

## Missions Month



Part 2 - Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

As you know, this is mission month here at Fellowship. That doesn't mean we only emphasize the mission one month out of the year. God's mission is our reason for our existence as a church.

It's why that statement on the wall says, "Joining God's mission...". That's not a part-time endeavor. The mission is not one ministry among many ministries here at Fellowship. **It's why we're here!**

It's our sole purpose, and it's the single focus of our church – and quite frankly THE church.

It's why Jesus left us – the church - here in the world in the first place – to Join His mission, to disciple all peoples, for the sake of His name.

Any local church that's not focused on that is missing the very reason for their existence and their presence in the world.

So my purpose this month is to do my best to help us all not only understand that biblically but to believe it and to encourage us to act on that belief in living our lives as part of Christ's mission by living as a world Christian.

We showed you last Sunday what a World Christian is...

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**WORLD CHRISTIAN: A person who understands God's heart for the world and who strategically lives their life in such a way that wherever they are and whatever they do, they are striving to see Him gloried among all nations."**

So last Sunday we began talking about the first line of that definition, understanding God's heart for the world, and we began by emphasizing that we need to look at the Bible not as a collection of 66 books (it is that by the way), but it's primarily one book with a single theme, and that theme is God's heart for the world. And...

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**God's Heart for the World Can Be See In...**

1. **God's Priority – All of history is moving toward one goal: the worship of God and His Son by people from every tribe, language, and nation (Revelation 5:6-10; 7:9-10).**
2. **God's Plan – The Bible reveals God's plan (it IS the plan)**
  - The Introduction: Genesis Chapters 1-11**
  - The Plot: Genesis chapter 12 – the book of Jude**
  - The Conclusion: Revelation**

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### **The Recurring Activity of God's Plan:**

**Step 1: God blesses\* His people**

**Step 2: God gives them the responsibility to bless others**

**The Result: God receives the glory and His plan is fulfilled**

**\*To be "blessed" in Scripture means we've been given the privileged responsibility of being part of God's family and inviting others to join us.**

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### **Introduction: Genesis 1-11**

- **God's first command to mankind: scatter and fill the earth with worshipers**

***"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.'" Genesis 1:28***

- **Man rebelled (sinned) and God sent the flood (Gen. 6-9)**
- **God again commanded mankind to scatter and fill the earth with worshipers (Gen. 9:1,7)**
- **Again mankind rebelled and God forcibly scattered them at Babel (Gen. 11), creating the nations (people groups)**

That's the introduction to God's heart for the world. Then we began looking at the plot in Genesis chapter 12. And the plot opens up in the first 3 verses.

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### **The Plot: Genesis 12 - Jude**

- **Genesis 12:1-3 provides the plot for the rest of the Bible, incorporating all the familiar episodes from Abraham through the Exodus, the kings, the prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles into one cohesive eternal plan**

***“The Lord said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you (step 1), I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you (step 2).  
Genesis 12:1-3***

Let me paraphrase these verses: God looked down after the tower of Babel and saw the distinct people groups he had scattered around the world and He loved them. He loved them all equally.

By the way Bible experts believe that based on the table of nations listed in Genesis chapter 10, that the number of people groups was about 70 in all.

God’s heart was to reach every one of them with the blessing of redemption from their sin. So He set a plan in motion. His plan was to use a single people group to reach out to all the others with His love and grace.

God chose to use mankind to reach mankind. Instead of choosing one of the existing people groups, He decided to begin a new one through one man - a man who himself was an idolater, an idol worshiper, and He revealed Himself to this man who didn’t worship Him.

That man’s name was Abram. He told Abram that He was going to bless him. He told him He was going to create a new nation out of him. And he told him that the reason that he was blessing him was so that through him all the other peoples of the world –

All the various 70 people groups who had their own language and customs and culture – so they all could all enjoy the same blessings from God that Abram would enjoy from God. **The question is, would Abram believe God and put his faith in Him, and become the man God wanted to use?**

Before we answer that question, God's love for all the nations of the world is seen in His words to Abram here in these 3 verses. And God's love for all the ethnic peoples of the world continues to this day.

But there's not 70 anymore. The 70 nations or people groups that began way back in Genesis today have increased to over 17,000 people groups who have their own language, culture, customs, and religions.

And God loves each and every one and His desire it so see representatives from each one gathered together around His throne in heaven doing what He created them to do...

And that's to experience their greatest joy in worshiping Him forever. This is the one goal that all of history has been moving forward to since creation.

Before we move on, since we know God's heart beats for all the people groups of the world, and since the pinnacle of history will come one day when representatives of all the worlds people groups will be gathered together at Christ's throne worshiping Him,

It seems to me, as followers of Christ, since we're partners in His mission, we ought to have some understanding about the people groups of the world.

I mean since God wants us to be like Him, we ought to have at least some kind of passion and a love for the people groups of the world like He does.

He wants us to have a passion for lost people as well – no matter where they are, where they live, what they look like or what they worship. If you believe that, say, "Amen".

That God-like love can be developed as we know more about the people groups of the world. So I want to provide you with a definition of what constitutes a people group and where they are today in our world.

Youtube Clip: "Unreached People Groups" (2:59)

STATS:

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<u>196</u>	Current number of countries in the world today
<u>17,000+</u>	People Groups

*PG: The largest group of people within which the gospel can spread as a church planting movement, without hitting barriers of understanding or acceptance (such as language, ethnicity, religion, culture, etc.)*

<u>7,000+</u>	Unreached People Groups (3 billion people)
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*UPG: There is no indigenous community of Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people (less than 2% evangelical).*

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3,000+ Unengaged, Unreached People Groups – 95% are in the 10/40 Window

*UUPG: An unreached people group in which there is no church planting methodology consistent with Evangelical faith and practice under way; there is no known gospel witness.*

350 Unreached People Groups in the U.S. in the form of Immigrants, refugees, and International Students

God's bringing the world to us!!!

THUMB: T-ribal, H-indu, U-nreligious, M-uslim, B-uddhist

If you go to the Joshua Project website you can view a brief video that provides further information about each of the 5 main categories of the Unreached: Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious, Muslim, and Buddhist.

Here's the one about Tribal Peoples.

Video: [www.joshuaproject.net/resources/prayer\\_videos](http://www.joshuaproject.net/resources/prayer_videos) - "Tribal Prayer Video" (app. 2 minutes)

Now let's go back to that question: Did Abram believe God? Did He exercise faith in God and become the man that God wanted to use to make a nation that He could use to show His love to all the other nations?

Look at Genesis 15. READ Gen. 15:1-6.

Abraham believed God and his faith granted him salvation. And God made Abram (Abraham) into a missionary family to represent Him to all the peoples of the world that He loves. That family later became known after the name God gave his grandson Jacob, "Israel".

The rest of the Old Testament is the story of God revealing His glory through Israel in order to receive glory from the nations by their worship of Him.

Eventually, God sent His Son Jesus to be the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior of the world. But God's people rejected Him. And that's why today God is using the church to continue what He started with Abram and the Israelites in the Old Testament. We'll talk more about that next Sunday.

Fellowship, our God is a God on mission. He's a missionary God. And He has a missionary family – us. He's blessed us, so we will in-turn take His blessings and bless others with the message of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to all the peoples of the world.



And one day, representatives from all the 17,000+ people groups of the world WILL bow down in worship the Lord and honor His name. No where in the Old Testament is that more clear than in Psalm 86:9, and this is our memory verse so let's say it out loud together...

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*"All the nations you have made will come and bow down before you, Lord,  
and will honor your name."*

Psalm 86:9

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Vision of the Coca-Cola Company:

*"A can of Coke in the hand of every person on the planet."*

How do you think they're doing with that? Have you ever been to another country in another part of the world? I've been to multiple nations in central and South America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe, and I can tell you that everywhere I've been Coke's already been there.

I honestly don't know if every person on the planet has held a can of Coke in their hands. But I would guess that the Coca-Cola Company, simply by sheer manpower and the indomitable human spirit have managed to cross every barrier imaginable in their efforts to get Coke to the people of the world.

How about us? If Coke can do what's it's done without the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to get a can of sugar-water into the hands of people around the planet...

Surely we, with the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Word of God can get the gospel of Jesus Christ into the cultures of the 17,000+ people groups on earth for the sake of His great name!