

The Compass

a tool for disciplers



Equipping Believers for Ministry

World Vision

Conversation On the Journey

God's heart for the world is revealed throughout the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation. Take your disciple on a tour through the Bible to see how throughout history He has desired to call people from all nations to worship Him. As you do, pray that God would use this survey to awaken in them a desire to participate in the Great Commission, anywhere in the world.

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

One of the earliest revelations of God's heart for all people was when Abram was called by God to become a great nation, Israel. Take a look on a map with your disciple and find Israel. Ask them, "What do you think is significant about its location?" (It is the center of world on the thruway between Europe, Asia and Africa.) What was God's plan in doing this? (To make them a light to all nations.) "What are the three things God promises to Abraham?" One of them is that God promises that in Abraham all families of the earth would be blessed. This is a reference to the Messiah coming from Abraham and the nation of Israel. The Messiah would bring salvation to all peoples by paying for sin for the whole world. Look up Galatians 3:8 to see how Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in Gen. 12.

Isaiah 49:5,6

And now the LORD says. . . "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

Throughout the Old Testament God speaks of His desire that His salvation be known in all the earth. This is one of hundreds of references to His heart's desire for all peoples to know Him and His love.

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

This Week's Excursion

In this lesson your challenge is to help your disciple see and understand God's heart for the whole world, not just His little piece of the pie. God's desire, consistently revealed throughout Scripture, is that all people in all the earth would know about Him; He will not rest until His glory is evident among all people.

You get to motivate your disciple to be a part of what God is doing throughout the world, so he will have the pleasure of participating with our Lord in the worldwide harvest.



and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In the Great Commission, the last thing Jesus said to his men was to make disciples of all the nations, all people groups. This command continues for us today, for every generation until He comes.

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.”

Jesus instructs His disciples on the progression of the spread of the Gospel in the first century. Since that time, the Gospel has spread throughout all the nations of the earth in the past 2000 years. We live in a time in this generation in which we are closer than any other generation has ever been to reaching all the peoples of the earth. We have the technology, money, training, and strategy. The greatest need is still the laborers who are willing to fully engage in God’s purposes, submit their agenda to His, and be willing to do whatever He asks of them to fulfill His plan.

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

The end of the story is expressed in the scene in Heaven where there will be people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. This has been God’s plan all along – to redeem a great international people for Himself. The only thing that will go on into eternity from this planet will be the souls of men and women. God will make a new Heaven and a new Earth, but souls from all nations will live on for all eternity.

We can be a part of what God is doing in the world - it is a guaranteed reality. His plan will come to pass and we can get in on the excitement, thrill and the great adventure of partnering with God to accomplish a world wide vision. It is in being a part of what He is doing that gives our souls a sense of destiny!

How to Get in on What God Is Doing

You might ask your disciple, “How might we be a part of reaching people in other nations? In what ways can we make a difference?” Below are several “bridges” to the world.

1. Praying

Pray for specific people groups or nations, for individuals you know who are laboring overseas, and for your church’s missionaries. Operation World is a great prayer guide you could use, and can be found at any Christian bookstore.

Next Steps

1. Which bridge to the world do you want to utilize at the present time? Which “going” opportunity would help you develop your world vision?
2. Look at and pray over a world map together with your disciple and ask the Lord to use you to influence other parts of the world. Pray together for your church’s missionaries.
3. Read a missionary biography to further educate yourself and be captured by God’s heart for the world. Side Trails (below) lists a few suggested books and missionaries that you may want to read about.



2. *Giving*
Ask them, “Do you give any money right now to any missionaries?” They may not have much to give, but they can tithe from even meager amounts and establish a habit of giving that will continue for a lifetime.
3. *Going*
Ask them if they’ve ever considered giving a week for a mission trip. Take the opportunity to talk about mission opportunities your church provides, as well as opportunities from other mission organizations.
4. *Sending Others*
If your disciple doesn’t go himself, he can disciple others who will. Talk about how they can be used to motivate people to go to the world.

Side Trails

Let the Nations Be Glad. John Piper. Baker Academic.

Operation World. Patrick Johnstone. Paternoster

Eternity In Their Hearts. Don Richardson. Gospel Light.

Biographies of great missionaries, such as CT Studd, Jim Elliot, Hudson Taylor, Elisabeth Elliot, William Carey.

Order at amazon.com

Biblical Basis of Missions. (Audio file of talk). Claude Hickman. The Traveling Team.

Around the World. (Quicktime video). The Traveling Team.

mp3 and mpeg available at centerfieldproductions.com

TheTravelingTeam.org is a great website with many resources on this topic.

End 

The Compass is the discipleship curriculum for Campus Crusade for Christ’s Campus Ministry. It was created by Centerfield Productions, the field based division of CruPress. We’d love to hear your feedback on this lesson. Please write us at centerfield@uscm.org