

As We Go

“Passion that Reaches the World”

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-5 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Lord for His sovereign power and authority as king over heaven and earth! Pray that the Holy Spirit would soften our hearts to the commandment Jesus has given us to go and make disciples in our lives here and around the world. Finally, thank our Father for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us intimately as we go on this mission until the end of the age!

Discussion: (30 minutes)

What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the fourth week of our series titled *As We Go*. Pastor Danny surveyed the expansion of the early church by summarizing key stories from Acts 1-13. Pastor Danny points specifically to Acts 2:12 in order to show that even though the early followers of Jesus were initially confused about their role in reaching the ends of the earth, the Lord was able to orchestrate the spread of His kingdom by preparing the hearts of the church to receive others, allowing the church to with a diverse community, and begin praying for the nations.

“Every Christian should live with an open Bible and an open map.” – William Carey (18th century Christian Missionary)

Suggested Questions

Check-In: *Focus on Matthew 28:18-20* – Last week, our discussion revolved around how we ought to perceive the gospel message as a contagious, life-giving virus that was meant to be spread to others! In what ways did this perspective alter the way you related to people this week? Were you able to see the “contagious” effects of the gospel message of Jesus this week?

Study Tip: The book of Acts launches the reader directly into the era of the Holy Spirit beginning with the day of Pentecost. Pentecost is the Greek name for the Jewish festival named Shavuot (feast of weeks Ex. 23:16; Lev. 23:15-16). Shavuot is held 50 days after the Passover celebration commemorating the arrival of the first harvest season of the year. Israelites from all over would journey towards Jerusalem in order to celebrate God’s provision in this season (see this [map](#)). What they did not know is that this would be the beginning of the Holy Spirit’s season of Harvest. As you walk through this study guide and think about your own call to make disciples of all nations, pay close attention to how the Holy Spirit guides His people towards situations to participate in His eternal harvest and how the disciples respond!

- **Objective #1: Clarify your personal role in the Great Commission.**

Primary Texts: Acts 1:1-8, 2:1-13 – Pastor Danny begins by alluding to William Carey, a prominent missionary in the 18th century, who was told to sit down in a meeting because he was told, “when God is pleased to Convert the heathen world, He will do it without your help or mine.” What is your initial reaction to the quote Pastor Danny presented about reaching all nations? What do you see in these opening Acts that may clarify your role as a disciple of Jesus in the Great Commission to all nations?

Supporting Texts: (Growing Community) Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35; (Gathering of Israelite Prophecy) Isaiah 11:10-16; Ezekiel 37:15-28; (YHWH to the Nations) Genesis 18:18, Isaiah. 42:1-7

- **Objective #2: Align and prepare your heart to embrace all people into your life.**

Primary Texts: Acts 6:1-15, 7:51—8:8, 8:25-40, 9:1-31 – Next, Pastor Danny alludes to several stories that illuminate how God was preparing the heart of the church to move from an exclusively Jewish movement to one that is passionate about reaching the nations of the world. What are some of the potential challenges that you see in these passages as the early church began to embrace the Gentiles? In what ways do you see the same Spirit moving in your heart as you seek to embrace all people?

Supporting Texts: (Peter’s ministry to the Jews) Acts 2-5, 9:32-43; (Stephen’s Sermon) Acts 7:1-50; (Simon’s Conversion) Acts 8:9-24; (Peter’s Vision) Acts 10:1-33;

- **Objective #3: Identify new ways you can “rub shoulders” with various ethnic people groups.**

Primary Texts: Acts 10:34—11:26, 13:1-3 – Pastor Danny concludes by pointing out the development of the multi-cultural church at Antioch. Similar to 3Crosses, Antioch became a place where Christians mobilized to reach the nations as a multi-ethnic community. What are some of the opportunities that you have to embrace people of all nations and how can we pray that you step into that opportunity?

Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for our sins and defeating sin in order to reign over all of heaven and earth! Thank the Holy Spirit for dwelling in us as we go into our community to share the Love of Jesus! Finally, pray that the eyes of our hearts would be open to those who need the gospel around us and remind us that we have a Spirit of boldness in us!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Further Reading and Exploration! *Read Colossians:* While the book of Acts explains how the Holy Spirit moved the apostles to deliver the gospel to the nations, a book like Colossians explains how the gospel message can actually affect a community that is foreign or hostile to the gospel message of Jesus. Pay special attention to how Paul presents Biblical truths to the church and then offers a new way to live in light of Jesus' work on the cross.

- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week! Pray that they would continue to be aware that the Spirit of Jesus would fill them as they interact with the people of the Bay Area today!

- Our 8-Week Community Group Series will begin February 16th, 2020! If you have any questions, feel free to email AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org