tribals live mostly in Papua New Guinea, Africa, and China

BELIEFS

- They have animistic and superstitious beliefs (everything has a spirit, such as water, rocks, trees, animals)
- They must be careful not to offend these spirits and must appease them with sacrifices
- They often worship idols and ancestors and visit witch doctors



KONDA DHORA OF INDIA

285,000 PEOPLE

0% EVANGELICAL

It was a joyous time in the Konda village; the seeds had been planted, and they had already sacrificed a goat to the god Dharani Deota. People began to sing and dance. They had high hopes that their god would be pleased by the sacrifice and give them a good crop. Despite all their merry-making, however, they knew that they could not depend on the gods. Didn't they sacrifice a goat last year when they had the smallest yield in 10 years?

The Konda are animists, and were known for practicing human sacrifices until stopped by the British in 1857. Since then they have been sacrificing goats instead. These farmers dedicate festivals to specific gods they believe have power over the success of their crops.



PRAY

- ① Pray that the Konda peoples will see that Jesus is the final sacrifice for their sins, and that He has made a path for them to have a relationship with the Creator God.
- ② Pray people wouldn't just look passively at the 10/40 Window, but would take action, and educate others about the unreached.
- ③ Pray through the facts and statistics in this lesson that impacted you and ask the Lord for new funding and new missionaries to be raised up to focus on these precious people!



READ

PRAYING GOD'S WILL AND SEEING CHANGE

BY TITUS H.

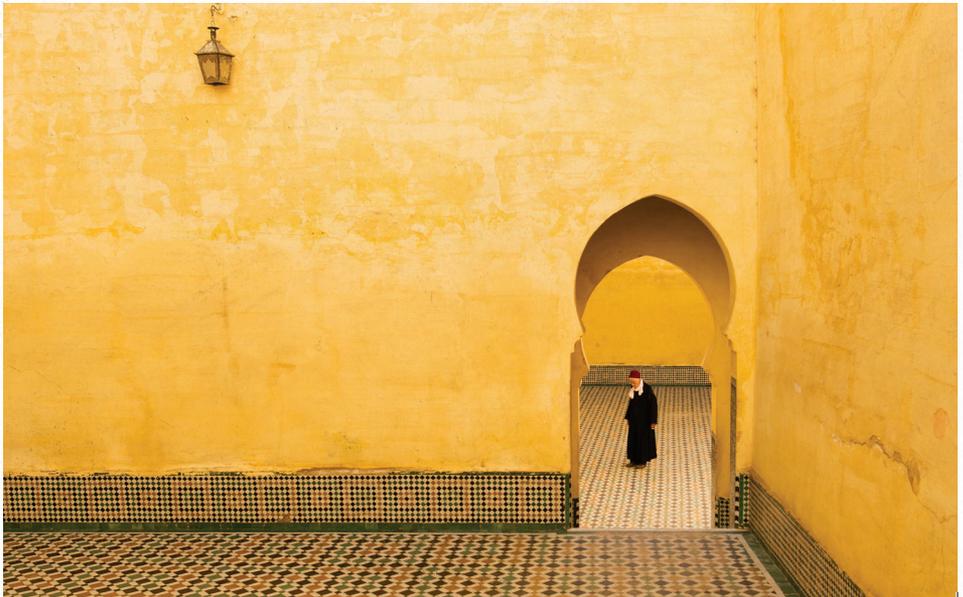
Jesus commissioned His followers to “make disciples of all nations,” and gave them the ministry of reconciliation. He said, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Matt 28:19, 2 Cor. 5:18, Acts 1:8). Jesus knew that not all of us would be able to physically go to the ends of the earth and make disciples; however, He did expect us all to play our part. God empowered every believer with an amazing ability to join God in directly and dramatically effecting real change for “the ends of the earth.” We call it prayer.

Most of the time, praying for God’s kingdom to come in all the earth doesn’t even cross our minds. If it does, it is often our last resort, something we pray out of obligation, or a brief addition to our list of requests. All of these responses betray the fact that we do not really understand prayer or the power in our prayers that make a specific and practical difference.

James tells us that “the prayer of a righteous

person is powerful and effective” and gives us an example, saying that “Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops” (James 5:16-18). Now that is power! He was an ordinary human being, but he knew God’s will, prayed earnestly, and God answered in power for all of Israel to see and give glory to God! How much more should prayer be the foundation of our relationship with God, since we have Jesus and the Holy Spirit living inside of us! Certainly James seems to think that this kind of prayer life should be more the norm than the exception for those who follow Jesus.

Paul tells us in Romans 8 that, “the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God,” and that Christ Jesus “is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for [His children]” (Rom 8:26, 34; also see Heb 7:25). Since part of Jesus and the Holy Spirit’s work is



WE ARE PRAYING TO OUR ABBA FATHER WHO LOVES US, WHO WANTS A RELATIONSHIP WITH US.

to intercede for believers, let's join with them in praying specifically for missionaries and God's work to reach the unreached. If we, like Elijah, learn to listen to God and learn to pray in agreement with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, then we will certainly be a vital part of bringing God's kingdom on earth "as it is in Heaven" (Matt 6:10).

Prayer also changes us. As we learn more of God's heart through prayer, He changes how we think and act. We learn to love the things He loves, hate the things He hates, and see things the way He sees them. For example, God significantly changed Peter through prayer. Acts 10:9 says, "about noon...Peter went up to the roof to pray." God spoke to Peter as he prayed, and Peter soon realized God's message — that "in every nation, anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him" (Acts 10:35). This radically changed Peter's perspective and effectively changed the perspective of many in the church (Acts 10:45, 11:18, 15:14-19).

Prayer and missions movements are linked throughout history. The American mission movement was sparked in 1806 after a prayer meeting where five college students had taken refuge from a storm under a haystack. They discussed the spiritual darkness in Asia, every Christian's responsibility to do something, and then they prayed. As a result of that moment, those men dedicated themselves to the Great Commission and the "Haystack Prayer Movement" spread, sparking the creation of mission agencies

which sent many Americans overseas to preach the gospel.

Jesus instigated this direct link between praying and going when He said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2). We must never disregard the power of this prayer or its need to continually be prayed. One could argue that so few have gone to the unreached because so few have obeyed Jesus' commandment to pray for laborers. Would you pray every day for laborers?

Lastly, we must remember who we are praying to and what we are praying for. This will give us confidence as we pray. We are praying to our Abba Father who loves us, who wants a relationship with us. He desires that no one be separated from Him, and sent His only son Jesus to purchase, with his own blood, a people for God (Rom 8:15, 2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16, Rev 5:9-10)! Our Daddy is passionate about reaching the lost and He loves to listen to and answer His children's prayers. Jesus tells us that if evil human beings know how to give good gifts to their kids, how much more does our Heavenly Father give "good gifts" and the Holy Spirit to His children when they ask (Matt 7:9-11, Luke 11:11-13)! "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened" (Luke 11:9-10). This is how the Kingdom of God works; this is the way of our Abba Father, our King!

DISCUSS

Paul truly believed that the prayers of Christians would change the current realities in his ministry. In each passage, what is Paul wholeheartedly relying on his supporters' prayers to do? Comment on anything else that jumps out to you.

① **Romans 15:30-31**

② **2 Corinthians 1:8-11**

③ **Ephesians 6:18-20**

④ **Philippians 1:19**

⑤ **Colossians 4:3-4**

⑥ **2 Thessalonians 3:1-2**

In light of Paul's requests, if these things aren't happening with the Christian workers you or your church supports, perhaps the responsibility rests more on those who pray and send than on the workers.

What verses mentioned in this lesson (pray, read, and discuss sections) stood out to you? Are there other Bible verses on prayer that have impacted your thinking?

We all pray, but how often do we stop to listen to God impressing on us specific things to pray? Does this sound exciting or daunting?

TRUE STORY

While I was ministering in a country that was hostile to Christianity, I became frustrated because one of my local friends was very closed-off to hearing about Jesus. I emailed my home church just before their Sunday service to pray for this person. The very next day, I saw my friend again and as we talked, I sensed a radical change had happened in her. She was not only open to talking about spiritual things, but really wanted to hear about Jesus. It was obvious that the dramatic change came as a direct result of my home church's prayers!

— Tim

IDEAS

- ① Pray daily for these great needs in reaching the unreached: more laborers going to the field, more resources focused on the unreached, and spiritual strongholds be torn down among these groups (Luke 10:2, Ephesians 6:10).
- ② Get one or all of these resources and use them to inform and guide you as you pray: Operation World, Joshua Project app, prayer calendars, videos, or prayer cards.
- ③ Gather around a world map with photos and information about unreached people groups. Then find their location on the map and start praying. "To know the will of God we need an open Bible and an open map." — William Carey pioneer missionary to India

How will you begin serving through prayer?

Who will keep you accountable?

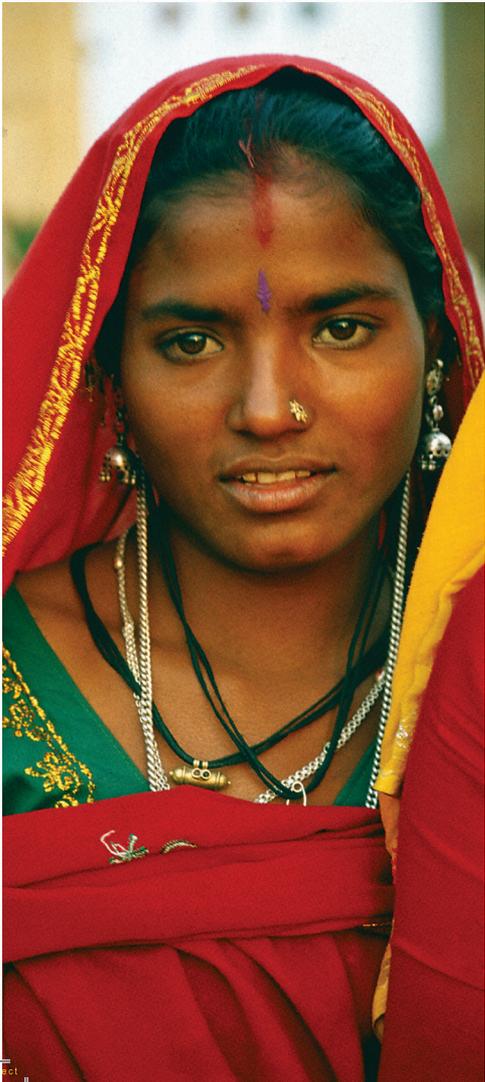
PRAY

THUMB – HINDU

Hindus live mostly in India and Nepal

BELIEFS

- They believe in millions of gods
- They worship idols of clay, stone, or pictures by giving them food, flowers, and money
- They believe they are caught in a cycle of birth-death-rebirth called reincarnation



HINDU BRAHMINS OF INDIA

58,346,000 PEOPLE

0% EVANGELICAL

A boy becomes a man today! The Brahmin guru gives him a sacred thread, the symbol of his initiation. He whispers a special mantra to the boy. For the first time, the father addresses his son as a man instead of as a child. Now he is “twice-born.”

These are the Brahmins — the holders of the sacred teachings of Hinduism.

Brahmins stand at the top of the Hindu social ladder. This adds to the challenge they have in accepting Jesus as Lord, since He has been closely linked with the Dalits (Hinduism’s Untouchables). Brahmins have many barriers to the gospel of Jesus. Christ has a fellowship of all believers, but the Brahmin refuses to associate with an Untouchable. God offers eternal life; a Brahmin believes he is on the verge of Nirvana, the perfect state of bliss that only comes after many reincarnations. In his mind, to accept Christ would mean losing it all.



PRAY

- ① Pray that God would lead educated, believing Indians to reach out to the Brahmins in all parts of the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit will humble Brahmins so that they will accept His guidance.
- ② Pray that the eyes of Brahmins would be opened to the true light of the world, who is Jesus.
- ③ Pray that God would give His church a hunger to pray for those who have never heard of Jesus.



READ

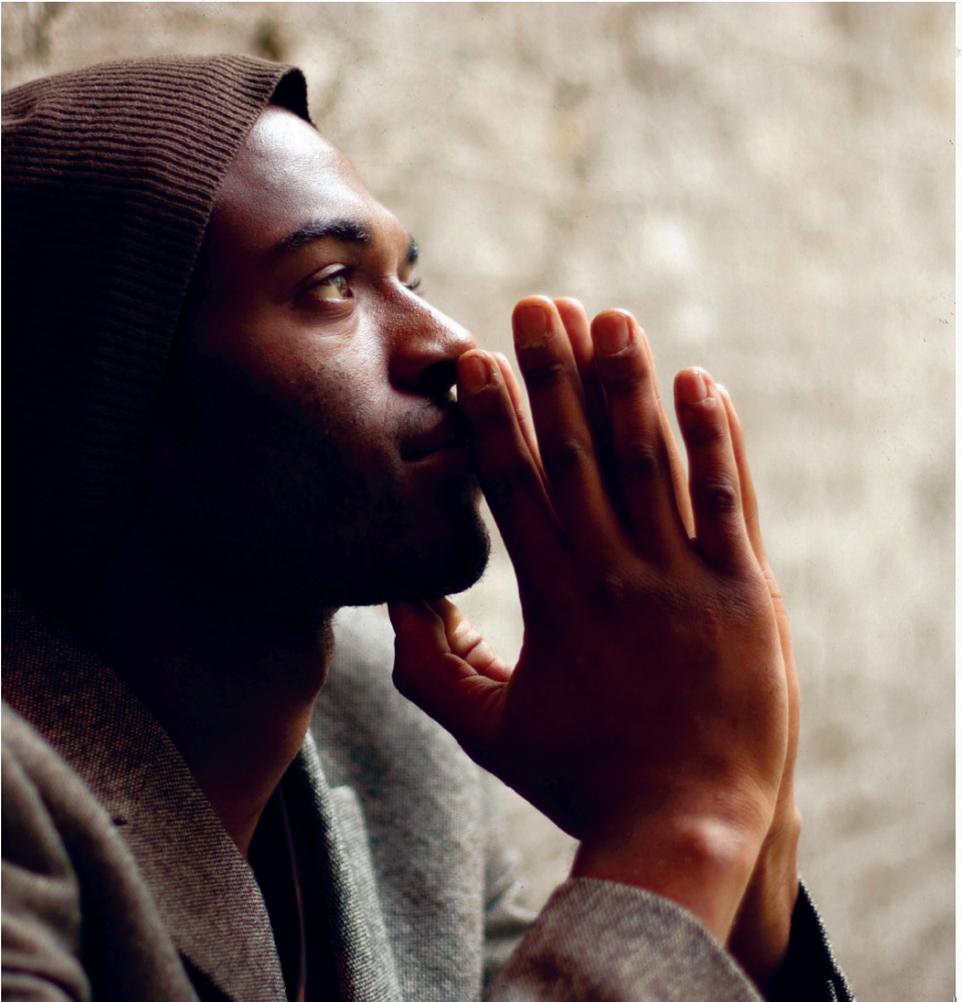
SENDING

BASED ON AN ARTICLE BY THE TRAVELING TEAM

Paul the Apostle has an interesting observation, "And how can they preach unless they are sent?" (Rom 10:15). The unreached do not have a chance at hearing the gospel if there are not people on the home front funding and praying for those that are going. It is like asking the question, "Which is more important – the rescuer who goes down into the well to save a life or the man at the top holding the rope?" You can't have one without the other.

In our culture we think we are entitled to live at whatever standard matches our income. When a person gets a raise, their standard of living gets a raise, too! But the World Christian should have a different mindset. Maybe when a Christian gets a raise or comes into unexpected financial gain God intends that person to be a resource for someone else! This thinking is so contrary to our culture.

A young married couple I know recently had a



HOW CAN THEY PREACH UNLESS THEY ARE SENT?

change of perspective and took responsibility for their role as senders. They read an article about creating your budget based on your giving priorities rather than on cultural expectations of how much money they should be spending on themselves. They had already been giving to missionaries, but felt that in light of God's desire for all nations, they needed to make this more of a priority. Unfortunately, due to circumstances in the next year, their income was cut in half. Yet because of their new focus on sending, they actually increased the total amount they gave from the year before!

Financial giving is a seemingly difficult habit for many people to develop because they always feel broke! But the point is not the amount that is given. The point is prioritizing all your resources, including finances, in light of God's kingdom.

The most obvious aspect of sending is giving of one's financial resources to support a missionary. But this is certainly not the only facet of sending. A sender may work in one or all of the following specialized roles: logistics, prayer coordination, communications, research, finances, or re-entry coordinator. A specialist in logistics deals with the practical side of sending, like packing the missionary's goods, arranging travel plans, and acquiring items needed on the field. The prayer coordinator can find specific prayer needs based on research from missionaries in the field and

missions agencies. They are also needed to enlist others in intercessory prayer for the team and organize special prayer meetings. For prayer needs to be known, a communications specialist is enormously helpful. It is their responsibility to open lines of communication to a prayer team so that prayer requests and other needs are known. The role of sending is neither glamorous nor easy. The job of dealing with the day-to-day, behind the scenes tasks of mission work may seem thankless, but it is not without reward.

As a farmer's wife raising three small children, my grandmother faithfully handwrote a letter every week to all six overseas missionaries her church supported. Long before the ease of email communication, she saw the value in caring for and being a blessing to those serving so far away. For the missionaries, these letters were a reliable source of connection to home and a great encouragement. Also, when they were home on furlough, they always stayed with her and were treated like royalty. She understood that sending is not only investing finances, but also giving practical care and regular encouragement.

For the gospel to be preached to all nations, the role of a sender is vital. As more Christians embrace this role, they enable greater and more effective missions efforts to the unreached.

DISCUSS

- ① **Romans 10:14-15** – What different roles are involved in getting the gospel to someone?

- ② **Luke 8:1-3, Matthew 9:37-38, Romans 15:30** – How was Jesus supported in His ministry? What were some ways people were asked to get involved?

- ③ **Psalm 24:1 & 1 Chronicles 29:14** – Where do our possessions come from? What do you think the difference is between ownership and stewardship?

- ④ **3 John 5-8** – In verse 6, what do you think it means to send in “a manner worthy of God?” In the last part of verse 8, what does John say is the relationship between sender and goer?

- ⑤ **Philippians 4:15-19** – What things does Paul say happen when we serve as a sender?

- ⑥ **2 Corinthians 9:6-12** – What are some giving principles Paul is communicating here? How should we give? Why?

Make a list of 3 to 10 ways you could support cross-cultural missions, besides money.

What are the obstacles you, and those around you, face in becoming a sender?

TRUE STORY

I started supporting a friend who went to India for a year to share the gospel with Hindu college students. Through giving, I really gained a heart for the lost and a strong desire to see the nations reached began to grow in me. Supporting my friend allowed me to bless the nations and be a part of the ministry in India. Sometimes it was hard because I just wanted to spend that money on myself. But I stuck to my financial commitment, and it felt good to spend my money in a way that put God's kingdom first in my life.

The Bible says that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matt 6:21). I wanted to invest my money in something more than myself that will last for eternity!

— Celeste

IDEAS

- ① Match whatever you spend on your "extras" (like eating out and entertainment) each month and give it to your church's cross-cultural goers
- ② Get on the mailing list of a cross-cultural goer and begin to pray daily
- ③ Write an encouraging email to an overseas worker once a month

How will you begin to serve as a sender?

Who will keep you accountable?

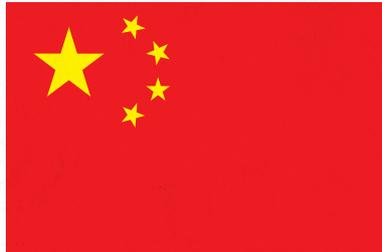
PRAY

THUMB – UNRELIGIOUS

Unreligious live mostly in China, North Korea, North Asia, and Europe

BELIEFS

- They are mostly atheistic, with some remnants of ancestor worship or Buddhist beliefs
- Many have communist governments that tell the people there is no God
- The majority live in the country of China



MING PEOPLE OF CHINA

15,100 PEOPLE

0% EVANGELICAL

Even the Buddhist temples are empty in Maoxian County of China! An entire generation has received an atheistic education, and now the Ming people ridicule any religious beliefs. This younger generation mocks their parents' animistic or Buddhist beliefs, calling them "superstitious."

Teams of Christians who try to distribute gospel literature face arrest. Will the over 15,000 Ming people living in this region ever hear of salvation through Christ?

Years ago, these people of mixed ancestry faced prejudice. Since the Han Chinese didn't accept them socially, the Ming people adopted a separate identity, wearing distinct clothing and forming their own villages.



PRAY

- ① Pray that as the Ming people observe the evidences of God through His creation, they will begin to seek Him as Creator. Pray for believers to bring the message of Christ.
- ② Pray the Lord would shape His people into individuals who love to SEND OUT workers!
- ③ Pray people would consider it a privilege to be a part of God's kingdom work.



LESSON 5

GOD'S WORK: WELCOMING

I AM READY TO BURN OUT FOR GOD. I AM READY TO ENDURE ANY HARDSHIP, IF BY ANY MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME. THE LONGING OF MY HEART IS TO MAKE KNOWN MY GLORIOUS REDEEMER TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD.

— WILLIAM BURNS

PREP IN OUR BACKYARD

In this generation more than any before it, God is stirring the Chinese Church into action. Many assume getting involved in His global purpose just means sending missionaries out. While this is a vital step in China fulfilling its role in the Great Commission, only looking outward can sometimes keep us from seeing what is right in front of us. With the economic growth our nation is experiencing, the population of minority groups settling in Han-majority cities and towns grows every day. God is bringing thousands and thousands of people from these ethnic groups—many of whom have little or no direct access to the gospel—right next-door to us, and He's doing it on purpose! In this lesson we will see God's heart for those who are in the minority, and how He wants us to extend His love to them in tangible ways.

FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, CIRCLE EITHER TRUE OR FALSE.⁶

T or F There is no opportunity to build cross-cultural relationships in my city.

T or F There are 456 unreached people groups within China.

T or F Between 1990 and 2000, the average growth rate of minorities in China's major cities was 146%.

T or F Almost a tenth (8.96%) of China's population is comprised of minority groups.

T or F Many urban minority groups cluster together in easily accessible neighborhoods.

T or F Since minority peoples are so different from me, forming a relationship would be too difficult.

What comes to mind when you think of minority groups? What scares you the most about reaching out to people that aren't like you?

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[WELCOMER]

One who welcomes people from other cultures into their own culture by initiating relationships with them, showing hospitality, and sharing the love of Christ.

[MINORITY]

People from ethnic groups that are not in the majority, who may feel on the outside of mainstream culture and society in their own country.

READ

THE UNREACHED AMONG US

BY BRI

Throughout history, the territory which today is China has hosted a multitude of peoples. Chinese history is a history of vast migration and fusion of diverse peoples. As waves of invaders swept down from the North—the Huns, the Turks, the Mongols—they left behind a racial legacy which today helps to make up the patchwork map of China's minority nationalities. And as far back as our history goes, there have been tribes and different ethnic groups indigenous to the South. The Han Chinese people themselves are the product of the intermixing of many tribes. But because of their rapidly expanding population and their inclination towards settlement and industry, Han culture eventually became the central culture of China, and minority peoples were spread out into the borderlands.

It is clear that God has blessed China greatly over the centuries—especially in this one, when

at long last, the good news of Jesus is spreading, and many are coming into the Kingdom. The long, rich history of the Chinese people is a deep source of our national pride, and rightfully so. However, it is easy to forget that it is not a history of one people. And if we forget the other peoples here, we could be missing out on one of the greatest opportunities our Father has placed in our reach of influence.

Research of academic scholars reveals that there are more than 56 people groups within China's borders: more than 450, actually, and each distinct from others in culture and language. But the majority of these are largely overlooked by the nation and society they live in. It is likely that most people are unaware of or don't notice this discrepancy, including those within the Chinese Church. But many people also have fear of those that are different from them,



REACHING OUT TO MINORITIES CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO GOD'S PLAN FOR REACHING THE WORLD.

based on unspoken beliefs and stereotypes. This is prejudice. Prejudice is not uncommon in the human race; in fact, it is pervasive, and the Bible has many examples of people avoiding other people based on assumptions: Jonah towards the Ninevites, Jews towards the Samaritans, even the Jews towards Jesus, a man from Nazareth, who they expected to be a bumpkin, lowly and simple-minded.

This same thing still exists today all across the world, and in China. Whether it is because of unawareness or prejudice, the Church doesn't often recognize the great need to welcome minority groups—most of which are totally unreached with the gospel, yet living in our cities or, at the very least, within our borders.

If we look at Jesus' life, we see him intentionally crossing all ethnic, gender, and cultural boundaries and showing compassion to many different types of people. You can follow His example in this by being attentive to and welcoming minority peoples that live around you. In many cities, there are certain neighborhoods where these people cluster. Perhaps there's a university in your city that is designated for nationalities, or even an ethnic restaurant nearby your home. In all of these places, you may find minority peoples who have never had a Han friend before, and who have certainly never heard the gospel. Maybe that person will be the first in their entire

people group to receive Christ, and your friendship becomes the catalyst for a movement of the Holy Spirit among them. It wouldn't be the first time—this certainly happened in Scripture!

We would be amiss if we did not note that, just as globalization is causing the swell of minority peoples into cities, it is also causing more and more foreigners to move to China for study or work. As people from India & Pakistan, North Africa, and Southeast & Central Asia move here, remember that they might be one of the only people in their nation to have access to the gospel... simply because they are now your neighbor. Imagine them after a few years in China returning to their home countries—not just with an education or work experience, but with the good news.

Being a welcomer is not too complicated. It starts with just making a friend. Through building these relationships, we can see waves of indigenous ambassadors of Jesus Christ going back to their own peoples and nations — it all starts when the church welcomes them.

This is an exciting time! The unreached are here. The opportunity to impact the world for Jesus Christ is waiting right outside our doors. Let's embrace the opportunity to welcome them into our lives and churches.

DISCUSS

- ① **LEVITICUS 19:34, DEUTERONOMY 10:18 – 20, ISAIAH 56:6-8** – What do these verses reveal about God's heart for “外人”? What would it look like to “love them as yourself?”

- ② **JOHN 4:4-26, 39-42** – The Jewish people saw Samaritans as inferior, and usually refused to even come in contact with them. Here we see Jesus talking not only to a Samaritan, but a Samaritan woman. What can we learn from these passages about Jesus' attitude toward minority peoples and cultural norms? How did one person's encounter with Jesus impact the entire community?

- ③ **ACTS 1:8, 8:27 – 31, 35 – 39** – In light of Jesus' commands here, how could it be strategic to reach out to unreached peoples who are living near us?

- ④ **2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-20, EPHESIANS 2:11-18** – What does it mean to “regard no one from a worldly point of view?” Just as Jesus reconciled us who were once alienated and far off, how can we imitate Him in breaking down “dividing walls of hostility?”

- ⑤ **1 THESSALONIANS 2:7 – 8** – What can we learn from Paul's example of sharing not only the gospel with others, but also his life? How might this relate to our outreach to people of different ethnicities?

How have your thoughts about foreigners and minority peoples changed after examining God's Word on the topic?

IDEAS

- ② Look for opportunities to join in ethnic dancing groups or social events in your city. Learn about their culture and appreciate its beauty—God created it!
- ② Go with a friend to a university campus, ethnic neighborhood, area around a mosque/temple, or a restaurant owned by minority peoples to try to meet new friends. You can also spend time praying together in these areas for these people groups, and asking God to bring you to someone.
- ③ Invite your new friend(s) into whatever you are doing (eating meals, shopping, studying). As you build relationship, bring them into community with your friends and church family.

TRUE STORY

Before 2008, all I knew about Muslims was that they were very dangerous and I needed to stay away from them. My guess is that a lot of people feel similarly. At that time, I had no contact with Muslim people; I had a deep prejudice towards them because I'd heard all sorts of rumors. However, over the past two years, I've gotten to know a lot of Muslims. While there are certainly some people who ignore me or put me on guard, most people are very friendly to me, and through them I now have a deeper understanding of Islamic beliefs. I've gotten to share the gospel with 20 or so of these new friends, and I have been surprised and glad that they do not reject me but instead have more respect for me. Through others sharing [their lives, knowledge, and perspectives] with me, praying for the world, and reading [the Bible & other mission resources], I now better understand the gospel and the concept of unreached peoples. And through engaging authentically with Muslims, I feel and experience God's love for them. While I serve in campus ministry, I also regularly study Muslim ministry resources (books, audio-visual materials and activities) and keep in touch with Muslim friends. For me, a group of unreached people is at hand, and I do not have to go out of the country at great cost. They are the intercultural missionary ground that God has put on my doorstep.

— Huan Huan

How will you begin to serve as a welcomer?

Who will keep you accountable?

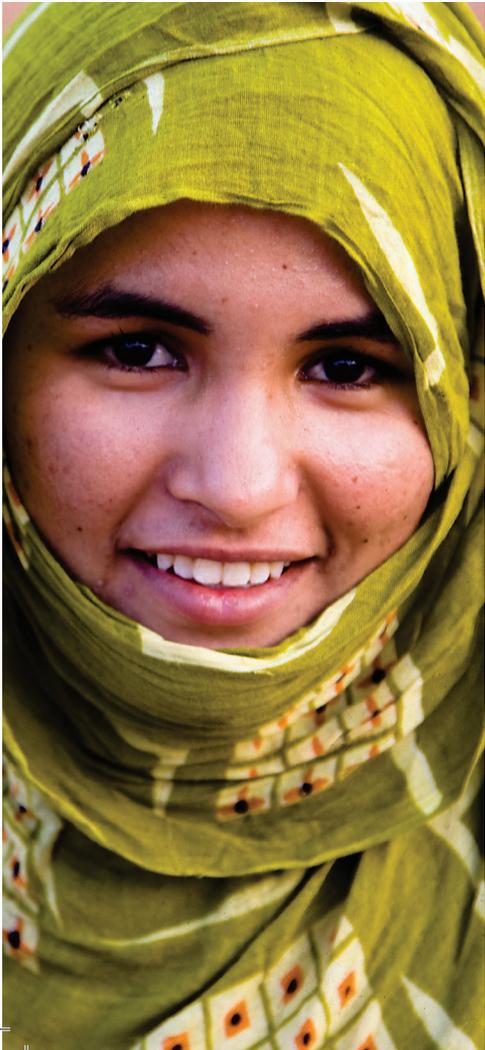
PRAY

THUMB – MUSLIM

Muslims live mostly in Indonesia, North Africa, the Middle East, and Europe

BELIEFS:

- They believe in one god, named Allah, and that Mohammad was his final prophet
- They believe if the good deeds done in life outweigh the bad deeds when they die, they go to paradise
- They respect Jesus as a good prophet, but do not believe he is God



BAGGARA, MESSIRIA OF SUDAN

574,000 PEOPLE

0% EVANGELICAL

Most of the Baggara are nomadic herdsmen in northern Sudan and the surrounding region. The Baggara live in simple dome-shaped tents that are arranged in a circle, into which the cattle are brought for the night. The Baggara tribes are almost completely Muslim faithfully observing the “five pillars of Islam” as many of the men and some of the women are able to make pilgrimages to Mecca.

In each village council of men are the decision makers and all men are involved with caring for the herds. The minority that live in farm communities also plant and harvest the crops. The Baggara are somewhat unusual in that the women work to provide the income needed to maintain the households. They earn cash by milking the cows and selling the milk or milk products. A married woman owns the tent as well as all of its housekeeping contents.

Very little evangelization has been done among



the Baggara tribes. The New Testament has been translated into their language, and some Christian broadcasts are also available to them. However, because the people are so devoted to the Islamic faith, very few Baggara have converted to follow Jesus. In addition, the nomadic lifestyle of many of the Baggara makes it very difficult for missionaries to reach them.

PRAY

- ① Though the Baggara are physically nomadic, pray that they find their spiritual home and rest in Jesus Christ. Pray that they would come to know the Good Shepherd and follow His voice.
- ② Pray the Lord would connect you with minority peoples who are eager to know Christ!
- ③ Ask God to help you be intentional about welcoming minority peoples that you come across every day.



LESSON 6

GOD'S WORK: GOING

SOME WISH TO LIVE WITHIN THE SOUND OF A CHAPEL BELL;
I WANT TO RUN A RESCUE SHOP WITHIN A YARD OF HELL

— C. T. STUDD

PREP

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

In Lesson 2 we saw that there are many people groups who have little to no access to the Gospel. We need more of God's people who will give their lives to serve as cross-cultural servants among unreached peoples. God can use any one of us, with whatever skills, talents, abilities, vocations, or personalities we bring to the table, to minister among the unreached of the world.

FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, CIRCLE EITHER TRUE OR FALSE.

- T or F** Those who are cross-cultural goers need to be gifted linguists.
- T or F** Someone should not even consider going as a cross-cultural worker if he/she has student debt.
- T or F** Most cross-cultural goers cannot use their degrees, or job experience.
- T or F** To serve as a cross-cultural goer, someone must be a church planter or English teacher because that is pretty much all there is to do overseas.
- T or F** If a person's family doesn't want them to go overseas, he/she should stay home no matter what.
- T or F** A person should not go overseas as a cross-cultural goer if he/she is not married.
- T or F** God will not lead someone who desires to go as a cross-cultural laborer to dangerous or hard places. If a person wants to go somewhere like this, it cannot be God's leading.
- T or F** If you haven't raised support or don't like to do it, then going probably is not for you.

What comes to mind when you think of a "missionary?" What scares you the most about the thought of serving God as a cross-cultural goer?

ANSWERS: EEEEEE

[CROSS-CULTURAL GOER]

One who is laboring to reach people of a significantly different culture than their own with the truth of Jesus. Most often, this is on a foreign or distant "field."

[FRONTIER GOER]

Cross-cultural worker that seeks to establish communities of indigenous believers within people groups where the Church does not yet exist.

READ

A MISSIONARY CALL

BY ROBERT E. SPEER

What constitutes a missionary call? It is a good sign that men ask this question. First, because it suggests that they think of the missionary enterprise as singularly related to the will of God. Second, because it indicates that they believe their lives are owned by a Person who has a right to direct them and whose call they must await.

But when we have said these two things, I think we have said everything that can be said in favor of the question because, far too often, it is asked for thoroughly un-Christian reasons.

For instance, Christians will pursue a profession here in the United States having demanded far less positive assurance that this is God's will than it is for them to go out into the mission field. But by what right do they make such distinctions? Christianity contends that the whole of life and all services are to be consecrated; no man should dare to do anything but the will of God. And before he adopts a course of action, a man should know nothing less nor more than that it is God's will for him to pursue it.

If men are going to draw lines of division between different kinds of service, what preposterous reasoning leads them to think that it requires less divine sanction for a man to spend his life easily among Christians than it requires for him to go out as a missionary to the heathen? If men are to have special calls for anything, they ought to have special calls to go about their own business, to have a nice time all their lives, to choose the soft places, to make money, and to gratify their own ambitions.

There is a general obligation resting upon Christians to see that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached to the world. You and I need no

WITH MANY OF US IT IS NOT A MISSIONARY CALL AT ALL THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR; IT IS A SHOVE.

special call to apply that general call of God to our lives. We do need a special call to exempt us from its application to our lives. In other words, every one of us stands under a presumptive obligation to give his life to the world unless we have some special exemption.

This whole business of asking for special calls to missionary work does violence to the Bible. There is the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." We say, "That means other people." There is the promise, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." We say, "That means me." We must have a special divine indication that we fall under the command; we do not ask any special divine indication that we fall under the blessing. By what right do we draw this line of distinction between the obligations of Christianity and its privileges? By what right do we accept the privileges as applying to every Christian and relegate its obligations to the conscience of the few?

It does violence to the ordinary canons of common sense and honest judgment. We do not think of ordering other areas of our lives on this basis.

If I were standing by the bank of a stream, and some little children were drowning, I would not

need an officer of the law to come along and serve on me some legal paper commanding me under such and such a penalty to rescue those children. I should despise myself if I should stand there with the possibility of saving those little lives, waiting until, by some legal proceeding, I was personally designated to rescue them!

Why do we apply, in a matter of infinitely more consequence, principles that we would loathe and abhor if anybody should suggest that we should apply them in the practical affairs of our daily life? Listen for a moment to the wail of the hungry world. Feel for one hour its sufferings. Sympathize for one moment with its woes. And then regard it just as you would regard human want in your neighbor, or the want that you meet as you pass down the street, or anywhere in life.

There is something wonderfully misleading, full of hallucination and delusion in this business of missionary calls. With many of us it is not a missionary call at all that we are looking for; it is a shove. There are a great many of us who

would never hear a call if it came. Somebody must come and coerce us before we will go into missionary work.

Every one of us rests under a sort of general obligation to give life and time and possession to the evangelization of the souls everywhere that have never heard of Jesus Christ. And we are bound to go, unless we can offer some sure ground of exemption which we could with a clear conscience present to Jesus Christ and be sure of His approval upon it.

"Well," you ask, "do you mean, then, that I should take my life in my own hands?" No! That is precisely what I am protesting against! That is exactly what we have done. We have taken our lives in our own hands and proposed to go our own way unless God compels us to go some other way. What I ask is that, until God reveals to us some special, individual path on either side, we should give our lives over into Jesus' hands to go in that path which He has clearly marked out before His church.



DISCUSS

- ① **3 John 5-8** – What does it mean to go for the “sake of the name?” Why do you think it is a better motive than going out of emotion, guilt, or a sense of adventure?

- ② **Romans 10:13-15** – Based on these verses, why is it essential for God’s people to go?

- ③ **Genesis 12:1-3, Matthew 28:18-20, Galatians 3:29** – Abraham was the first to whom God gave the command to go and be a blessing to all nations. Jesus reiterated this command with His final words, and Paul reminds God’s people that we all are called into this promise. In light of this, why do you think so few become cross-cultural goers?

- ④ **Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-47, Acts 1:8** – Where and to whom are we commissioned to demonstrate and declare the gospel?

- ⑤ **Romans 15:19b-21** – Why should Paul’s ambition be the aim of more cross-cultural goers? How is this essential to seeing God’s global purpose completed?

Many of Jesus' first disciples preached and were martyred. In light of their sacrifice, think through what you are willing to sacrifice to see the gospel preached globally.

What is stopping you from committing your life to seeing an unreached people group come to worship Jesus?

IDEAS

- ① Go on a strategic short-term trip within the next year
- ② Confess daily to God that you will go anywhere, at anytime, to do anything for Him, and then be open to His leading.
- ③ Find someone who is or was a long-term cross-cultural goer and ask them to share their story with you.

TRUE STORY

We heard about God's heart for the nations and the statistics of who didn't have access to Jesus at a World Christian Seminar. The information made us take stock of our lives. We had just bought our first home, had jobs we loved, and just had a baby. But we couldn't point to anything in our lives that reflected God's desire to be known among the nations.

Twenty months after our initial encounter we were leaving for East Asia with our two-year old, and our nine-month old baby. Most people thought we were crazy, some thought we were heroes, but we knew we were merely willing to obey. After twelve years of fruitful ministry and adding four more kids (three adopted) we moved our family to Africa. We wouldn't choose anything different because no earthly pleasure can touch the satisfaction of knowing we have followed Him to where the strategic need is the greatest.

— Sean and Amanda

What is one change you want to make because of this lesson?

Who will keep you accountable?

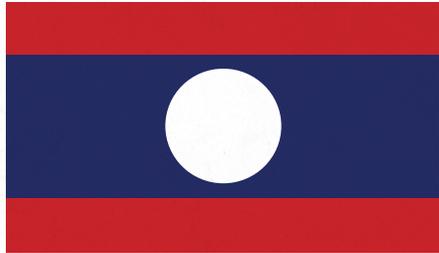
PRAY

THUMB – BUDDHIST

Buddhists live mostly in Southeast Asia, China, and Japan

BELIEFS

- They believe that suffering is caused by desire
- To end suffering, they must rid themselves of desire through meditation and multiple reincarnations
- The ultimate goal is to reach nirvana, where suffering ends and the self ceases to exist



LAO PEOPLE OF LAOS

3,013,000 PEOPLE

LESS THAN 2% EVANGELICAL

Most of the Lao are wet-rice farmers. The Buddhist Wat, or temple, is the center of village life.

Traditionally young men enter village monasteries for about three months to study Buddhism.

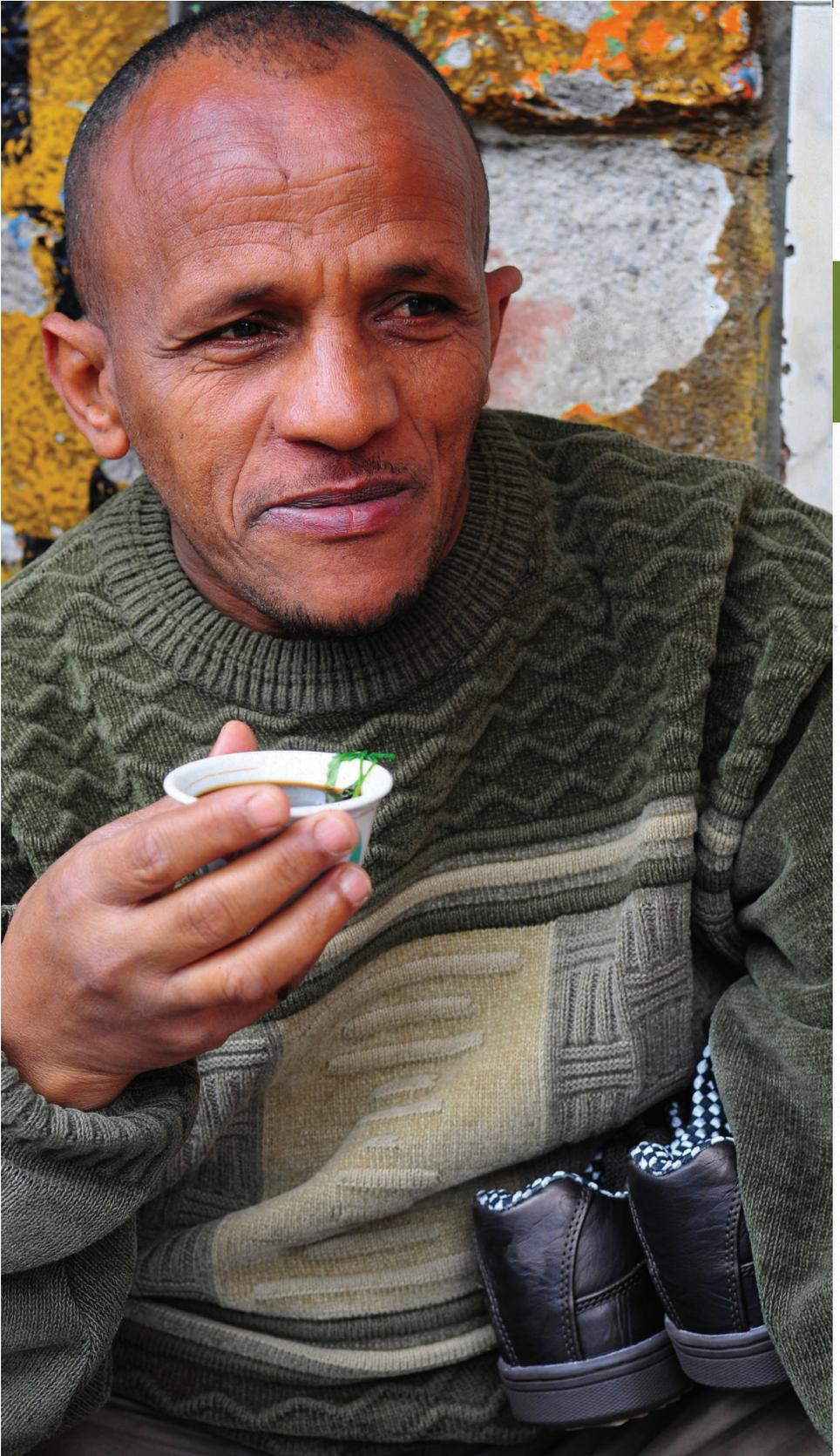
Some Lao farmers take on second jobs as miners, blacksmiths, or fishermen to provide for their large families. A family that includes ten children is common in Laos.

Today's communist government does not allow Christian evangelism. This people has been greatly affected by fighting and bloodshed in the past and is in desperate need of inner healing and true spiritual hope.



PRAY

- ① Pray that the Lao people will find the peace and security they seek in Jesus Christ.
- ② Pray for believers who would consider becoming goers, that the Lord would calm fears of commitment, funds, and approval from others.
- ③ Pray for the raising up and equipping of teams who would go to the Lao and other unreached people groups.



LESSON 7

GOD'S WORK: MOBILIZING

EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD. ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD.

—WILLIAM CAREY

PREP

CALLING OTHERS TO ACTION

For the last six lessons, we have looked at the biblical basis for God's global purpose, and we have seen what is left to fulfill His purpose.

We have examined four World Christian habits that we all can practice to help fulfill the Great Commission: praying, sending welcoming and going. This last lesson is focused on the fifth habit of mobilizing. You have been blessed, and now it is time to pass on the blessing to others.

FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, CIRCLE EITHER TRUE OR FALSE.

- T or F** You have to be outgoing to be a mobilizer.
- T or F** Mobilization is found in the Bible.
- T or F** You must be formally trained to mobilize.
- T or F** Mobilization is only sharing facts; no one

wants to hear your story.

- T or F** Mobilization is trying to get everyone to live in another country.
- T or F** Only 1 person out of every 100 people interested in being a cross-cultural goer actually fulfills a long-term assignment.
- T or F** Mobilizing is hard because there are not many resources available.
- T or F** Mobilizers are those who pray, go, send, and welcome while inviting others to join them.

What do you think of when you think about "mobilization." How are these things related to God's heart to reach all nations?

19199919:ISJMSUE

[MOBILIZERS]

People who empower others with global vision, passion, and strategy, helping them get personally connected to finding their most strategic role in the Great Commission.

[WORLD CHRISTIANS]

People who understand God's heart for the world and strategically live their lives in such a way that wherever they are and whatever they do, they are working to see Him glorified among all nations.

READ

MODELING AND INVITING

BY TITUS H.

Have you ever been really excited about something, or loved something so much that you had to tell others about it? Perhaps it is was a movie, a new electronic device, a vacation spot, or a hobby. Whatever we love, we tell people about and want them to be just as excited as we are. In your excitement, did you ever convince someone else to buy the product, see the movie, or join in your hobby? If so, congratulations, you mobilized them!

God does this too. Our Father is excited and passionate about reaching out to those who have never heard the gospel, and He loves when we join Him in that excitement. Mobilizing people to the unreached is simply sharing God's excitement, and ours, in such a way that people are compelled to join God's mission and grow into a World Christian lifestyle.

A mobilizer is essentially a World Christian who helps other believers become World Christians. It's "mobilizing" them from being on the

sidelines of God's global mission to finding their most strategic role in Jesus' Great Commission. Through mobilization, we point believers around the world to entire people groups who have no access to the Gospel.

The best way to raise up other World Christians is to first model the lifestyle and then invite others to join you. As you pray for the nations, invite someone to pray with you. As you give money and send encouraging notes to missionaries, invite someone to give and write notes too. As you welcome someone from a different culture and religion into your life, invite a friend to welcome internationals along with you.

Jesus is our example in modeling and inviting. He lived a life of holiness and purpose, and then invited others to do the same. Since modeling and inviting is the very heart of mobilization, all of us can be mobilizers. Whether we are a business professionals, stay-at-home moms, or students; whether we are young, old or middle-aged; whether we have a lot of charisma or are more introverted – we can all find a way to model the World Christian lifestyle and invite others to join us.

If you already pray before meals, how about praying for a missionary and an unreached people group? How about asking others to do the same thing and equipping them with resources to pray effectively? If you already are in a Sunday school class or small group, consider asking if your group could spend some time on the biblical basis of missions and status of the world. If you already read and discuss the world news, how about sharing with people how current events are affecting unreached people groups? If you already eat out with friends,

MOBILIZERS HELP OTHER BELIEVERS BECOME WORLD CHRISTIANS



try going to an ethnic restaurant regularly and befriending the staff. These are just a few ways to exert World Christian influence to those around you. Certainly these activities will push you out of your comfort zone, but as you are intentional about giving priority to God's global mission, the habit of modeling and inviting will become a part of who you are and what you do.

If you help just one person a year become a World Christian, you are a mobilizer. If you help ten people, or fifty, or five hundred, you are a mobilizer. Mobilization can take different forms, but often a good place to start is taking people through the same process you went through in becoming a World Christian. The important thing is to seek the Lord, make a plan, and be intentional.

Here are three things to remember as you mobilize

1. Mobilization is best done in the context of relationships, connecting with people life-on-life. We could simply inform people what they should do to grow into a World Christian, but it is better if we walk with them through the process. Be intentional and available to answer questions, help them overcome fears, and encourage them.
2. Mobilizers are good at directing people to resources that will help them develop as a World Christian. Whether it is a missions book, short video, missions agency,

prayer materials, or a website, seek to be knowledgeable about the resources that are available. You don't need to know all the information, just know where to find it. Check out the resources section on page 59 to get started.

3. Remember to remain humble and speak in love. We are not here to tell churches, pastors, or people that they are wrong or they are not doing enough. We are here to encourage, inspire, and model this important part of the kingdom of God. Mobilizers should be a blessing to a local church. If possible, work your mobilization plan within your local body with your leaders' blessing and input, as well as everywhere else that God opens a door.

Regardless of where you think mobilization might lead you, I invite you to start somewhere. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you! And the same Spirit that empowered the early church to be Jesus' "witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" lives in you! God loves all the people of the world, and He is eager to empower you when you set your heart on getting more people to join Him in His great mission. I invite you to make mobilization part of your lifestyle. I invite you to go mobilize.

DISCUSS

① **Nehemiah 1:2-4, 2:7-9, 4:22-23, 6:15-16** – In what ways did Nehemiah serve as a mobilizer? How did he go about it? What can we learn about his life for mobilizing others today?

② **Acts 4:36-37, 9:26-31** – What about Barnabas made him good at mobilizing others? How did he mobilize others? What could have happened to Paul if Barnabas had not been there with him?

③ **Matthew 4:19, 1 Corinthians 4:16-20, 2 Timothy 2:2** – What do these verses reveal about how Jesus and Paul mobilized God's people? What then, are the implications for our lives?

Describe the things that impacted you in this *Xplore* study.

Brainstorm ways (whether small or large) that as individuals or a group you could share with others the things that have been most impactful for you.

What are your thoughts and feelings about helping to mobilize others? Are you excited, scared, unsure, confident, etc.?

TRUE STORY

When I caught the vision of God's heart for the world, I really began to see the need in the 10/40 Window and among the unreached. I wanted to empower others to get involved, so I started sharing verses about God's heart for the world in my Bible study. I also invited the other girls in my study to come with me as I met new international friends. The girls really caught the vision to reach the nations and have started passing it on to others. It is so great to see God influencing and mobilizing His Church to take the gospel to the ends of the earth!

— Jennie

IDEAS

List 2 to 10 people with whom you could share what you are learning. Mark which of them you could invite to go through an *Xplore* study with you.

What is one change you want to make because of this lesson?

Who will keep you accountable?

PRAY

In this time of prayer, we are going to do something different. Instead of praying for an unreached people group, let's pray for the Ethiopian church to be mobilized and make reaching the unreached a priority.



THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

ETHIOPIA HAS ABOUT 25 MILLION PEOPLE IN MORE THAN 25 UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

ETHIOPIA HAS 15 MILLION EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS (18% OF ETHIOPIA'S TOTAL POPULATION)

The Ethiopian church is in a strategic position to reach the unreached people groups in their country and in their region of Africa. There are 15 million evangelical Ethiopian believers who live in a country with at least 25 unreached people groups. The Ethiopian Government follows an "ethnic based federalism," where every people group and tribe is given extended freedom to develop its own language and culture. Therefore most of the people groups live distinctly separate from each other. At the same time, especially in the capital city of Addis Ababa, many people groups live and work within blocks of each other.

While there are still barriers to cross, when Ethiopians reach out to other Ethiopians, the barriers of geography, accessibility, and culture are relatively small. The situation is similar regionally. Ethiopians have unique access into some of the most unreached countries on earth such as Oman, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia. Yet less than 50 missionaries have been sent abroad in recent history.

There are encouraging efforts by some Ethiopians to reach the unreached, but more needs to be done. The Ethiopian church lives right next door to the unreached and has great potential to send out many more workers. Let us pray for the mobilization of the Ethiopian church!



PRAY

- ① That God would bless the Ethiopian church with peace and wholeness so they can boldly demonstrate great love, compassion, and service to the unreached near them.
- ② For the Holy Spirit to draw church leaders together in unity to courageously, efficiently, and in continuity reach out to the unreached.
- ③ That the current mobilization movement within Ethiopia takes deep root in families, pastors, and denominations.

CONGRATULATIONS! You're on your way to becoming a World Christian! Even better, God has plans for you to be a blessing to others ... even to the ends of the earth!

Our goal is not just to see how many people can finish one more study booklet. We are praying that campuses, churches, and groups all over the world would be awakened to God's global plan! Now that your group has completed this *Xplore* study, we challenge you to take this tool and gather a handful of other believers to go through it with you. No experience or credentials are needed on your part—only your willingness to pull together a few friends and lead a discussion. Let God use you to impact the world!

Who knows? Maybe your journey begins right **here** ...

RESOURCES

WANZUWANMIN

wanzuwanmin.com

THE TRAVELING TEAM

thetravelingteam.org

GLOBAL PRAYER DIGEST

globalprayerdigest.org

CAMPUS MINISTRY TODAY

campusministrytoday.org

WEAVE

weavefamily.org

OPERATION WORLD

operationworld.org

MISSION FRONTIERS MAGAZINE

missionfrontiers.org

WILLIAM CAREY LIBRARY

missionbooks.org

STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT 2

svm2.org

ASK A MISSIONARY

askamissionary.com

6 WAYS TO REACH GOD'S WORLD

6ways2reach.org

BIBLICAL BASIS OF MISSIONS

[OLD TESTAMENT]

THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:28

COMMAND TO NOAH

Genesis 9:1

TOWER OF BABEL

Genesis 11:1-9

PROMISE TO ABRAHAM'S FAMILY

Genesis 12:1-3, 26:4; 28:14

THE EXODUS

Exodus 9:15-16, Joshua 4:23-24

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Deuteronomy 4:5-6

SOLOMON'S WISDOM

1 Kings 4:34

THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 8:41-43

DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17:46

SHADRACH, MESHACH, ABEDNEGO

Daniel 3:28-29

DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN

Daniel 6:25-27

PROPHECY ABOUT JESUS

Isaiah 49:6

THE PSALMS

2:8	47:1-9	86:9
9:11	57:9	96:1-13
18:49	66:1-8	98:1-9
22:27-28	67:1-7	99:1-3
45:17	72:8-11	105:1
46:10	77:13-14	108:1-5

[NEW TESTAMENT]

Matthew 24:14

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 11:17, 13:10, 16:15

Luke 24:46-47

John 20:21

Acts 1:8, 13:46-47, 15:7-19

Romans 1:5, 15:15-21, 16:25-27

Galatians 3:8

Ephesians 3:6-8

1 Timothy 2:3-4

1 John 2:2

Revelation 5:9-10, 7:9-10

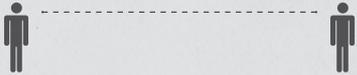
COMMIT TO A CHALLENGE:

Download the 30-Day or 7-Day Challenge on the biblical basis of missions here: mobilization.org/challenges

SHARE THE WINDOW

The Window is an excellent way to invite people into exploring a World Christian lifestyle. In a simple sketch you can share God's Word, God's World, & God's Work. The Window will help you share the Bible verses you have memorized as well as the THUMB acronym. Check out how it works.

EXAMPLE OF THE WINDOW COMPLETED

1	GOD'S WORD Gen 12:1-3; Ps 46:10; Is 49:6; Matt 28:19-20; and Rev 5:9 SURVEY OF THE BIBLE IN 5	2	GOD'S WORLD Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious, Muslim & Buddhist 5 THUMB
3	GOD'S WORK Going, Sending, Welcoming, Mobilizing & Praying 5 Habits	4	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> C Where are you? WC </div> 

HOW TO BEGIN

TRANSITION 1: Start off by asking your friend if he or she has ever heard of the World Christian lifestyle or understands what it means to be a World Christian.

ACTION: Draw the Window diagram with the four panes in middle. Leave the diagram blank for now.

EXPLANATION: Explain that by using this diagram, we can better understand God's global purpose and what our role is as followers of Christ.

GOD'S WORD	
GOD'S WORK	

TRANSITION 2: Say, "But in order for us to understand God's global purposes and to join with Him in the most strategic way possible, there are three areas we need to understand. These three are: ..."

ACTION: Label the top left box "God's Word," the top right box "God's World," and the

bottom left box "God's Work." Leave the bottom right box blank for now.

EXPLANATION: Explain that a World Christian is simply a Christian who has a global perspective on his or her Christian life, and that they have come to understand these three areas: God's Word, God's World, and God's Work and that they live their lives based on this.

1

GOD'S WORD

Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 46:10; Is. 49:6;
Matt. 28:19-20; and Rev. 5:9

SURVEY OF THE BIBLE IN 5

TRANSITION 3: Starting with God's Word, ask your friend if he or she knows any verses that deal with mission or with the nations. Write any verses they know somewhere to the side of the Window.

ACTION: Now tell your friend that the Bible is full of verses about God's love for the nations, but we are going to focus on five. Write the number "5" in

the box labeled God's Word. Then list out: Gen 12:1-3, Ps 46:10, Is 49:6, Matt 28:19-20, Rev 7:9.

EXPLANATION: Spend a few minutes going over the five verses, pausing to explain how each verse shows God's global purpose. It's good to have a Bible with you as you share, but we also encourage you to have the verses memorized.

2

GOD'S WORLD

Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious,
Muslim & Buddhist

5 THUMB

TRANSITION 4: "We just read that God desires to reach all nations and peoples with His gospel. In light of this, a World Christian needs know what the world looks like today and what people groups have not yet heard gospel message. Currently, almost all unreached people are members of one of these five mega groups."

ACTION: Write the number "5", and next to it the THUMB acronym in the top left box labeled God's World. Say something like: "If you can remember your thumb, then you can remember 90% of the world's unreached people groups." You can also write the number "10" outside the bottom left corner and the number "40" outside the top left corner. Use these two numbers to explain the 10/40 Window, the geographical area where most of the world's unreached live.

EXPLANATION: Explain the five mega groups: Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious, Muslim, and Buddhist. Explain to your friend that very little of the global church's attention is focused on these five groups—that they receive less than 10% of the church's missionary efforts and less than .1% of financial resources. Mention the ratio of Christian workers per million unreached. For example, there are only 2 workers per one million Hindus. In contrast, explain how the majority of the global church's time, talent, and treasure go to reach places that are already strongly Christian. Make sure you explain the difference between the reached and unreached.

3

GOD'S WORK

Going, Sending, Welcoming,
Mobilizing & Praying

5 Habits

TRANSITION 5: "In light of God's Word and the needs in God's World, the World Christian is engaging in God's Work. And they do this by practicing the '5 Habits of a World Christian.'"

ACTION: Write "5 Habits" in the box labeled God's Work. On the side, from top to bottom, list out the five habits: Praying, Sending, Welcoming, Going, and Mobilizing.

APPENDIX

READ

- LESSON 1:** *God's Heart for the World* by Todd Ahrend, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Reader*. 4th ed. William Carey Library, 2009, p.49. Used by permission from The Traveling Team.
- LESSON 2:** *The 10/40 Window* by Bryan Lee
Used by permission from The Traveling Team.
Statistics have been updated from original article.
- LESSON 3:** *Praying God's Will and Seeing Change* by Titus H.
Used by permission
- LESSON 4:** *Sending* based on an article by The Traveling Team
Used by permission from The Traveling Team. thetravelingteam.org
- LESSON 5:** *Welcoming the World At Your Door* by Douglas Shaw and Bob Norsworthy, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Reader*, 4th ed. William Carey Library, 2009, p.750-751. Used by permission from Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 1997.
- LESSON 6:** *A Missionary Call* by Robert Speer
Used by permission from The Traveling Team. thetravelingteam.org
- LESSON 7:** *Mofeling and Inviting* by Titus H.

All quotes at beginning of lessons used by permission from The Traveling Team.
thetravelingteam.org

PRAY

Stories from **Global Prayer Digest:** globalprayerdigest.org
Statistics from **Joshua Project:** joshuaproject.net

ENDNOTES

1. *The Story of His Glory* by Steven C. Hawthorne, Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Reader. 4th ed. William Carey Library, 2009, p.59.
2. Statistics in T/F section from:
The Task Remaining by Ralph D. Winter and Bruce A. Koch, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Reader*. 4th ed. William Carey Library, 2009, p.531-546.
Operation World. 7th ed. by Jason Mandryk, Biblica Publishing, 2010, p.1, 6, 33, 447.
The Gideons International, gideons.org | Wycliffe Bible Translators, wycliffe.org |
Joshua Project, joshuaproject.net
3. Statistics from Joshua Project, joshuaproject.net
4. Statistics from *The Task Remaining* by Ralph D. Winter and Bruce A. Koch, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Reader*. 4th ed. William Carey Library, 2009, p.541.
5. Statistics from The Institute of International Education, Inc. iie.org
6. Quote from Wesley Tullis, former Director of Prayer Mobilization for YWAM. Used by permission from The Traveling Team. thetravelingteam.org
7. A special thanks to the original authors and compilers Andy K. and Joe M. and to subsequent editors Christina J. and Titus H.

NOTES

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the



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BECOME A MOBILIZER.



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XPLORE

***XPLORE IS A 7 LESSON STUDY
TO HELP YOU DISCOVER:***

GOD'S WORD

**DOES THE BIBLE HAVE A COMMON THEME THAT TIES IT ALL
TOGETHER, OR IS IT JUST A COLLECTION OF GREAT STORIES?**

GOD'S WORLD

**DID YOU KNOW THERE MORE THAN 7 BILLION PEOPLE
ON THE PLANET TODAY? WHO ARE THEY? WHAT DO
THEY BELIEVE? HOW IS THE CHURCH INVOLVED?**

GOD'S WORK

**WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE? HOW DO WE FIT INTO GOD'S PLAN? DOES
ONE PERSON REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE? HOW CAN WE START?**

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