



First Baptist Church At The Villages

Ministry Plan 2020 • Global Missions and Me •

John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 1 Chronicles 16:24 • For Use By Groups November 17 -23, 2019

MAIN POINT

Believers in Christ are sent as Jesus was in the power of the Holy Spirit to declare God's glory to the nations.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What would you say are the top three things every believer in Christ is called to do?

Do you think every Christian is called to global missions? Explain.

In your daily context, do you tend to think about the people you encounter as saved, lost and in need of salvation, or do you not think about their spiritual condition much at all? Explain.

Most Christians understand and embrace the call to serve and love God and others. Fewer understand and embrace the call to be God's witnesses throughout the whole earth. We question what that looks like in our context, and we often fail to even consider that God might want us to be involved in sharing the gospel globally. In today's session, we'll examine three Scriptures that remind us that, as believers in Christ, we are sent as Jesus was in the power of the Holy Spirit to declare God's glory to the nations.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| Ask a volunteer to read John 20:21.

Jesus said, “As the Father has sent Me”... . For what purpose did God the Father send Jesus?

Is it strange for you to consider that your purpose in the world is the same as Jesus’? How is this true?

Why might some believers feel angst, not peace, when they consider that Jesus has sent them to be on gospel mission?

Galatians 4:4-5 tells us, “When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” God the Father sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead so that we might be forgiven of our sins and receive eternal life. This is the good news Jesus came to give and the good news Jesus now sends His followers to proclaim to the world. When we trust in Jesus, we are at peace with God. When we are at peace with God, we are free to join Him in His kingdom purposes and emboldened to proclaim the gospel to the nations.

| Ask a volunteer to read Acts 1:8.

What specifics did Jesus’ words here give His disciples about what He meant in John 20:21?

What would it mean for us to be Christ’s witnesses in “Jerusalem”? “Judea and Samaria”? “To the ends of the earth”?

How does the first part of this verse help explain Jesus’ declaration about His followers? What if someone who follows Christ makes no effort to be His witness in the world? What that might indicate about him or her?

Jesus connected the process of global missions with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus’ disciples rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit, they will share the truth of the gospel locally and globally. The Spirit empowers us to overcome our fears and to fulfill what Jesus has asked us to do.

| Ask a volunteer to read 1 Chronicles 16:24.

According to this verse, what two things are God’s people commanded to declare to all people in every nation?

What are some key ways we declare God’s glory? His marvelous deeds?

The context of 1 Chronicles 16:24 is the placement of the Ark of the Covenant in the tabernacle. The ark represented God's presence with His people. God's tangible presence among His people, then, caused them to worship and proclaim Him to the nations. They were, together, a global witness. As New Testament believers in Christ, we are now that representation, our bodies the temple where God's presence dwells (1 Cor. 3:16). Wherever we go, whatever we do, whether by ourselves or together with God's people, we worship Him by declaring His glory and deeds to the nations. We are each called to global missions. We fulfill that call by praying for the nations to come to know Christ, by giving so that those who are going have the support and resources they need, and by going ourselves. Every believer in Christ is to declare His glory and deeds to the nations.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What are some hangups or obstacles that keep you from living out God's call on your life to engage in global missions? What is God saying to you about those things?

How are we doing as a group at declaring God's glory and marvelous deeds to all people here in our community? Globally? How can we do better?

What is one action / activity that we can plan and commit to do together as an outreach to those in our neighborhood or village?

PRAYER

Thank God for sending Jesus to earth to die for your sins and give you forgiveness and eternal life. Ask Him to remind you daily that you are sent as Jesus was, equipped by the power of the Holy Spirit, to share the gospel with the nations, starting right here in your community.

COMMENTARY

| John 20:21

Jesus had been a servant on a mission, and now he sent his people out to witness. Most evangelical scholars believe this reception of the Holy Spirit was temporary—an illumination of their hearts for the next fifty days before Pentecost. In that sense they received a prechurch age filling of the Spirit in anticipation of the Day of Pentecost so they could fully understand the Savior's instructions.

| Acts 1:8

Some have suggested that this key verse of Acts may contain a threefold table of contents: Jerusalem, Acts 2:42–8:3; Judea and Samaria, Acts 8:4–12:24; ends of the earth, Acts 12:25–28:31. We cannot know if Luke had that kind of division in mind, but the book unfolds in a fascinating manner somewhat along that pattern. Notice that the call to witness is not limited to any select group of people, since it spreads from the apostles to the 120 believers and on throughout the pages of Acts. Nor can we restrict it only to service in our own churches or to some kind of “professional ministry.” Every believer should be a “world Christian,” able to function for the Savior from the other side of the street to the other side of the world.

| 1 Chronicles 16:24

Israel was now under the watchful eye of all its neighbors, and this was an opportunity for the people of God to demonstrate the reality of God to the Gentiles. Israel was to be a witness to God among the nations.