

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Life Group Leaders Guide

Directions

This packet contains the background information, “series” information, and the curriculum you will need to lead the life group for our *Global Missions* stand alone message. Everything on this page is to help you stay connected to the message and church as a whole. Behind this page is the individual curriculum to help you point people to Jesus. The *Purpose* and *Move* sections of the curriculum are for the leader to read or paraphrase to the group. The *Notes and Commentary* section is for the leader to get background information and go deeper into the passages before leading the life group. The curriculum was designed with your freedom in mind. Read through the curriculum and decide what will work best for your group. SOAP the passages with the group, use only certain questions, write your own questions, or use the curriculum verbatim. As the leader, you know what will point your people to Jesus.

Message Overview

What we heard in our *Global Missions Sunday* message is that Jesus desires us to use the power of the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses around the world. The book of Acts records that after the disciples receive the promised Holy Spirit they embark on a life mission to make Jesus and His resurrection known around the world. Although the statement recorded in Acts 1:8 was spoken 2,000 years ago, it is just as applicable today. The job of every Christian is to help take the story of Christ to all corners of the Earth so that all people will have the opportunity to worship our God. The Point Church has modeled Acts 1:8 in deigning 4 levels of mission work (Level 1: USA, Level 2: Dominican Republic, Level 3: India, and Level 4: Middle East) to help our people follow in the disciples footsteps. Also, in an effort to ensure that we never stop proclaiming that as a church, we have written into our yearly calendar a *Global Missions Sunday* every year to push our people to partner with God and the work He is doing around the world.

Life Group Overview

During the *Global Missions Sunday* stand alone message our life group curriculum will cover the same topic that was covered from stage but using a different passage or set of passages. This curriculum will begin with an unpacking of the previous Sunday’s service to help the leader open up the topic for the study and also see how people responded to the Sunday teaching.

Global Missions Message Schedule

| Week | Sermon Date | Topic of sermon | Topic of life group |
|--------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Week 1 | 10/8 | Global Missions - Acts 1:8 | Psalms 96 |

The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

Global Missions Sunday - Psalm 96

Purpose of Study

Tonight we will extend what was spoken about on stage by looking at a psalm that highlights God's relationship to His people, to other gods, to the nations, and to the universe. This is a song exclaiming not only who God is but what He desires, which is all the Earth to worship Him. Tonight we will read through psalm 96 in one section, talk about it, and then apply it to our lives.

Note to the leader: If you and your group really enjoy SOAPing through a passage, this would be a great time to do it. Take Psalm 96 as the **Scripture**, read through it together, and pull out your **Observations** and **Applications**. Finish your time with **Prayer**.

Flow of Study

Optional Icebreaker: Are you the type of person that enjoys traveling?

Move #1: Since the Sunday sermon and life groups are covering the same topics, it might be a good idea (both for content and time) to begin the discussion with some unpacking questions from this Sunday's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the sermon this weekend?
2. What is one thing from the sermon that you want to apply this week?
3. Can you think of a person who took Jesus' call to go and make disciples seriously which, in turn, led to your salvation? This does not have to be an international missionary.
 - a. **Ex:** I (Mike) was introduced to Jesus in high school by a NC State college student who volunteered his free time in college as a Young Life leader. Instead of hanging out with his college friends, he chose to give his time, gifts, and abilities to the students of Cary High School (me being one of them). Because of his decision to go...I know Jesus. He was a missionary. I believe if you take time to trace your salvation backwards, you will find someone who took Jesus' call to go seriously.
4. Were you aware of the 4 levels of missions at our church?
5. Have you ever been involved with international missions (praying, giving, going)? What has that added to your life? What has that added to your relationship with Jesus?
6. What do you think are the major reasons why many Christians are not involved in missions (by praying, giving, and/or going)?

Move #2: The psalm we are looking at comes from an anonymous author but it closely mirrors a song David sang in 1 Chronicles 16 when the ark of the covenant made its way to Jerusalem. This psalm sings of God's faithfulness to his people, his desire for all people, and his command of the whole universe. Let's read through the psalm and then see what stands out to us.

Read Psalm 96 (NIV)

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

⁴ For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

1. In view of what we talked about from stage this weekend, what stands out to you from the passage?
2. Reread verses 1-2. What do you think it means to sing to the Lord a new song? Is there a personal "new song" that you are singing to the Lord this week? Should the Christian always have a "new song" to be singing?
3. In verse 3, the psalmist makes clear that this new song (declaring of God's glory) should not just be a private practice for the Christian but one to tell of what He has done to all people in your life. What do you think this would look like for the Christian?
4. Many people view their relationship with God as personal (which it should be) but take that to mean it should also be private. Why do you think that is the case? Is that what the psalmist is commanding? How do you think that connects to missions?
5. In verse 4, the language shifts from praising God to fearing God. What do you think the passage means with the idea of "fearing God?"
6. In verse 5, it mentions the idols of other nations. These can be other gods (such as the gods of other religions) or many of the idols that we worship today (ex: sex, money, power, fame). Should it bother Christians that many peoples around the world are worshipping fake images that they think are the true God? Have you ever thought about it that way? How does that affect you?
7. In verses 11-13, the worship zooms outward and shows that not only are we to worship the Lord but all of creation will sing together in worship. How does this change the view of God? Do you naturally see Him in this light?
8. At the end of the psalm, the psalmist makes clear that all of the world will be judged. Why do you think that makes missions such an important endeavor to be a part of? Is this the urgency you see in your life and in the lives of the Christians you know?
9. In the last verse it says all people will be judged "in his faithfulness." Why is the word "his" good news for all people?

Move #3: Now that we have unpacked Psalm 96, let's try to relate the principles of it to our life.

1. What is something that stood out to you tonight that you are going to take with you?
2. At The Point we view all our people as missionaries. We are all missionaries to our neighborhood, workplace, family, and friends. Do you view yourself in this light?
3. At The Point we also desire every single one of our people to be involved in missions through praying, giving, or going. Are you involved in that now? Have you gone? What has it added to your life?
4. What are some fears/trepidations you think many people have with praying, giving, and/or going? Do you have any fears in getting involved in one of our 4 levels?

Prayer: End your study with a time of prayer where people can share prayer requests and be prayed for before they leave. If possible, please steer some prayer towards what your group talked about during this study.

Next Steps: The following are resources or next steps that could be beneficial for your members.

1. Remind your people of ways they can get involved in missions at The Point. Direct them to <http://pointchurch.com/missions> for more information on our projects.

Notes and Commentary

The following are pieces of commentary, facts, and links based on the passages of this study in order. Use them to help supplement your group time or for your personal preparation.

Spurgeon's Treasury of David - Commentary

- See <https://goo.gl/kJNqyU> for link to Psalm 96

Psalm 96

- Psalm 96 is anonymous, but it is a substantial reproduction of the words written by David and handed over to Asaph on the occasion of the moving of the ark to the tent in Jerusalem (1 Chron 16:8–33). This psalm explores Yahweh's relationship to (1) the Israelites (vv. 1–3); (2) the Gentile gods (vv. 4–6); (3) the nations (vv. 7–9); and (4) the universe (vv. 10–13). (Smith)
- **(On verses 1-3)** Fresh mercies demand fresh expressions of thanksgiving. All the earth is summoned to join in Israel's praise. Israel is urged to proclaim ceaselessly the good news of Yahweh's salvation. All the nations should hear of his marvelous works. (Smith)
- **(On verses 4-6)** Yahweh is worthy to be praised. He is to be feared above all the so-called gods of men. Those idols are "things of nought," i.e., they do not really exist. Yahweh, however, is the creator of the heavens. The attributes of "honor" and "majesty" are perhaps personified and regarded as attendants standing in God's presence. In the sanctuary the psalmist can see the ark, the symbol of Yahweh's "strength" and "beauty." (Smith)
- **(On verses 7-9)** The psalmist appeals to the nations to acknowledge Yahweh. "The glory due his name" is given to the Lord when he is acknowledged as the one true and living God. The "offering" is that which subjects bring to their lord in token of their submission. The reference to the temple courts is one of the adaptations of the original poem by David written before the temple was built (cf. 1 Chron 16:29).

As the priests were required to minister only in holy attire (Exod 28:2), so must the nations serve him in his temple clothed in holiness. (Smith)

- **(On verses 10-12)**The message of Yahweh's reign should be proclaimed among the nations. He will establish the moral world so that it cannot be shaken by injustice. He shall judge the people with perfect equity. The psalmist appeals to nature to rejoice in the reign of Yahweh. God's righteous rule brings harmony and peace to all creation. (Smith)

- **(On verse 13)**Yahweh comes to establish his righteous rule on earth. He comes to "judge," i.e., govern, the earth. Such government will, of course, inevitably require judicial judgment. Truth and righteousness characterize his government. Such passages must be classified as messianic. (Smith)