

## Message Discussion Guide

### ...OF ALL NATIONS

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*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. David Platt*

*February 22, 2009*

*Psalm 67:1-2*

This guide is 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 where 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 to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

### **Connect . . .**

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

#### **Option 1**

David used the illustration of asking the average Christian sitting in a worship service on a Sunday morning to summarize the message of Christianity. He gave several examples of what the answer might be... "The message of Christianity is that God loves me." or "The message of Christianity is that God loves me enough to send His Son Jesus to die for me."

Ask your learners to answer this same question for them. How is the message of Christianity summarized? Allow them to answer the question the way they might have done so before hearing the message this week and then how they might answer it after hearing the message. Ask them to explain the reason for the differences.

#### **Option 2**

Read the following old quote to your learners, "Those who say it can't be done should get out of the way of those who are doing it."

Allow learners to discuss the following questions:

- How does this quote make you feel when you relate it to making disciples of all nations? Offended? Shocked? Excited?
- Do you agree or disagree with it?
- Are you a person who is always saying it can't be done, or are you a person who is actually "doing it" with your life? Why?
- Does this quote cause something in you to want to change? If so, what and how?

### **Review the Message . . .**

We glorify Christ by making disciples OF ALL NATIONS.

The purpose we need to acknowledge...

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- God created us to enjoy His grace in a relationship with Him.
- God created us to extend His glory to the ends of the earth.

### Discussion Questions

- Read Genesis 1:26-28. Why does God bless us? Why does God want us to enjoy His grace? Are we the ultimate end of God's blessing, or is there something more to it?
- Scripture is filled with countless ways that God blesses His people, but why does God bless His people? (God's people are blessed so that all peoples can be blessed.) Take learners on a journey through the Old Testament to find the reason why God blesses His people.
  - Read Genesis 12:1-3. Why does God choose to bless Abram?
  - Read Genesis 26:4. Why does God choose to bless Isaac?
  - Read Exodus 12:4. Why did God lead His people to the edge of the Red Sea?
  - Read Daniel 3:28-29. Why would a God of love let these three Hebrew guys be thrown into a fiery furnace?
- Many of us have read Psalm 23 and many could quote it by memory, but have you ever stopped to examine why God says He guides us. Read Psalm 23. Why does God guide us?
- Discuss the motive of God in Ezekiel 36:22-23. For whose sake does God show His grace, mercy and justice? Why?

### Application

- In what ways are you enjoying God's grace?
- How can we extend God's image to the ends of the earth?
- If someone were to take a deep look into our lives, would they see a biblical reason for why God created us? What should our life say about the blessings that God has given us? How could our blessings tell the nations about God?
- After searching Scripture for why God blesses us, does our purpose in life need to change? If so, how?

The question we need to ask...

- Have we disconnected the blessing of God from the purpose of God?

### Discussion Questions

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- How is it possible to disconnect the blessing of God from the purpose of God?
- Looking at Luke 24:46-49, why did Jesus die? It is difficult for us to believe that God might have an ulterior motive in blessing us, but He does. Everything revolves around Him. Why is that necessary?
- Read Psalm 67:1-2. According to these verses, what are the two reasons for God being gracious to us, blessing us, and making His face shine upon us?

#### Application

- How has God blessed you in your life?
- What have you done with the blessings that God has given you? Once we have received blessings from God it is easy to try to keep them to ourselves. Why is that? Is that God's intent? What is His intent?
- Are you willing to allow everything you are and have revolve around God? How?

The phrases we need to avoid...

- "I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ called \_\_\_\_\_ to foreign \_\_\_\_\_ missions \_\_\_\_\_."
- "I'd rather \_\_\_\_\_ give \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_ go \_\_\_\_\_."
- "We don't need to go \_\_\_\_\_ there \_\_\_\_\_ because there's so much need \_\_\_\_\_ here \_\_\_\_\_."
  - The Great Commission is not an \_\_\_\_\_ either \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ option.
  - The Great Commission is a \_\_\_\_\_ both \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ command.

#### Discussion Questions

- According to Galatians 1:15-16, why did God reveal His Son to Paul? If this is the case for Paul, then what does it also mean for us?
- Who are the Gentiles? What would it have meant for the United States if no one ever stepped out of their comfort zone and preached the gospel to Europe or us?
- Read Revelation 7:9-10. How does this passage describe the purpose of God?

#### Application

- List a few of the privileges of Scripture that we enjoy having as Christ-followers.
- What are some of the obligations of Scripture that we might want to ignore?
- How are we currently living out these obligations in our life? Although living out these obligations might be difficult, we are commanded to do so. It comes down to whether we will obey or disobey God's Word.
- God's heart is for the world...all nations, all tongues, all people groups. Take a moment to evaluate your heart. What or who do you have a heart for? Does your heart line up with God's heart?

The goal we need to achieve...

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- World-impacting disciples.
- Ever-multiplying churches.

### Discussion Questions

- Read Matthew 28:18-20. What does Jesus tell us to do?
- Because of the truth found in Matthew 28:18-20, David said the Church at Brook Hills will no longer be a place of ministry, but a base of ministry. What does this mean? What does this look like?

### Application

- Are you committed to give at least 2% of your next year in other contexts around the world to make disciples of all nations? Why or why not? What drives you to doing this? Is there purity in your motives?
- Oswald Chambers said, "The light that shines farthest, shines brightest at home." Take out your cell phone and begin to scroll through the numbers. Stop when you come to the name of a person that you think is not a Christian. Have you shared Christ with that person? Are you shining the light of Christ to them?

THE BOTTOM LINE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH AT BROOK HILLS...

You were created to impact the world.

At the end of the message, a song was sung, words were spoken and a video was played. The words in the song said, "Keep us from just singing and move us into action." The words and video gave account after account of men and women that have impacted the world with the gospel. The questions were then asked, "How will we continue the storyline? How will Brook Hills continue the storyline?" God tells us that we can and history tells us we can...the question that remains is, "Will we impact the world with the gospel? Will we do what we were created to do?"

Allow learners to further discuss their Personal Disciple-Making Plan from last week. Discuss ways that it can be changed or improved after learning more about the heart of God in this week's message.