

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Missions - Part 2

DAVE LAWTON

Introduction

The heart of God is to engage with the lost to offer forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with Him. The book of Revelation states that in heaven “every tribe and tongue and people and nation” will be worshiping God. This means that the gospel needs to go out to every people group and culture. Even in the darkest circumstances the gospel has brought about salvation, hope, social change and transformation. Yet, there are few laborers before a great harvest. What can we do to meet this challenge and keep ourselves engaged in the work of cross-cultural missions?

Read

Luke 15:1-10, Matthew 22:1-10; Revelation 5:9, Revelation 7:9

Discuss

1. Luke 15 tells the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. What are the unique lessons about each lost item or person being found? Which of these parables best reflects your journey to faith in Christ?
2. Matthew 22:1-10 tells the parable of the wedding feast and how the most marginalized people were invited to the banquet. How is this parable reflected in society today? What can we learn from Pastor Dave’s story of the ministries that were started in the slums of India?
3. Read John 4:35-38 and Matthew 9:35-38, where Jesus describes the harvest. How could we respond to this? What happens to a harvest left uncollected? How can we better “lift up our eyes”?
4. Read Matthew 24:14. How does this verse connect the preaching of the gospel to all nations with the return of Christ? What does this mean for you?

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5. Have you been on a mission trip? Share this experience with your small group. What did you learn from this experience and how does it impact your faith today?
6. Have you felt called to serve God internationally? Share this prompting. Have the small group pray over you to consolidate God's calling on your life.

Respond

The call to missions is easily overlooked in the busyness of daily life. Yet the heart and purpose of God when birthing the church was to see the good news spread “to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Consider what you and your small group can do to keep cross cultural missions in the forefront of your faith, such as:

- Nominate a missionary to support prayerfully and financially as a group or individually.
- Share a short inspiring story of a missionary breakthrough every month in your small group.
- Commit to praying for a missionary endeavour you are passionate about.
- Consider going for a short term overseas or cross-cultural mission trip.

What else can you or your small group do?