

Small Group Guide

GLOBAL GOSPEL: ENGAGE THE LOST

The Church at Brook Hills, Dr. David Platt

November 8, 2009

Matthew 24:14, 28:18-20

This guide is designed to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use, and there may be instances when you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience, not complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool rather than a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Have group members describe a time when they wanted to spread the word about a big announcement (engagement, wedding, baby, graduation, party, move, sale). What lengths did they go to in getting their news to people they cared about? Ask if anyone went to extraordinary measures or even outrageous or difficult ordeals to share their news.

Explain that today we will see what Scripture says about our task in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His future Kingdom with the whole world.

Option 2

Ask for people to share a time when they wasted a lot of time, energy, and maybe even resources in trying unsuccessfully to do something; but once someone else revealed the "answer" it seemed obvious. (eg. assembling a Christmas present before finding instructions, repairing something, sewing or baking something, even something as simple as a brain teaser like a crossword puzzle or sudoku.)

Explain that today we are going to see how people often go through life without ever hearing the truth about life's ultimate purpose.

Review the Message . . .

"Without Christ, all people are equally lost and doomed to hell, but not all people have equal access to the gospel of Christ's Kingdom." It is wrong to assume other cultures have rejected faith in Christ when over half of the world's people groups have never even heard the gospel. Scripture is clear that followers of Christ are to make disciples of all nations. This is done not only out of faithful obedience to Jesus' command but because God is worthy of all glory, honor, and praise.

Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 28:18-20.

ENAGAGE THE LOST

The Purpose...

- The Gospel preached to all people groups.
 - The Church has been given a task to complete

Discussion . . .

- Reread Matthew 28:18. What kind of authority does Jesus have? Where does He have authority?
- Reread Matthew 28:19-20. In light of His authority, what does Christ command His followers to do? Does this read as a suggestion or a command for Christ-followers?
- From where does Christ say disciples should be made? Why is that significant?
- How might the Great Commission feel overwhelming? With what promise of encouragement and empowerment does Jesus conclude?
- What is the closing phrase of the Great Commission? What relationship is implied between making disciples of all nations and the end of the age?

Application . . .

- In today's interview, the statement was made "The opposite of faith is not doubt; the opposite of faith is disobedience." What motivation and encouragement does this provide you in your own relationship with Christ?
- As Christ-followers, do our lives more often reflect Christ's authority in heaven or on earth? How does this passage clarify that we can honor his authority on earth?
- It was clarified that the Greek word for "nations" is *ethnos* (the word from which we get our word ethnic). How does this understanding change the way we see the command to make disciples of all people groups instead of every person on earth?
- Does anyone remember how many people groups were estimated to be in the world? (11,690) How many currently had no known efforts to establish a church or make the gospel known? (5,845 Unreached Unengaged People Groups... or 1/2)
- What does this passage clearly state to be the purpose of every individual, family, and church? If a relationship exists between fulfilling this purpose and the end of time, what motivation and warning is implied?

The Price...

- Taking the Gospel to all people groups will be costly.
 - Completing the task requires risk – it will not be easy.

Discussion . . .

- Read Matthew 24:3. What do the disciples ask Jesus?
- Read Matthew 24:4-12. What is described in these verses? Do these things leading up to the end of time sound like what we would consider part of God's will? What does Jesus clarify in vs. 4, 6, 8?

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- Read Matthew 24:13. Following the description of trials and clarification that these things must happen, what does Jesus promise His disciples?
- Read Matthew 24:14. Answering the “when” part of His disciples’ question, what does Jesus say explicitly must and will happen before the end of time?

Application . . .

- When asked about the end of time, Jesus clarified that the world would seem to get increasingly out of control, yet promised that all of these things should not distract, mislead, dishearten, or cause our love to grow cold. How is this encouraging to us today in light of seemingly hopeless situations?
- How is Jesus providing a reality-check and priority-check for His disciples?
- David said “Satan is probably just fine with us spending our time and resources on the American Dream as long as we keep the Gospel to ourselves.” What light does verse 14 shed on that statement. Honestly, are you spending your life on the American Dream or advancing the Gospel of God’s kingdom?
- What can a church, like The Church at Brook Hills, expect if they choose to spend their lives on advancing the gospel to all people groups?
- Is there any cost too great for you personally to follow Christ and make His gospel known? What if it cost you your job? Friends? Family? Home? How have you surrendered to making the gospel known to all nations?
- Considering all of the negative descriptions and the single positive conclusion in verse 14, what does this say is the supreme value of making the gospel known to all nations? What is our hope in anticipating the end of time? Should our attention be on the negative things in the world or advancing the Gospel of God’s kingdom?

The Promise...

- There *is* an end - Jesus *is* coming back for His people.
 - The task *is* possible to complete (and it will be).
 - He alone is worthy of all praise and glory.

Discussion . . .

- Read Revelation 5:9. Why does it say Jesus is worthy?
- Read Revelation 7:9-10. Who will be in God’s kingdom at the end of time?
- Read Revelation 14:6-7. Are there any limits to the Gospel? What responses does the eternal Gospel call for? From whom does it require these actions/attitudes?
- Read Revelation 15:4. Why should every people group hear the Gospel? To what will people respond in faith?

Application . . .

- When was the last time you really felt the weight of being redeemed by the blood of Christ, the holy Lamb of God slain on behalf of your sin?

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- How does it make you feel to know that there are billions of people who will live and die without ever hearing about God's gracious love and the redemptive work of Christ?
- If you truly believe God's Word, that God alone is holy and that He alone is worthy of all praise (not just America's), how can you start spending your limited time on earth for the sake of that eternal reality? Are you currently living as if other things are more worthy of awe, devotion, or even of talking about?
- Do you have to convince people or make the Gospel attractive or relevant? If God says revealing His righteous acts alone will inspire worship, what hope does this give us? What should we start doing immediately? How?

*For further reading or study as an individual or as a group, John Piper's *Let The Nations Be Glad* is an excellent resource for examining what scripture says about making God's glory known among all people groups.