



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 1 - Number 3
The week of October 18, 2015

60th Annual Missions Conference
The Plot of the Story of God
Psalm 96

THIS WEEK'S CORE STATEMENT

MISSION – People Group Profile - Southeast Asian Muslims

It's 4:30 am in Pontianak (pohnt-ee-ah-nakh), Indonesia, and the call to prayer echoes out over the otherwise quiet city. Adin (ah-deen) is already awake and has washed his head, face, hands, and feet. He walks to the mosque a few steps from his apartment. A life-long friend, less devout, just rolls over in bed. His boathouse on the river is docked in front of a local mosque, but the voice on the loud speaker is not enough to rouse him. Both men are Malay (mah-lay), though, and to be Malay is to be Muslim.

More than 225 million Muslims, some 20 percent of Muslims worldwide, call Southeast Asia home. Many live in Malaysia and Indonesia, from villages along the riverbanks and tropical rain forests to the high-rises and slums of megacities like Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. Others can be found in Singapore and Brunei, or live among the Buddhists and Christians of Thailand, the Philippines, and Myanmar.

The Malay and other Indo-Malay peoples feel Islam is what keeps their cultures rooted in the midst of a face-changing world. Theirs is a gentler face of Islam than you might see in some places; after being Muslim, they consider being kind and friendly the signs of a good person. They take particular care to preserve peace and harmony, offer hospitality, behave respectably, and avoid conflict and debate. They may also be reticent to speak about personal problems lest they cause others to worry.

Southeast Asian Muslims have a strong awareness of the spiritual world and work to avoid or appease jinn (evil spirits). They may fear being left alone or encountering spirits in dark places. Like his friends and neighbors, Adin has experience with ghosts, spirits, and those who have been possessed or harassed by them. Many will turn to a traditional healer, often called a dukun (dee-koon) for protection, and look to religious devotion to keep evil at bay and earn them blessings.

Seeking safety and security, some Southeast Asian communities see the appeal of sharia (shah-ree-ah, or Islamic law), and politicians appeal to others by promising more Islamic laws in exchange for votes.

This Week's Complementary Passage

ROMANS 10:13-18

¹³For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. ¹⁸But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."



double underline all
geographical locations



This Week's Text for Study – Psalm 96

STEP ONE ...

READING what the passage says (*Read it at least three times*).

¹ *Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!*

² *Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.*

³ *Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!*

⁴ *For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.*

⁵ *For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.*

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

⁷ *Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
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 holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!*

¹⁰ *Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."*

¹¹ *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;*

¹² *let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy*

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

STEP TWO ...

OBSERVING how the passage moves

Return to the passage and **mark key words, phrases and movements:**

- Circle every reference to the Lord in this Psalm.
- Underline all the commands in this Psalm: Sing (v. 1); bless (v. 2); declare (v. 3); ascribe (v. 7); worship (v. 9); Say (v. 10).
- Bracket each reason why the Lord is worthy of our obedience to each command.
- Write in the margin of v. 3 and v. 10 the words, "Our Mission."

STEP THREE ...

ASK the five "W" questions and the one "H" question:

1. **Who** is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters? And, to **whom** is it speaking?
2. **What** is the subject of the passage? What does the passage say about the subject?
3. **When** do or will the events occur? When did something happen to a particular person, people, or nation?
4. **Where** did or will this happen?
5. **Why** is something said or mentioned? Why would or will this happen? Why at this time? Why this person?
6. **How** will it happen? How is it to be done? How is it illustrated?

STEP FOUR ...

SUMMARIZING the message

GOD'S CALL TO THE NATIONS

I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk when we remember the great sacrifice which He made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us.

~David Livingston, Scottish missionary to Africa

Early in His ministry Jesus clearly communicated that He was the Messiah and that He had come to be the Savior of the world. Jesus had less than three years to liberate His Jewish disciples from their nationalistic cultural biases. It was vital for the disciples to realize that the gospel of the Kingdom is for all peoples and that His mandate was to the nations, not to a nation. Jesus uses each of these events and stories to strip away the cultural biases of His followers. This week you will study how Jesus awakened His disciples to His global purpose, with deep personal implications for Christians today.

1. Jesus and the Nations

As you study the following passages, notice what is significant about each event, what Jesus is conveying, and who His audience is.

a. Ministering to non-Jews.

1. Ministry to the crowds (Matthew 4:23-25).

2. The faith of the Canaanite women. (Matthew 15:21-28) Be careful how you interpret this event. In Matthew 15:1-20, Jesus had just taught on the subject of what is clean and unclean. Then notice where He took the disciples. Remember what Matthew 4:24 reveals about Jesus' ministry to Gentiles. In Matthew 15:24, to whom is Jesus speaking?

3. Jesus and the ministry in Sychar. (John 4:39-42) Notice how the villagers describe what they've discovered about Jesus after their two days together.

b. Jesus uses stories and events as object lessons for the disciples. Note that interaction with Gentiles and Samaritans and stories about them are also used by Jesus to shake up the cultural bias of the Jews.

1. The centurion's faith (Matthew 8:5-13)

2. The parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-36)

3. Jesus cleanses ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19)

4. Jesus opens the eyes of his disciples to his global purpose through his teaching.
 - a. Salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14)
 - b. Signs of the end of the age (Matthew 24:1-14)
 - c. The narrow door (Luke 13:22-30)

2. God's Call to the Nations

After the resurrection, as Jesus moved closer to His ascension to the right hand of the Father, He made it clear that His purpose was global and His mandates were to catapult His followers to the nations. The following passages collectively comprise the "Great Commission" and restate the commission God gave to Abram found in the purpose clause of Genesis 12:3, "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of God blessing the families of the earth through Abram (Galatians 3:14). His mandate to His followers will never be understood if their only grasp of the "Great Commission" is gained from Matthew 28:19-20. Full understanding is achieved when we study all five of Jesus' restatements of the Great Commission given after the resurrection. As you study each statement notice the similar and different emphases.

- a. Commissioning statements: Note how the task is defined and what the command is in each statement.
 1. Matthew 28:18-20. Two hints: The imperative verb is "make disciples." "Nations" does not mean a political entity or geographical boundary of a country. "Nations" comes from the Greek word *ethne*. Identify the three verbs that help us define what is involved in discipling the nations?
 2. Mark 16:15-16
 3. Luke 24:44-49
 4. John 20:21-23. John's account of Jesus' restatement of the commission will take on new meaning if you take the time some day to read the Gospel of John and focus on Jesus' use of the word "sent" or "send." (Examples: John 5:36-38; 6:38-39; 12:44-49.)
 - a. John 20:21-23 is the only commissioning statement that doesn't focus on the task, but the relationship from which the task flows. The phrase "as the Father sent me" would seem to relate to the task as it is stated in John 3:17, "...that the world might be saved through Him." The portrait of Christ which John paints is of the Word becoming flesh, accomplishing His mission through His intimate submission to the Father's will and direction.

Consider the following passages as examples of Jesus' intimate submission to the Father: John 4:34; 5:19-20; 5:30; 6:38; 10:17-18; and 14:9-11. What is Jesus communicating in these verses?

- b. Notice how Jesus prays for us in John 17:17-23, especially what He requests for us from the Father and why.

5. Acts 1:3-8.

Jesus not only gives us the mission of taking His message to the nations, He also empowers us to accomplish it.

b. Taking into consideration the verses you just read, write a summary statement that describes Jesus' global mandate.

*Would that God would make hell so real to us that we cannot rest;
heaven so real that we must have men there;
Christ so real that our supreme motive and aim shall
be to make the Man of Sorrows, the Man of Joy
by the conversion to Him of many.*

J. Hudson Taylor, missionary to China

STEP FIVE ...

GROWTH GROUP CONVERSATION: EXPLORING the passage through group discussion

1. Psalm 96 is a song for missions. How does this emphasis on mission appear throughout it? To whom is the focus of this mission directed?
2. The Psalmist anticipates the praise of the nations for God's mighty acts. What mighty acts does this psalm specifically celebrate?
3. This psalm commands us to sing a *new* song. Who is to do the singing? What makes this song new?
4. How does this psalm confront the religious landscape of the world? How should the 'gods' of this world be perceived?
5. What are the nations of the world commanded to do and why?
6. What impact should this psalm have upon our lives and our churches?

THE MISSION OF LOUDONVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

We are committed to reaching and teaching people to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ, connecting them to one another and sending them to serve their families, communities and world.

10 CORE BELIEFS OF A DISCIPLE

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

The Godhead *2 Corinthians 13:14*

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Deity and Sinlessness of Christ *Colossians 2:9*

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life.

The Sufficient Atonement of Christ *2 Corinthians 5:19-21*

We believe in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood.

The Resurrection and Return of Christ *Acts 1:3, 9-11*

We believe in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

Salvation By Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9*

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential and that a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit *John 14:16*

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

Unity in Christ *Ephesians 2:14-17*

We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eternity *Revelation 21:22-27*

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

We believe that everything we have or own belongs to God.

10 CORE PRACTICES OF A DISCIPLE

Undiluted Worship *Matthew 22:37-40*

Loving the Lord God with all of our physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual vigor and, my neighbor as myself.

Constant Abiding *John 15:1-11*

Abiding in Christ in order to be faithful and bear fruit.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

Reading the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for daily life.

Desperate Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

Praying to God to know Him, laying requests before Him and, finding direction for daily life.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

Fellowshipping with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, other people's lives and, in the world.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

Using my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Total Forgiveness *Ephesians 4:30*

Practicing forgiving others as God has forgiven me in Christ.

Tangible Compassion *Matthew 25:31-46*

Showing compassion to those in need and so minister to Jesus Himself.

Generous Giving *2 Corinthians 8:7*

Giving away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

God Space *Ephesians 6:19-20*

Increasing the quantity and quality of our gospel conversations.

10 CORE VIRTUES OF A DISCIPLE

Love - a sincere affection for others *1 John 4:10-12*

Love is acting in someone else's interest no matter who they may be, no matter how you feel, and no matter what it costs.

Joy - a delight unaffected by circumstances *John 15:11*

An inner delight in God that is sustained in spite of the changing seasons of life.

Peace - an abiding sense of harmony *Philippians 4:6-7*

Relationships are free from friction. Positively, it describes harmonious relations with others in the church.

Patience - a willingness to stick with things *Proverbs 3:3-4*

Being willing to live with a difficult situation for a long time—even if things are slow to change or never change.

Kindness - a sense of compassion in the heart *Job 6:14*

An inner disposition that puts others at ease and out of which kind actions flow.

Goodness - a goodness that flows outwardly *1 Thess. 5:15*

Choosing to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Faithfulness - an unwavering loyalty *Psalms 26:3*

Being the kind of people who keep our word to one another.

Gentleness/Humility - an attitude of humility without any entitlement; a lack of self-awareness *Philippians 4:5; 2:3-4*

Gentleness is power and strength under God's control. Humility is considering others above myself, if I consider myself at all.

Self-Control - an ability to direct your energy wisely

Titus 2:11-13

The strength to restrain our desires, emotions, and actions has to come from within rather than from some outside source.

Hope - a certainty of what is to come *Hebrews 6:19-20*

Coping with the hardships of life and with death because of hope in Christ.

Each week this Bible Study will feature either a core belief, practice or virtue vital for growing disciples.

Loudonville Community Church,
374 Loudon Road, Loudonville, NY 12211

www.lcchurch.org