

# Tell of His Glory Among the Nations

*Thirteen Bible studies about world missions*

*by Werner Mischke, Mission ONE*

## KEY SCRIPTURES

<b>1. Abraham and the Global Blessing</b> <i>God's promise to bless Abraham's "family" — foundation for global mission</i>	GENESIS 12:1–3 HEBREWS 6:13–20
<b>2. God's Passion for His Glory</b> <i>The ultimate catalyst for mission</i>	EXODUS 9:13–16 NUMBERS 14:21
<b>3. Tell of His Glory Among the Nations</b> <i>Can global mission be saturated with joy and glory to God?</i>	PSALM 96:1–12
<b>4. Glory, Forgiveness, Mission</b> <i>How does a holy God send redeemed sinners on mission?</i>	ISAIAH 6:1–8
<b>5. The Involuntary Missionary</b> <i>How God's people use "resistance strategies" to avoid God's mission</i>	JONAH 1–4
<b>6. The Man for All Peoples</b> <i>The "all-nations, all-peoples" salvation message of Jesus Christ</i>	VARIOUS VERSES FROM THE GOSPELS
<b>7. Our Lord's Great Commission, PART 1</b> <i>All authority / All the peoples</i>	MATTHEW 28:18–19
<b>8. Our Lord's Great Commission, PART 2</b> <i>All that I commanded / All the days</i>	MATTHEW 28:20
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<b>10. The Glorious Mission of the Christian Community</b> <i>The church of Jesus Christ — new community for global mission</i>	EPHESIANS 3:1–10
<b>11. Beautiful Feet, Powerful Word</b> <i>"How shall they hear without a preacher?"</i>	ROMANS 10:8–18
<b>12. A Glorious Aspiration: Glory to Jesus from All Peoples</b> <i>Worship and glory to Jesus as the ultimate motive for mission</i>	ROMANS 15:8–21
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# Tell of His Glory Among the Nations

Thirteen Bible studies about world missions

INTRODUCTION

**“Christians should no longer teach the biblical basis of world missions; we should teach the mission basis of the Bible.”**

*—Dr. Ralph Winter*

This study is designed to help you explore—on your own or in a small group setting—thirteen Scripture passages or themes related to world missions. The lessons are written with these beliefs:

**THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE AND ALIVE.** The Bible is divinely inspired. The Holy Spirit wrote it through the agency of various human authors and when you and I, as followers of Jesus Christ, study the Bible with a humble dependence on the Holy Spirit, IT IS ALIVE! God speaks to us with full authority through His Word. This study is a tool to help you understand what God is saying in His Word concerning your part in His global mission. (2 Tim. 3:16, Heb. 4:12)

**THE BIBLE IS A STORY ABOUT GOD WORKING IN CREATION AND HISTORY TO DISPLAY HIS GLORY.** We need to try see the Bible from God’s viewpoint—as a grand eternal love story about God conquering the kingdom of darkness and simultaneously drawing the worship of the nations through the redeeming grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. It’s all for His glory. (Gen. 1:1, Gen. 12:1–3, Num. 14:21, Rom. 11:36, Rev. 5:9–14)

**THE BIBLE CAN BE UNDERSTOOD BY AVERAGE PEOPLE.** There are things about the Bible that are hard to understand; however, our problem is not in understanding the Bible, but in obeying and living out what we DO understand. So, go ahead: study the Bible with faith in the Holy Spirit’s assistance. Have a readiness to obey. Get help from respected Christian authors to understand the harder parts. And you’ll be amazed at how much you’ll understand, because you will be living it! God WANTS you to understand His love and His ways, so He WILL help you to understand His Book. (John 14:26, 1 John 2:27, 1 John 5:13–14)

**THE BIBLE—WHEN MIXED WITH FAITH AS PART OF A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST—CHANGES LIVES AND NATIONS.** It is one of God’s laws of life: you become like the object of your worship. Therefore, if you gaze at Jesus, loving Him, worshiping Him, obeying Him, you will become like Jesus. Your life will change, and it will be beautiful. If you sincerely study these lessons, you will want to be more personally involved in the Great Commission. (John 14:4–5, Heb. 4:2, 2 oCr. 3:18, Psa. 135:18)

**THE BIBLE IS A LOVE STORY AND A MISSION HANDBOOK.** God has a global purpose to conquer the kingdom of darkness and simultaneously draw the worship of the nations through the redeeming grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. It follows that the Bible is the primary handbook for people to explore how to be fully engaged in God’s global mission enterprise. (John 3:16, Luke 24:44–47, 1 Pet. 1:4, John 20:21, 1 John 3:8)

**SO DIG IN!** My confident hope is that you will be greatly challenged and enriched by God’s Word through these studies. – Werner Mischke

## HINTS FOR EFFECTIVE BIBLE STUDY

1. **Pray before and after** your study. Verbalize your faith in God’s Word with verses such as Ephesians 1:17, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16
2. **Set aside a time each day** to study God’s Word. The daily discipline will keep you on track to grow consistently.
3. **Talk about it** with one or two others, or in a small group. Go through the study with others and learn together how God is speaking to you through His Word.
4. **Apply what you learn.** When you sense that God is speaking to you, put it into practice immediately.
5. **Use the power of writing.** Use these studies as a journal to develop, meditate, and reflect upon your thoughts and prayers.

LESSON GOALS

1) Demonstrate that God's promise to Abraham some 4000 years ago is foundational to God's global mission.

2) Experience encouragement because of God's unchangeable promise to fulfill His global mission.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Genesis 12:1–3  
 Genesis 22:15–18  
 Hebrews 6:13–20  
 \*NOTE: God changed Abram's name to "Abraham" in Genesis 17:5. For the sake of simplicity, this study uses only the name, "Abraham."

FURTHER STUDY

Genesis 13–22  
 Matthew 1:1  
 Acts 3:24–26  
 Romans 4  
 Galatians 3

MORE INSIGHTS

See Thomas Cahill: *The Gifts of the Jews*: (New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 1998). Though Cahill is not evangelical, his chapter entitled "The Unexplainable Innovation" is an inspiring description of God's covenant with Abraham — and its enduring impact on Western civilization.

# Abraham and the Global Blessing

## *God's promise to bless Abraham's "family"—foundation for global mission*

Abraham's father was Terah. On the back of this page, draw a "family tree" of Terah, his sons and their families—based on Genesis 11:26–29.

In Joshua 24:2, what do we learn about Abraham's\* religious practice before God blessed him?

.....

What do we learn about Abraham's wife, Sarai, in Gen. 11:30? .....

Why is this important? .....

.....

In Genesis 12:1, God told Abraham to "Go forth..." What was Abraham to leave? .....

.....

Why do you imagine God wanted Abraham to leave most of what he knew and loved?

.....

And where was he to go? .....

What does this imply about Abraham's relationship with God? .....

.....

What is the scope of God's promise/blessing to Abraham (Gen. 12:2–3, and .....

.....

Look up the following verses in Genesis 17:3–5, 18:17–19, 22:15–18, 26:1–5, and 28:13–14. What is the common theme in these passages? .....

.....

What is the significance of God repeating Himself like this? .....

.....

What does Galatians 3:14 tell us about God's promise to Abraham? .....

.....

In a sense, Galatians 3:14 & 29 tells believers that they are in a grand global "Story." Explain:

.....

.....

Hebrews 6:13–20 gives added meaning to the God's promise to Abraham (Gen. 22:16). In particular, Heb. 6:17 speaks of the "unchangeableness of His purpose." What does this refer to?

.....

.....

How is this a "strong encouragement" (Heb. 6:18)? .....

.....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

LESSON GOALS

Demonstrate that God's love for humanity and God's passion for His glory are like two sides of the same coin.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Exodus 9:13–16  
Numbers 14:1–20  
John 12:27–29

FURTHER STUDY

Psalms 22:27  
Psalm 72:19  
Isaiah 6:3  
Isaiah 11:9  
Habakkuk 2:14  
Zechariah 14:9  
Revelation 15:4

MORE INSIGHT

See Steven Hawthorne: "The Story of His Glory" a thrilling overview of Scripture with God's glory as the theme. Free 16-page download at: <http://tiny.cc/iemijw>

SEE ALSO

John Piper: *God's Passion for His Glory* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998). A great book on the supremacy of the glory of God in all things; the book is based largely on the brilliant work of Jonathan Edwards.

# God's Passion for His Glory

## *The ultimate catalyst for mission*

In Ex. 6:1–9, God states His clear intention to bless His people who are enslaved in Egypt. What is the scope and relational depth of God's commitment to His people? .....

In Ex. 9:13–16, God is speaking through Moses to Pharaoh. What can we see in this passage that shows that the Exodus is not just about saving people out of bondage, but also, a powerful demonstration by God to draw the attention of the nations to Himself? .....

Notice the phrase: "...to proclaim my name through all the earth" (Ex. 9:16). God is saying that He is saving His people in order to become famous; He is acting in behalf of His glory or fame among the nations. What is the relation of God's saving grace to God's passion for His glory? .....

Exodus 1–15 reveals how God faithfully—with great power and might—saved His people from bondage. Intent on following through on His promise to also give them a "land flowing with milk and honey," God brings them to the threshold of entering this promised land. In Numbers 13, twelve spies are sent to explore the land. What were the reports given by the spies when they returned? (v.25–33) .....

What was the reaction of the people? (Num. 14:1–10) .....

And God's response? (Num. 14:11–12) .....

In Num. 14:13–19, Moses pleads with God in behalf of the people. Note how Moses appeals to two aspects of God's character: 1) God's passion for His glory—His fame among the nations (v.15–16), and 2) God's lovingkindness (v.18–19). How does God respond in Num. 14: 20–21? .....

How much divine intensity or passion do you think is found in v.20–21? Why? .....

How is God's passion for His glory and His saving grace for humanity revealed in the prayer dialog between the God the Son and God the Father in John 12:27–29? .....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

LESSON GOALS

1) Show that God reveals His glory to all nations, in order to receive glory from all peoples through worship.  
 2) Show that in Psalm 96, God's mission is "framed" in great joy.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 96

COMMENT

Is obedience to the Great Commission simply a moral duty to God in order to meet the great need of man? In Psalm 96, we see man's responsibility to extend God's salvation to all peoples (and so man's needs are met); but we also see the Great Commission enterprise as a global mission for the glory of God—and we see that this mission is "framed" in exuberant joy. The Psalm begins (v. 1–2) with a call to rejoice with singing—and ends (v. 11–13) with unrestrained joy expressed unto God by all creation.

# Tell of His Glory Among the Nations

## Can global mission be saturated with joy and glory to God?

Psalm 96:1 Why is the command to "Sing unto the Lord a new song" a call to creative, joyful obedience? .....

Psalm 96:2–3 What is to be declared among all peoples? .....

Name three of God's wonderful, glorious deeds which are to be declared among all peoples.

1) .....

2) .....

3) .....

Psalm 96:2–3 Why can these two verses be understood as an Old Testament version of the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18–20? .....

Psalm 96: 4–5 If Psalm 96:2–3 is the WHAT of the Great Commission, verses 4–5 present the WHY.

Explain the rationale for world evangelization based on:

v. 4 .....

v. 5 .....

Psalm 96:7–9 What is God receiving from the people to whom He has revealed His glory?

The Great Commission principle from Psalm 96 is this: God REVEALS His glory to all nations—in order to RECEIVE glory from all peoples through worship. Explain this principle in your own words:

.....

Psalm 96:10 What other aspects of God's character are to be declared among nations? .....

.....

Psalm 96:11–13 Note the exuberant joy which one day will be expressed by all creation. God's mission, as expressed in Psalm 96, is framed in great joy. Why does joyful obedience give more glory to God than dutiful obedience? .....

.....

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. The main idea of this verse is that worshiping the Lord—gazing at Jesus Christ—has the impact of transforming the one who is worshiping "from glory to glory." How does this show that the worship of God, and the love of God for people, are integrated? .....

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What meaning do the following verses add to this theme of joy? Nehemiah 8:10, John 4:36, and Philippians 2:17 .....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

**LESSON GOALS**

Teach that the glorious character of God is a multi-faceted excellence: In holiness, God has a righteous hatred for sin—while in His love, He forgives sinners and sends them “on mission.”

2) Show that personal commitment to a life of mission follows first, a vision of the glory of God, and second, a profound forgiveness.

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

Num: 14:20–36  
Isaiah 6:1–8

**NOTES**

1) At a specific moment in history, the man Isaiah saw God, probably in 739 or 740 BC. Isaiah served as a prophet from 740 to 680 BC. Uzzaiah died in 739 BC, having ruled 50+ years (790–739 BC)

2) Uzzaiah ruled a long time and was considered a good king under which Israel grew in power and fame. It is likely that Isaiah was close to the king and the death of Uzzaiah a crisis in his life; it was likely a big personal loss suffered by Isaiah.

# Glory, Forgiveness, Mission

## How does a holy God send redeemed sinners on mission?

Consider Numbers 14:20–37. How is the holiness of God revealed in this account?.....

### GOD IS HOLY AND GLORIOUS

In what ways is the holiness or glory of God is revealed in these verses in Isaiah 6:

v.1 .....

v.2 .....

v.3 .....

v.4 .....

### GOD KNOWS YOUR SIN

v. 5 What does Isaiah mean when he says, “I am undone...” .....

Why is the reality of Isaiah’s “unclean lips” (as well as that of God’s people) so great an offense to God? .....

How does Psalm 33:8–9 emphasize the God’s integrity of thought, speech, and action? .....

Isaiah 29:13 offers a contrast. Explain: .....

### GOD FORGIVES YOU

v.6–7 How does God bring forgiveness to Isaiah? .....

The “live coal” is brought by a seraphim to touch Isaiah’s lips. One would imagine it would hurt terribly—something to fear. But it brings forgiveness and healing. What do you think this tells us about the activity of God in our lives? .....

### GOD SENDS YOU ON HIS MISSION

v.8 Almighty God asks “Who will go for Us?” Isaiah responds, “Send me.” Notice the process: confronting God’s holiness... followed by the experience of God’s forgiveness... followed by the forgiven one being sent on mission. Does this tell you anything about how God may be working in your life? .....

Why might you tremble with both fear and delight if you were to say to the Lord, “Here am I; send me.” .....



LESSON GOALS

1) Demonstrate that Jonah's life typifies how God's people often have "resistance strategies" about obeying the Great Commission.

2) Show that true repentance is needed by God's people in order to have their lives restructured for God's global purpose.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Jonah 1–4  
Matt. 28:18–19

NOTE: Some of the ideas in this lesson are derived from the article, "The Biblical Foundation for the Worldwide Mission Mandate," by Johannes Verkuyl, in Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Hawthorne and Winter, Eds., pages 27–33 (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999).

# The Involuntary Missionary

## How God's people use "resistance strategies" to avoid God's mission

Describe 3 things about Nineveh (capital of Assyria) from Isaiah 37:36–37

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....

In a word, what is the relationship between Israel and Nineveh? .....

What is the parallel between Jonah and the Great Commission in...

Jonah 1:1 and Matthew 28:18? .....

Jonah 1:2 and Matthew 28:19? .....

Based on Jonah 1:2, 3:10 and 4:11, why does God send Jonah to Nineveh? .....

How did Jonah respond to God's Word? (v.3) .....

Jonah's response typifies the attitude of God's people throughout history concerning their disobedience in sharing God's blessing. Jonah's "resistance strategy" was to go "down to Joppa" and flee "from the presence of the Lord." What are some modern-day "resistance strategies" that Christians use to rationalize their disobedience to the Great Commission? .....

Jonah had a merciless ethnocentric attitude toward Nineveh. In what ways has the Church displayed a similar attitude? .....

In Jonah 1:4–5, God sends a great wind to cause a stormy judgment, but Jonah sleeps through it in the bottom of the boat. What are some worldly satisfactions that similarly keep Christians "asleep" today? .....

Jonah was a respected leader, yet Jonah's ordeal with God and the big fish proves that God had to do major restructuring in Jonah's life—to simply get him to the point of being available for God's mission. Similarly, what may God be saying to the Church today? .....

In Jonah chapter 2, Jonah repents. But in chapter 4, we see that Jonah had not changed in his heart. What kind of repentance is needed by believers today to be available for God's mission? .....

Although Jonah is displeased with God, God nevertheless tenderly tries to keep teaching Jonah. What lesson was God trying to teach by causing the plant to grow, and then to wither? (4:7–11) .....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

LESSON GOALS

Demonstrate that the life and teachings of Jesus Christ have a global mission mandate that is unique, absolute and exclusive. \*NOTE: The life and teachings of Jesus Christ are unmistakably universal, that is, His life, His teachings, and the salvation work He accomplished — are available for all the peoples of the earth. Many more references to this truth about Christ are contained in the Gospels than those contained in this lesson.

FURTHER INSIGHT

See Don Richardson: "A Man for All Peoples" in Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Hawthorne and Winter, Eds., pages 104–107 (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999)

# The Man for All Peoples

## The "all-nations, all-peoples" salvation message of Jesus Christ

What prophecy about Israel and the Servant-Messiah is contained in Isaiah 49:6? .....

Describe how the following verses reveal that the salvation message of Jesus Christ is for all peoples. Look for the words "world" or "earth" or "nations." (NOTE: Some of these verses will not have these words but will simply be applicable to all peoples of all nations for all time.)

Matt. 5:14 .....

Matt. 16:27 .....

John 1:10–12 .....

John 1:29 .....

John 3:16 .....

John 8:58 .....

John 14:6 .....

Luke 2:10–14 .....

Luke 4:17–19 .....

Read Luke 4:22–30. After Jesus received a "favorable review" (v.22), he intentionally provoked the Jews by speaking of Old Testament accounts of God's blessing on individuals who are non-Jewish. How does this reveal the global mission purpose of the life of Jesus? .....

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus refers to Himself 31 times as the Son of Man. How does this title reinforce His global mission identity? .....

The "Great Commission" refers to the command given by Jesus in Matt. 28:18-20, but each of the Gospels — plus the book of Acts have the global mission mandate. Describe:

Matt: 28:18–20 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 16:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 24:45–47: What does Jesus say is the key message of the Old Testament? \_\_\_\_\_

John 20:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

When Jesus Christ said, "It is finished" (John 19:30), what global work of mission did He accomplish? See 2 Cor. 5:19 .....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.



LESSON GOAL

1) Explore the authority of Christ as the basis for mission.  
 2) Show that "all nations" means all "peoples" or ethnic groups.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matt. 28:18–19

NOTE: In his article, "Mandate on the Mountain" Steven Hawthorne indicates that Revelation 5 may be the actual account of the transfer of authority to Jesus Christ referred to in Matt. 28:18. This rich, inspiring article offers much more insight on other aspects of Matt. 28:18–20, and is found in: Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Hawthorne and Winter, Eds., pages 108–112.

FURTHER INSIGHT

See Darrow Miller, *Discipling Nations* (Seattle, WA: YWAM, 2001). Learn that making disciples is not merely referring to individuals but also to communities and nations.

## Our Lord's Great Commission, PART 1

### All authority / All the peoples

In Matt. 28:5–7, the angels spoke to the women and told them Jesus has risen. What else did the angels tell them (v.7)? .....

In Matt. 28:10, Jesus Himself gives instruction to the disciples. Describe: .....

What happened in Matt. 28:16? .....

Imagine and describe the anticipation the disciples would have had in waiting for the Lord.

How did the disciples respond when they saw Jesus (v.17)?.....

The Gospel according to Matthew ends with our Lord's Great Commission (v.18–20) and includes a four-fold mandate, represented by the word "all."

"...**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (Matt. 28:18). See NOTE at left.

What is the main idea in the following verses relating to the authority of Jesus Christ?

Ps. 2:6–9 .....

Ps. 110:1–3 .....

Phil. 2:9–11 .....

On what basis are Christians to GO? .....

How is this a source of strong encouragement? .....

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the peoples..." (Matt. 28:19)

The Greek word for peoples (sometimes translated as "nations") is *ethnos*, the root word for "ethnic group." It does not mean "nations" in the political sense. What does this say about what we are to do in the work of the Great Commission? .....

According to Matt. 28:19, discipleship includes being "baptized into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." What does this mean? (Hint: "the name" refers to God's character, reputation, mission.) .....

Jesus commands us to "Go..." Why not just announce the good news, give the information? Jesus wants His followers to actually travel to distant peoples—across the street or around the world—and live among them. Why? See John 20:21, then John 1:14. ....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

LESSON GOALS

1) Show the vital necessity of the local church community for fulfilling the Great Commission.  
 2) Explore the relationship between "going far" in obedience and "drawing near" in intimacy to Jesus Christ.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:20

NOTE: the word "observe" is the Greek word *tereo* (tay-reh'-o) and means "to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard, to keep one in the state in which he is; to observe; to reserve: to undergo something"

NOTE: In his article, "Mandate on the Mountain" Steven Hawthorne gives much further insight about the goal of creating communities of disciples among all the peoples. See Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Hawthorne and Winter, Eds., pages 108–112. (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999).

## Our Lord's Great Commission, PART 2

### *All that I commanded / All the days*

*"teaching them to observe all that I commanded..." (Matt. 28:20)*

If the basic teaching of Christ is "Love God and love one another," then this requires community.

In the Hebrew world, knowledge and practice were integrated, reflected in the idea, "teaching

to observe." What kind of obedience is Jesus looking for? .....

.....

What kind of teaching is Jesus calling for? .....

.....

How does this differ from the Western teaching model of imparting information? .....

.....

What possible meaning is in the words "teaching to observe" that is not in "teaching to obey"?

.....

.....

Why is community (the local church) absolutely vital for obeying all that Jesus commanded?

.....

.....

*"and lo, I am with you always (all the days), even to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20)*

The Great Commission is often associated with going great distances. What is the difference

between cultural distance and physical distance? .....

.....

Can you have one without the other? Explain: .....

.....

According to Matt. 28:19–20, how might obedience in "going far" (into all the world) — actually

be a call to drawing near in intimacy with Christ? .....

.....

What is Jesus promising for those who obey the Great Commission? .....

.....

Acts 1:8, how is the presence of the Holy Spirit related to the Great Commission? .....

.....

What does John 15:7, 10 teach us about God's presence in our lives? .....

.....

Fear of loss and fear of rejection are major obstacles in obeying the Great Commission. How has

Jesus addressed these fears? What surpassing treasure is gained through obedience?

.....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

**LESSON GOAL**

*Demonstrate how the Holy Trinity both calls and empowers members of the body of Christ, the Church, to fulfill the Great Commission.*

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Acts 1:6–8

**NOTE:** to have

*“glory” in the Story means to have significance, weight, density, influence, beauty.*

**DEFINITIONS**

*“authority” (exousia) means power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases (like an author who writes a book). God has the power of choice and the liberty to determine its characters, its plot, its climax and outcome.*  
*“times” (chronos) means the sequence of seconds and minutes.*  
*“seasons” (kairos) means opportune time, time pregnant with meaning and purpose.*

# The Glory of the Story

## Working together for mission — Author, Helper, Hero, and church member

There are many components of a good story. What are some of them? .....

.....

In what way is the Bible a “Story” about God? .....

.....

### The Father has glory in the Story as the “Author.”

In Acts 1:8, how do the Greek words for “authority”, “times” and “seasons” (see sidebar, left) help us understand God’s authority? .....

.....

What do these verse add about the authority of God the Father?

Dan. 2:21 .....

Gal. 4:4 .....

Matt. 24:36 .....

### The Holy Spirit has glory in the Story as the “Helper.”

What does Acts 1:8 say is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer? .....

.....

Combine the truth of John 16:7 and Acts 1:8. What is the Spirit’s holy eternal passion?

.....

Combine the truth of John 16:14 and Acts 1:8. What does the Holy Spirit want to do in you?

.....

.....

### The Lord Jesus has glory in the Story as the “Hero.”

What is the role of the hero in a good story? .....

In what ways does Jesus fit the role of “hero?” .....

.....

Use Philippians 2:6–10 to describe the heroism of Jesus. ....

.....

.....

### YOU have glory in the Story as a member of the body of Christ (or as a church member).

What does Acts 1:8 tell you about your role in The Story? .....

.....

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are calling you to cooperate with God in the work of the Great Commission. How is this fearful, adventurous, honoring, delightful?.....

.....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

LESSON GOALS

Show that the church of Jesus Christ is designed by God to be a harmonious multi-ethnic (all the Gentiles) community that gives global witness to the unfathomable riches of Christ.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Eph. 2:18–22  
Eph. 3:1–12

MORE INSIGHTS

See Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1997). An outstanding description of how and why the church of Jesus Christ grew so quickly in the Roman Empire. Written from the perspective of a sociologist. This book reinforces the fact that the Gospel has the power to transform lives, families, communities, and even whole societies.

# The Glorious Mission of the Christian Community

## *The church of Jesus Christ — new community for global mission*

Why do you need God's grace? .....

According to Eph. 2:18–22, name three glorious things about the "new" temple (v.21) of God.

1) .....

2) .....

3) .....

How is God's grace at work in verses Eph. 3:1–2? .....

According to this activity of God's grace (v.2), why should we need it? .....

Does this differ from your answer at the top of the page? If so, why? .....

In v.3–6, a "mystery" is explained. Why do you think Paul called it mysterious? .....

What is the mystery? .....

Verses 7–9 describe in more detail the purpose of God's grace in Paul's life. Explain:

v.7 .....

v.8 .....

v.9 .....

"...to preach to the Gentiles"—the *ethnos* (v.8) means to preach to non-Jewish peoples. To what extent did Paul have a sense of personal calling from God? (v.7–8) .....

To what extent should Christians today desire this same kind of calling that Paul had? Why? .....

Eph. 3:10–11 describes the magnitude of God's purpose for the church, which is...

v.10 .....

v.11 .....

Eph. 3:14–22 is a magnificent prayer. Think of each verse in relation to the church's mission to bless all the Gentiles, all the people groups. What especially strikes you in this prayer? .....

How does Ephesians 3 elevate in importance what your local church is all about? .....

To what extent do you feel that Paul's life is an example for you to follow? .....

On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

LESSON GOALS

*Demonstrate that is is absolutely necessary that God's Word be preached and shared globally by followers of Jesus — so that people everywhere may be saved.*

KEY SCRIPTURE

*"For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him"  
—Rom. 10:11–12 (NASB)*

FURTHER STUDY

*This short study in Romans 10 does not address the context of the chapter: How Israel's unbelief intersects with God's plan to bless the Gentiles. Studying Romans 9–11 with the aid of a good commentary will assist you in gaining a deeper appreciation for all that the Holy Spirit is teaching in these chapters.*

## Beautiful Feet, Powerful Word

**"How shall they hear without a preacher?"**

**What does it mean to be "saved?"** To be saved is to be delivered from the wrath of God (Rom. 5:9) by your belief and faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ so that the very righteousness of Christ is imputed to your life (Rom. 4:21–24). This is also called justification, by which we gain peace with God (Rom. 5:1). This utterly amazing transaction of being changed from an enemy of God to one who is loved in God's family — happens when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, calling upon Him to be saved. What is the simple truth of the Gospel, according to Rom. 10:9–10? .....

However, Apostle Paul wants to be sure we understand this salvation of simplicity is neither easy nor cheap. In Romans 10:6–9, Paul creates a contrast between what is absolutely *impossible* and what is absolutely *available* to all people. Explain: .....

In 1 Peter 1:18–19 what is the infinite cost of our salvation? .....

In Rom. 10:11–12, we see that God's salvation message in Christ is for all humanity, for all peoples. Explain in your own words how the phrases from this passage tell us this is true?

"Whoever believes" .....

"no distinction" .....

"Lord of all" .....

"riches for all" .....

Consider Rom. 10:13. Again, how simple is salvation? .....

But in Rom. 10:14–17, Paul tells us there is a big problem: PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THIS GOOD NEWS!

How does Paul describe the four-part problem?

1) .....

2) .....

3) .....

4) .....

What is the solution? (see especially v.15b and 17) .....

What is the main idea of Rom. 1:16? .....

Paul believed what he wrote. How does Rom. 15:20 demonstrate this? .....

What does your life demonstrate about what you believe? On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson.

LESSON GOALS

1) Demonstrate that God's promise to Abraham some 4000 years ago is foundational to God's global mission.  
 2) Experience encouragement because of God's unchangeable promise to fulfill His global mission.

KEY SCRIPTURE

"And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation."  
 —Romans 15:20 (NASB)

FURTHER STUDY

Old Testament verses quoted in Romans 15:9–12 are ... v.9: 2 Samuel 22:50  
 Psalm 18:49  
 v.10 Deut. 32:43  
 v.11 Psalm 117:1  
 v.12 Isaiah 11:10

# A Glorious Aspiration: Glory to Jesus from All Peoples

## Worship and glory to Jesus as Paul's motive for mission

Romans 15 has much to say about world missions: 1) A variety of Old Testament passages teach that all peoples are included in God's plan of salvation. 2) Worship and God's glory are the ultimate motive for global mission. 3) Part of good mission strategy is to focus on peoples and places where Christ has not been "named." Describe the main ideas from these verses in Romans 15.

### THEME 1: ALL PEOPLES ARE INCLUDED

v.9–12 .....  
 .....  
 v.15–16 .....  
 v.18–19 .....  
 v.20–21 .....

### THEME 2: WORSHIP AND GOD'S GLORY—THE ULTIMATE MOTIVE FOR MISSION

v.6 .....  
 v.9, 11 .....  
 v.16 (What is Paul's worship gift?) .....  
 v.20 (Paul wanted Christ "named") .....  
 Paul's "offering" of the Gentiles (v. 16) was a "worship gift" to God, revealing that Paul's motive for missions is ultimately that God be worshiped and glorified. Why is Paul passionate to have Christ "named" among peoples where Christ is not yet known? .....

What does this imply—focusing on peoples where Christ has not been named—for mission efforts today? .....

### THEME 3: THE NECESSITY OF HOPE, JOY AND PEACE (v.13)

Supernatural hope, joy, and peace can be the possession of a person in intimate relationship with Jesus. Why would a missionary's intimate relationship with Jesus, while serving in another culture, help others in that culture to understand Christianity as much more than a Western religion? .....

Imagine yourself with this aspiration: To "abound in hope" that God will bless all peoples.

What do you see in your mind's eye? .....

What are some ways you can invest your gifts, abilities and resources to bring the hope of the gospel to those places and peoples where Christ has not been named? (Romans 15:20)  
 .....



LESSON GOALS

1) Demonstrate that Paul's letter to the Philippians is the fruit and outgrowth of his missionary work, and can be better understood in that light.

2) Encourage students to think about ways they can pursue opportunities for partnership in the Great Commission.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1–4

# The Joy of Partnership

## *The vital role of partnership in fulfilling the Great Commission*

Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians in approximately 62 AD from prison in Rome. About 10 years prior, he had planted the church at Philippi during his second missionary journey. Paul visited this church again during his third missionary journey.

One of the themes of Paul's letter is partnership. When the Philippians heard about Paul's imprisonment in Rome, they sent Epaphroditus on the long journey to Rome in order to visit Paul and provide financial gifts to meet his needs (Philippians 4:16–18). This was a great encouragement to Paul. Clearly, Paul's sense of partnership with the saints at Philippi was vital to his ministry.

This lesson explores how Paul's partnership with the believers at Philippi provides a beautiful example for our own current-day efforts to obey the Great Commission. For the verses in Philippians listed below, observe the relationship between Paul and those to whom he wrote. Then describe the main idea about their partnership.

1:3–5 .....

.....

1:7–8 .....

.....

1:19 .....

1:23–26 .....

.....

2:17–18 .....

.....

3:17 .....

4:1 .....

4:14–16 .....

.....

4:17 .....

4:18 .....

Paul's letter to the Philippians shows his joyful obedience to God as a missionary and reflects the value of partnership—of being “partners in the Great Commission.” What opportunities or desires are before you—do you see yourself as the partner going, or as the partner helping to send?

.....

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On the back of this sheet, describe how God is speaking to you through this lesson



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