

# world mission

## introduction

**FACILITATOR:** 'World mission' is a very familiar phrase, perhaps so familiar it has lost some of its meaning or it has a very stereotyped meaning. These next four studies will allow us to take a fresh look at what world mission is and means to us personally and as a community. It's time to lay down our mindsets and get out of our little boxes and allow God to enthuse us and re-envision us with his plans and purposes again.

## 1: going global

### welcome

**CELL:** When it comes to sharing scriptures about salvation with other people, I feel...

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| a. Confident    | c. Confused |
| b. Questionable | d. Other    |

### worship

**CELL:** Read out Psalm 139 and then vocalize as a group our thanks to God for his love for us.

### word

**FACILITATOR:** As a group read Matt 28:18-20 then discuss the following:

*This passage is known as the 'Great Commission'. Discuss the implications of this for 5 minutes. In particular, think about what it means to make disciples, and obeying everything Jesus commanded.*

*The 'Great Commission' has been a significant motivation for global mission over the past 200 years. The problem is, by being at the end of Matthew's gospel, it can look like something of an afterthought. Is Jesus saying "oh, hang on a minute, I meant to mention this earlier, but I was a bit busy. As I'm leaving, do you think you could disciple the nations for me? Thanks".*

*Divide the verses among your cell members to look up. Have each member read the particular verse(s) aloud to the group. Can you see a common theme?*

- Genesis 12:3
- Genesis 18:18
- Psalm 67:1-3
- Psalm 96:13
- Psalm 98:2
- Isaiah 51:4-5
- Matthew 12:20-21
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Revelation 7:9
- Revelation 22:2

*Note how each of these verses refers to 'nations' or 'peoples'. God's plan throughout history, ever since the call of Abraham, is to bless all the nations of the earth with salvation.*

**CELL:** So who are the 'nations'?

**FACILITATOR:** We're used to the idea of 'nations'. It means places like United States, Mexico, England, Kenya, and so on.

**CELL:** If you were told that the Greek word translated as 'nations' or 'peoples' was *ethne*, would that make a difference? If so, what?

**FACILITATOR:** *Ethne carries the idea of 'ethnic groups'. Another phrase that is sometimes used is 'peoples' or people groups'. And a country can have more than one 'people group' living among it. Think of America today. Think of all the 'people groups' living here – Mexicans, Pakistanis, Indians, Germans, Nigerians, and so on.*

*The Bible tells us that it is God's intention that every single one of these 'nations' or 'people groups' should be discipled, blessed by God, and led to praise him.*

*The problem is, in our world today, not every people group has yet been discipled. There are still hundreds, if not thousands, of people groups in the world that are still classified as 'unreached'.*

**FACILITATOR:** *Ask the cell to give their definitions of "people group" and "unreached people group" before giving them these definitions.*

#### *People Group*

*A group of people bound together by a common language and cultural tradition.*

#### *Unreached People Group*

*A people group where there is no indigenous church or where the Christian presence is so small it cannot make an impact on that people group without help from outside.*

**CELL:** *What about where you are?*

**FACILITATOR:** *Cast vision to your cell group that universities are strategic places to live for God. This is because there are thousands of students from other parts of the world coming to them to study. Many of them are from peoples that are unreached, and, after their studies, will return home to be leaders in their countries.*

### **witness**

**FACILITATOR:** *Discuss with your cell how you could reach out to international students, as part of God's plan that all nations be discipled.*

*Take time to pray for the international students at your University. Be specific and intentional as you pray together.*

### **what now?**

**CELL:** *Commit to pray everyday this week for particular international students you know or those in your class. If you don't know any personally, pray for a particular "people group" on your University or in your city.*

**FACILITATOR:** *Consider forming 'triad prayer groups' to pray for international students over the next month and then as a cell plan a friendship event you could invite the internationals you have been praying for to attend.*

*(For information on the triad prayer model, refer to the witness section of the 'Core Values' Starter Pack cell notes.)*

## 2: what is mission anyway?

### welcome

**CELL:** What do you enjoy doing on a day off or in your spare time?

### worship

**CELL:** Take time as a group to praise and thank God for the many internationals on your University campus and in your surrounding areas.

### word

**FACILITATOR:** Have a couple of large pieces of paper ready to work through the following exercises as a group.

**CELL:** The church is called by God to reach out and disciple the nations. What kind of activities does this include? Write up your answers on a large piece of paper.

Which of these are the priorities for you?

As a group read Luke 4:16-21.

**FACILITATOR:** Here, Jesus reads a prophecy from Isaiah 61 about the coming Messiah, and says, in effect, "that's me".

*John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, had previously told people that he was preparing the way for the Messiah. He got into trouble (something prophets tend to do as powerful people don't like being told the truth), and put into prison. While there, doubts set in about Jesus, and he sent his own disciples to Jesus to check him out.*

**CELL:** As a group read Luke 7:18-23.

**FACILITATOR:** In particular, note Jesus' answer. He's saying to John, "Isaiah said the Messiah would do these things; I said that was me, and I've been doing them. Draw your own conclusions".

*Take time to look again at what kind of things Jesus did. Divide the cell into 2 or 3 smaller groups. Split the following scripture passage into even sections and have each group read their portion and write on a piece of paper the various things Jesus did.*

*Scripture passage: Luke 4:31 – 7:17.*

*Once all the groups are done, regroup and compile the lists onto a big piece of paper. After you have done this, compare your answers to the list below.*

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 4:31-37   | drives out an evil spirit  |
| 4:37-44   | heals many   |
| 5:1-11    | calls people to follow him   |
| 5:12-26   | heals a man with leprosy and a paralyzed man                                   |
| 5:27-32   | calls a tax-collector to follow him (note—these men were despised as traitors) |
| 5:33-6:11 | challenges religious teachings that oppress people                             |
| 6:12-16   | forms a cell group (!)   |
| 6:17-49   | teaches about the kind of lifestyle God expects                                |
| 7:1-17    | heals and raises the dead  |

*As a group, compare this list with the list you made earlier for the role of the church.*

**CELL:** What does this tell us about the way we should be living?

## **witness**

***FACILITATOR:*** *If you formed triad prayer groups last week, have the groups spend time in prayer together. If not, spend time as a group praying through this material...with open hearts before God regarding what priorities you should focus on as a cell.*

## **what now?**

**CELL:** Memorize last week's verses of Matthew 28:18-20, remembering that God will use a willing vessel.

### 3: crossing cultures

#### welcome

**FACILITATOR:** *If anyone memorized the scripture verse from last week, have them say it for the group. (Maybe have a small “reward” for those who took time to memorize it...i.e. candy...)*

*Ask if there is anyone in the group who has traveled overseas and would like to share briefly how it felt walking into a new culture perhaps where they spoke a language you didn't understand. (If you have internationals in your cell, maybe they can share briefly how they felt initially walking into our culture.)*

#### worship

**CELL:** What is God speaking to you about at the moment?

**FACILITATOR:** *After everyone has shared, consider spending time in prayer thanking God for being relational always speaking to each one of us on a very personal level.*

#### word

**CELL:** What kind of jargon is used in Christian circles? Give examples of words or phrases.

**FACILITATOR:** *Share the following information with the cell group and then move right into the group activity listed below.*

*World mission means crossing cultures. It means talking with and listening to people whose worldview, whose most basic assumptions about life, can be very different to yours. This can lead to misunderstandings.*

*For example, the first Moravian missionaries to Greenland couldn't call Jesus the 'Lamb of God'. Why? Because sheep were not known on Greenland.*

*Also, the tribal religion of Greenland didn't involve any animal or other sacrifices. So how do you explain what Jesus did on the cross?*

*Another example – the Savi people of Papua New Guinea prized treachery as the highest virtue. So, in the gospels, Judas is the hero, for betraying Jesus. How do you get around that one?*

**CELL ACTIVITY:** Communicating the gospel across cultures – how the apostles did it.

**(FACILITATOR:** *It might be worth breaking up into 4 small groups, with each group looking at one passage and discussing their ideas. In each case, make sure people are given the background information before they look at the passage.)*

*Once everyone is done, regroup then feedback from each group, and try to work out if there are some common principles you can apply as a cell or personally.*

In the following 4 examples, look at how Peter or Paul shape their message in a way that their hearers will understand.

**Group 1:** Read Acts 2:14-39.

The Jews were the people of God, and they were waiting for the Messiah. They believed that the Old Testament contained prophecies about his coming.

**Group 2:** Read Acts 10:1-2, 27-43.

The 'God-fearers' were non-Jews who were attracted to Israel's religion, either because of the belief in one God, or because of its high ethical standards. The Jews did not regard them as equals.

**Group 3:** Read Acts 14:8-17.

'Primal' religion is usually concerned with 'mundane' daily matters, like how to ensure that the crops don't fail, or how to recover from illness. Survival itself is hard enough, without worrying about 'higher' matters.

**Group 4:** Read Acts 17:16-34.

The Greek poet Homer wrote down most of the poems and stories about the Greek gods, and the ancient Greeks began to realize that their gods were a spoiled, fickle and capricious lot. In response, Greek philosophers like Plato developed a religion that believed in a single God, although they thought he was far removed from this world. Philosophy sought to find God and to understand what right living was.

### **witness**

**FACILITATOR:** *If you formed triad prayer groups, have the groups spend time in prayer together and continue to make plans for a friendship event at the end of this cell packet.*

*Discuss how you as a group can communicate the gospel more clearly to your friends and fellow students. Also think about how you might communicate it to the international students you have met since the first session (you have got to know some, right?).*

### **what now?**

**CELL:** Take steps this week to reach out to an international student. It may be simply greeting them as you walk into class or inviting someone out for a cup of coffee. Begin this week to be intentional in those relationships God has surrounded you with.

## 4: get started now – short-term mission

### introduction

**FACILITATOR:** So far we have thought about how you can be involved in world mission while on campus. But what about going overseas now? What are the possibilities? Find out (preferably in advance) if anyone in your cell has done a short-term mission program. If not, try to find someone who has (perhaps in another Fusion cell). Ask them to talk about it with your group for a few minutes.

### welcome

**CELL:** If you could visit any place in the world, where would it be and why?

### worship

**FACILITATOR:** Ask everyone to answer the following question...

What would be the ultimate time of worship for you here on earth?  
(i.e. Standing alone on the highest mountain peak praising God? Worshipping God with thousands of others in a stadium? Floating out in the middle of the ocean and praying with just a few close friends?)  
After everyone has shared, have someone read Rev. 19:4-6, then worship and praise God together.

### word

**FACILITATOR:** Being a missionary used to be about making a career decision for life. But it's becoming increasingly possible to get involved in world mission, not just in the US (i.e. with international students – remember them?), but also overseas. However, is this 'real' mission, or is it just 'playing' at being a missionary?

**CELL:** As a group, look at the following passages and answer the questions.

Read Matt 6:10; Matt 7:21-23; Matt 21:28-31. What is the common theme?

**(FACILITATOR:** The important point in the above passages is that following Christ is about what you **do**, not just about what you **believe**.)

Read Matt 5:6, 10; Matt 5:20; Matt 6:33; Matt 25:31-46. What's the common theme here?

**(FACILITATOR:** Righteousness. This is something both spiritual and practical. It means having a right relationship with God, **and** having a right relationship with other people.)

So what has this got to do with short-term mission?

**FACILITATOR:** Our starting point must be that following Christ, which includes making disciples of all nations, is not a one-time activity that we do for a month or two. It's a lifestyle commitment. Short-term mission programs give you the opportunity to focus, to build on experiences and to develop proper attitudes in your whole life.

The Fusion website includes a section on mission opportunities. ([www.fusion.uk.com/](http://www.fusion.uk.com/) ...) You might check out short term mission opportunities in advance of the cell meeting, and print out some of the information for people to look at. If you have cell members who are going on a short-term mission program soon, take this opportunity to pray for one another.

### witness/what now?

**FACILITATOR:** If you formed triad prayer groups, have the groups spend time in prayer together and finalize plans for the upcoming friendship event. Encourage everyone to invite those international students you've been praying for to attend. If there is not an event planned as a cell, encourage everyone to take the initiative to plan an activity that they could invite international students to attend.

**CELL:** Take some serious time now to pray and ask God to show you where and how he wants you involved in world missions, both as individuals and as a cell group. It's not something you have to wait to do. There are loads of possibilities before you now!