

KNOWING GOD

GROUP NOTES

WEEK 5

OPENING QUESTION

When was the first time you met someone from another culture? What was your best experience with another culture?

SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 67

BIG IDEAS

In this sermon, Pastor Adam unpacked Psalm 67 to explore God's heart for the nations. What we discover is that God is on a mission to the nations, and therefore so are we. The Psalm opens with the phrase, "May God be gracious to us and bless us." This is the carrot that brings many into religion – the desire for blessing.

>> *Re-read Psalm 67:1-2. Why does God bless his people?*

God is on a Mission to Be Known

In this Psalm, many of God's attributes are listed. God is determined to bring blessing to the nations, but it's in a form better than personal prosperity. God wants to make Himself known to all the peoples of the world. You may think that seems odd – don't most people already know that God is there? Well, sort of. But here the Psalmist is describing something very specific: God wants to make Himself known personally, not just in the abstract.

Once we knew God. But, because of sin all of us start life out separated from Him. But, in Christ, God has made possible a new relationship with Him, and He desires and delights to invite the nations into that relationship.

>> *Why is God's desire to make Himself known a good thing?*

God is on a Mission to Be Worshipped

You and I are worshipping machines – we can't help it. We were made to be awed by something. If we would look up from the mud puddles of sex, money, and power that we play about in we would see that God is there beckoning us to come and know Him. This is why the nations should be glad (v.4) – because the judge of the Earth is coming, and He's better than we've ever imagined.

>> *What do you feel when you read vv.4-5? Why is God's judgement a good thing? How does the gospel shape your hope for justice in the world?*

God is on a Mission, So We Should Be, Too

The Psalm ends with something called an *inclusio* – which is just pastor-speak for "it ends the way it begins." God wants to bless us, but He does so in order to bring us into His mission. The whole promise of blessing is connected to God's covenant promise – His hearts desire and determination – to bless us so we can bless the nations.

>> *How are you going to join God's mission? What's the next step you need to take right now into the truth, grace, or changing power of the gospel? How can you step out into leadership and help others experience the gospel, too?*

PRAY

As you end today, pray for each others' needs, and agree to pray together all week. If you need to repent or ask for forgiveness, now is a great time to do that, too.