

Paradigm Discipleship

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The purpose of this resource is to provide some guidance for you as you encourage your disciple to develop a Biblical view on God's plan to draw the nations to Himself.

The following resource is a guide that provides some basic structure to developing a study on "God's heart for the nations".

We encourage you to do your own study, using this resource as a guide, to develop a learning experience for you and your disciple that will help you both develop a better understanding of God's expressed plan to glorify Himself through every tribe, tongue, and nation.

God's expressed plan to glorify Himself through every tribe, tongue, and nation

Opening Question: What is the definition of missions?

*Possible responses:

- *Sharing the Gospel
- *Going overseas to share the Gospel.
- *Helping others by building houses, schools volunteering etc.

Follow up Question: Where in the Bible does it talk about missions?

*Let your disciple try to answer this question – make sure they are using scripture to back up their response.

*Possible texts that answer this question:

- *Matthew 24:14 - Christ's will statements about the advancement of the Gospel.
- *Matthew 28:18-20 – Great commission.
- *Colossians 1:24-29 – Paul talks about his calling to the Gentiles, people outside of his culture.
- *Revelation 7:9-12 – The future result of global evangelism.

*To answer the question, what is Missions, we are going to look at the: who, what, when, where, and why.

The who, what when, where, and why of missions:

Study Question: Who should be involved in missions?

*Read Matthew 28:18-20. Christ commands us to go. Point out the fact that these are His last words on earth and that to obey we must be aware of God's global purpose. Every Christian should be involved in some way.

*Read John 14:15

Who should be the recipients of Missions?

*Read Malachi 1:11. The word nation here is a word used in the Old Testament to refer to everyone that is not a part of Israel. Every group, sub group etc outside of the nation Israel.

*There are two groups of lost people in the world.

1. **The unsaved**- this group is mainly found in the North America, Europe, and parts of Africa and South America. These are people who have access to the Gospel and scripture in their language. If they wanted to they could attend church or a Bible study legally and easily, but they are not yet Christians.

2. **The unreached**- this group is found everywhere else and is made up of 2 billion people, one third of the world's population. These people have never had access to the Gospel, have no scripture in their language and will likely live and die without ever hearing the name of Christ.

Follow up Question: With these statistics in mind, who do you think should be targeted by our mission efforts?

Study Question: What is missions?

*Read Isaiah 43:5-7

*Read Genesis 12:1-3

*Missions is God's expressed, Isaiah 43:5-7, plan to gain worship from every tribe, tongue and nation, Genesis 12:1-3 (all the families of the earth).

Study Question: When did the mission begin, and when will it end?

*Again refer to Genesis 12:1-3. This is not when the plan began, but it is when God first made His intentions to bless every nation through His son Jesus Christ known to us.

*Read Matthew 24:14. The task will not be finished until the Gospel has been proclaimed to the whole world.

Study Question: Where must we go to obey the commands of Christ?

*Read Genesis 12:1-3 again.

*What is the word God uses here to describe the nations.

*Does God view the world the same as we do with nations and countries etc?

Study Question: Why do Missions or what is the purpose of Missions?

*Let your disciple really contemplate the answer. If they give an answer ask them to provide scripture that backs it up.

In Let the Nations Be Glad John Piper says, "*Missions exists because worship does not.*"

Follow Up Question: With this quote in mind, what is the purpose of missions?

*Read John 12:27-28 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

*What was Christ concerned with in this verse? Why did He choose to endure the cross?

Christ died for the glory of God and it is that same passion that drives the heart of true missions. People's soul's, religious experience, social justice and any other reason that you could think of to move overseas is not sufficient to sustain God glorifying long-term missions.