**PREPARATION**

* Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
* You can watch the sermon online [HERE](http://3crosses.org/about-us/sermons/).
* Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
* You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

**Welcome:** *Icebreaker – What is one of your favorite trips that you have taken?*

**Study Context:** This week’s study guide will cover the entire biblical narrative of scripture. Enjoy this well-produce video of *The Story* and make sure to bookmark it so you can share it with your friends!

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Description automatically generated](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0gfIvN9zv4)

What’s Going on This Week

This week, Mark Teyler, Pastor of the Missions at 3Crosses, brought us into the twenty-first week of our series titled *A Church that Pleases God*. Pastor Mark directed our attention to *the Biblical Theology of Missions* to challenge us to step into our identity as ambassadors of Christ and ***go*** into the global mission and purpose of God spreading His glory to the nations! By alluding to the entire storyline of the Bible, Pastor Mark encouraged every Christian to step into God’s mission by (1) praying for clarity on your roe to live on mission with God (2) partnering with God’s global mission by praying, giving, learning, and possibly going, and (3) surrendering your life to Jesus FULLY! As you engage in this study guide, seek the Lord for your personalized mission to ***go*** global on God’s mission and commit to engaging in some “global missions next steps”.

**“Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.” – John Piper** *Let the Nations Be Glad!*

**GROUP MEETING** (60 – 90 minutes)

**Worship** (10 – 15 minutes)*Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter the presence of God for this meeting.*

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| **Worship Music**  Have someone share their favorite song. You can find it online, play it, and even sing along with your group! Have them explain why the lyrics have impacted them! | **Meditation (Mk. 8:34-38, 10:29-31)**  The challenge we will face at the end of the study guide is whether we have completely surrendered our life to the Jesus or whether we are holding back. Meditate on this question and verses. | [**Pray for the World**](https://operationworld.org/prayer-calendar/07-03/)  Click the link above and spend some time intentionally praying for the nation of the day! Visit the “Prayer resources” tab or feel free to select any country that your group decides upon. |

**Word #1: Explore the Biblical Theology of Missions** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Missions Before the Creation of the World (Genesis 1:1; Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 1:4; Proverbs 16:4)*

*A Severed Kingdom with Angels (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Job 1:6-12; Genesis 1:27)*

*A Severed Relationship with Humans (Genesis 3, 4:8, 23-24, 6:1-5, 9:20-28, 11:1-9)*

*Abraham – The father of Many Nations (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:6-9, 4:4; Isaiah 42:4)*

*The Culmination of Jesus (John 3:16; Matthew 1:21; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13)*

*Missions in the Church Age (Matthew 16:18, 28:18-20; Acts 20:24)*

*The End of Missions (Matthew 24:14)*

*The Final Glory of God (Romans 1:5; Revelation 7:9-12; 20:1—22:5)*

The list of passages above outline the key points in the biblical narrative that suggest that God is a missional God currently working through the church to reconcile all people groups to Himself by giving them an *opportunity* for salvation! When you look at the scriptures through the lens of missions, what are some ways it affects your perspective of (a) creation, (b) the fall, (c) God’s restoration plan through Israel, (d) God’s rescue plan in Jesus, (e) the church age, and (f) the end times? What are some of the ways your perception of missions has been challenged knowing that God has been a missional God in this world from the beginning?

**Host Tip:** Woah! There is a lot of references in this question. Don’t be alarmed, simply ask people to think through scripture through the lens of missions and identify a certain area that is striking people. Then ask about an overall picture of missions to see where everyone’s heart is at when it comes to the topic?

**Word #2: Take your First Step into God’s Mission** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Primary Texts:* Psalm 2:8, Luke 11:9, John 15:7; (PRAY); Isaiah 6:8 (PARTNER); Mark 8:34-38, 10:29-31; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (SURRENDER) – The following passages challenge us to ***go*** on mission with God by praying for our roles in His mission, partnering with God in His global work (praying, giving, learning, and going), and surrendering our life ***completely*** to Jesus. Which one of these three encouragements challenges you the most when you think about your involvement in God’s global mission? What step of action has the Lord placed on your heart and how might the group hold you accountable to moving forward in this calling?

**Host Tip:** Spend some time really pressing into the application section of this study guide considering we are talking about the ***go*** section of our series. If there are ways to team up as a group to hold each other accountable, allow the group time to develop this practice.

**Witness**(20 – 25 minutes)

* Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead you into your role on His mission!
* Pray that the Holy Spirit would show us where we need to continually surrender our lives to Him.
* Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
* **Pray for the entire group and how they may be able to participate in future group meetings.**
* **Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!**
* **Pray for God’s hand in the multiplication and revival of your group!**

Stay up to date with our Prayer Ministry by signing up to be an intercessor online at [3Crosses.org/pray](mailto:https://3crosses.org/pray/)!

**Throughout the Week**

* **Prepare for Next Week:** *Restored to God’s Mission - Primary Text: TBD (Guest Speaker) —* What do you do when you’ve blown int and feel like you are no longer qualified to serve the Lord? We’ll close our series by reminding ourselves of the Gospel truth that Jesus desires to bring healing and restoration to all of us.
* **Follow up between group members:** Have each member of the grouppick one other group member to follow up with about how they are growing in their faith as they learn to keep in step with wherever the Holy Spirit is leading them.
* **Join relief efforts locally and around the world:** Looking to contribute to what is going on both locally and around the world? Visit our website and volunteer in our[neighborhood resource center](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood/) or help sponsor an [indigenous missionary](https://3crosses.org/missions/)!
* **Life Groups 2022:** For more information about joining a group, hosting a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org) or Carmela at [carmela@3crosses.org](mailto:carmela@3Crossses.org)