

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends or your group.



For Discussion:

1. How does God’s blessing to Jacob relate to people today?
2. The Great Commission is generally understood as Matthew 28:18-20. Read this passage. To whom does Jesus instruct believers to go? What is the task Jesus has commissioned the church to accomplish?
3. Read Acts 1:8. This promise of Jesus helps us understand the scope of who disciples throughout the ages are to reach. How do these four spheres of influence relate to us today?
4. Paul was the first missionary. What was his pattern for reaching people and establishing new churches?
5. What role do you think God has for you in reaching out to others? How will you engage in reaching others cross-culturally?

ECC Global Mission Values:

Guided by Prayer: We rely on God to lead us to and through His work among the nations.

Rooted in Word: We teach the biblical basis for missions, compelling us to passionate obedience to the Great Commission.

Engaged Church-wide: We practice our individual and corporate responsibility to engage in cross cultural missions.

Aligned with Focus: We concentrate our efforts and resources on fewer, deeper partnerships.

Together as Partners: We collaborate with like-valued organizations and missionaries, multiplying our impact.

Committed through Sacrifice: We risk comfort and safety for deeper dependency on God, persevering through difficulties to make Jesus known.

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November 9 & 10, 2019 | Reaching the Least Reached

THE GOSPEL FOR ALL NATIONS

“The Bible is not the basis of missions; missions is the basis of the Bible.” — Ralph Winter, American missiologist

1. When we think of God REACHING down to save us, we sometimes see ourselves as an AFTERTHOUGHT. We know that the Bible refers to the Jews as His CHOSEN people. We read statements like Paul’s “*first to the Jew, then to the Gentile*” and we can think of ourselves as UNWANTED.

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

2. Remember that Paul’s words speak of the ORDER of the Gospel being preached and not of the VALUE of the audiences.

3. Actually, the WHOLE Bible reminds us that “ALL nations” have ALWAYS been a part of God’s plan. The message of the Old Testament is UNDENIABLE.

a. The FIRST patriarch (and first Jew), Abraham, was told that “ALL peoples” would be blessed through his line and it was then AFFIRMED in the New Testament.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Gal. 3:8 Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” 9 So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

b. Jacob was given the SAME message as his grandfather.

Gen. 26:4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations (‘ia, gowy) on earth will be blessed,

c. The Psalms repeat this REPORT often.

Psa. 67:1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us— 2 so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

d. The prophets continue the THEME with MANY references to the Gentiles and the INCLUSION of all nations.

Isa. 42:6 “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

4. The entire New Testament is clear that the Gospel is for ALL nations, and also that it is our responsibility to REACH them.

Matt. 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Rom. 11:17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, 18 do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches.

5. And after all of these years, there is still SO MUCH to do!

REACHING THE LEAST REACHED

1. The Great Commission is still the driving force to MOVE the church to reach out to others.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’

Mark 16:15 He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’

2. If we believe the numbers, our task in fulfilling the Great Commission cross culturally is the same as it was for the early church.

- Only 60% of the world has a Christian witness living among them.
- 3,000,000,000 people
- 7,000 people groups (τὰ ἔθνη). A group of people who considers themselves “US” as opposed to “THEM” based on LANGUAGE, culture, and customs.

3. While the Bible does not determine one METHOD of how to spread the Gospel, the sending of Paul in the book of Acts reveals a pattern of steps we want to follow.

a. The church sends MISSIONARIES who God raises up.

Acts 13:2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 14:26 ... they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

b. As people are reached, NEW BELIEVERS are built up in the faith and encouraged.

Acts 15:36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.’

c. God continues to direct missionaries to reach those who have not had the opportunity to hear a WITNESS of the Gospel.

Acts 16:9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

d. A group of people become believers and establish a church within their own community. INDIGENOUS church leaders continue the work which the missionaries began.

Acts 20:25 ‘Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

4. The cross-cultural mission for our local church is

“to make disciples among the nations, prioritizing the least reached, and to establish reproducing faith communities”.

FIRST STEP

Thailand

1. Many Thai people live in daily FEAR of offending spirits.

2. Major people groups in Thailand desperately need the Gospel!
 - > The ethnic Thai Buddhist (51 million): 0.3% Christian
 - > The ethnic Thai Muslim (4 million): 0.0% Christian

3. What is MY PART?