

Study Guide: Take the Next Step – Missions

Primary Texts: John 14:6; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13–15; Revelation 7:9

Main Idea:

Because salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone, every believer and every church has a God-given responsibility to take the gospel to others—across the street and around the world—by praying, giving, and going.

1. The Exclusive Claim of the Gospel

Jesus made an unmistakable claim about salvation:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

Scripture consistently affirms that salvation is found in Christ alone—not through human effort, religious systems, or moral living.

Key Observations:

- Christianity does not present one option among many, but **the way** to God.
- Salvation is a gift of grace, not something earned by good deeds.
- If Jesus alone saves, then the gospel message is urgent and necessary for all people.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Jesus’ claim in John 14:6 both comforting and challenging?
2. How does the exclusivity of the gospel shape our view of missions?
3. Why is it unloving—not loving—to withhold the gospel from others?

2. God’s Mission for His Church

Jesus gave His followers a clear mission before returning to the Father:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19)

This mission is not optional or reserved for a few—it belongs to every believer.

Key Observations:

- Jesus sends us with **His authority**, not our own strength.
- The mission includes going, baptizing, and teaching—making disciples, not just converts.
- God’s plan for reaching the world is the local church.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to see yourself as a disciple who makes disciples?
2. How does knowing Jesus’ authority encourage you in sharing your faith?

3. What are some misconceptions people have about missions and evangelism?

3. Power and Presence for the Mission

Jesus did not give the mission without also providing what is needed to fulfill it:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”
(Acts 1:8)

Key Observations:

- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to witness effectively.
- The mission begins where we are and extends outward to the ends of the earth.
- Jesus promises His abiding presence with His people until the end of the age.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is dependence on the Holy Spirit essential for evangelism?
2. How does Acts 1:8 help us understand both local and global missions?
3. What fears or obstacles keep believers from witnessing, and how does God address them?

4. God’s Global Vision

John gives us a glimpse of the outcome of faithful gospel mission:

“...a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages...” (Revelation 7:9)

Key Observations:

- God’s redemptive plan includes people from every culture and language.
- Missions is not about numbers alone, but about worship—people standing before the Lamb.
- Faithful obedience today contributes to eternal worship tomorrow.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Revelation 7:9 shape your understanding of God’s heart for the nations?
2. Why should this vision motivate us to remain faithful in missions now?
3. How does your local witness connect to God’s global purposes?

5. Taking the Next Step

Every believer has a next step to take in God’s mission. Growth in missions happens through obedience, not comparison.

Key Areas of Obedience:

PRAY

- Pray daily for at least one person who needs Christ.

- Pray regularly for missionaries and gospel workers.
- Pray for opportunities to share your faith.

GIVE

- Support the mission of the local church.
- Give to missions offerings and gospel-centered ministries.
- View giving as participation in the work of the gospel.

GO

- Share the gospel intentionally with those around you.
- Invite others into Christian community.
- Consider short-term or long-term mission opportunities.
- Serve in ministries that clearly proclaim Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of these areas—pray, give, or go—comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging?
2. What might your *next step* look like in the coming weeks?
3. How can this group encourage and support one another in taking those steps?

Final Discussion & Application

1. Why is the church described as God's "Plan A" for reaching the world?
2. How does Romans 10:13–15 clarify our responsibility to share the gospel?
3. What practical changes might God be calling you to make in light of this study?
4. Who is one person God may be prompting you to pray for or speak to this week?

Key Takeaway:

Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, and He has entrusted His church with the message of eternal life. The question is not *if* we have a role in God's mission, but *what our next step will be*.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

— Romans 10:15