

Why Global Missions?

Lesson 1: *God's Heart for the Nations* (Part 1)

Jim Davis
Director of Outreach

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

- Jesus, Matthew 28:19-20a

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- Jesus, Acts 1:8

The story of missions begins with the dawn of creation in Genesis 1. God has wanted all peoples on earth, all nations to worship Him and lift up His name.

Many ask: **Why do we go to the other side of the world to do missions when the needs are so great right here in Tulsa?**

God has a heart for the nations, visible throughout the whole of Scripture.

Three sections of Scripture provide framework for a further look:

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| 1. Genesis 1-11 | Creation and Sin |
| 2. Genesis 12 – Jude | Redemption |
| 3. Revelation of John | Restoration |

Creation and Sin: Genesis 1-11

God's Heart for the Nations

Humanity made in the *image of God*

Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth

Enmity, bruising and crushing

The first glimpse of the Gospel.

Genesis 3

the serpent, the woman and Adam

Genesis 6

Noah

Genesis 11

at the tower of Babel

Section 1 Summary:

God designed the earth and mankind to spread His name and His glory

Humanity made wrong choices

Immediately God began implementing His plan of redemption

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Group Study

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Set a timer for five minutes and write as many responses as you are able as the group brainstorms out loud: ***What do you know about Asbury's work in missions and outreach?***

What is your initial response to the question many Christians ask: *Why do we go to the other side of the world to do missions when the needs are so great right here at home?*

What difference does it make to you to recognize that the Gospel story begins with, "You were created in the image of God," rather than, "You are a sinner"?

In what way is Genesis 3:14-15 "the first glimpse of the Gospel"?

What does Jim Davis reveal as the motive behind God's instruction to Adam and Eve, then Noah: *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth?*

What went wrong at the Tower of Babel?

What do you see happening around you – and beyond – that shows God is at work with His plan of redemption and restoration?

As you close in prayer, invite participants to pray aloud for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be greatly advanced in your own city and/or in the country or region of their own ethnic origin.