NEIGHBORS & NATIONS: WORKOUT GUIDE

MATTHEW 28:16-20 & REVELATION 7:9-17

NEIGHBORS & NATIONS

PONDER › PRAY › PRACTICE › PROCLAIM

Read and study Matthew 28:16–20 and Revelation 7:9–17.

> **Ponder the ultimate aim of the Jesus follower's life, how this informs our purpose and mission today, and how you can pray, give, and go for the sake of gospel advancement.**
> **Pray for the salvation of the nations.**
> **Seek opportunities to give generously for the sake of gospel advancement.**
> **Seek opportunities to go: to proclaim the gospel to your neighbors and the nations.**

»PONDER→

Ponder the ultimate aim of the Jesus follower's life, how this informs our purpose and mission today, and how you can pray, give, and go for the sake of gospel advancement.

The following questions can act as a guide for your meditation on this truth and its implications, helping both your personal reflection and your conversation with others in light of God's Word.

- Meditate on the greatness and supremacy of God, greater than all the nations of the world.
  - o "All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness" (Isaiah 40:17).
- At the same time, meditate on the Lord's care for the nations and desire that all the nations would worship Him.
  - o "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy" (Psalm 67:3–4).
- What is the purpose of the Jesus follower's life? (1 Corinthians 10:31; Isaiah 43:7; Matthew 5:16)
  - o We act for His glory when we share the gospel, bringing others to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, so that they also may glorify Him with their lives.
- Meditate on the magnitude of the Lord's glory: it is immeasurable.
  - o Read verses that talk about the glory of the Lord, such as Isaiah 6:3; Hebrews 3:3; 2 Corinthians 3:7–11; Romans 11:36; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Peter 4:11.
  - o Meditate on Jesus, who is worthy of glory from the worship of every nation, tribe, and tongue. This is where the Jesus follower's life will find its ultimate end and fulfillment: worshiping around the throne, giving glory to the Lord alongside the great multitude from every nation (Revelation 7:9).
- Why is it significant that God's glory is the driving force behind our pursuit of missions?
- What opportunities are in front of you to pray, give, and go for the sake of gospel advancement to the nations?

»PRAY→

Respond in prayers for the salvation of the nations.

Read and pray Psalm 67.

- Father, be gracious to us and bless us and make your face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! (Psalm 67:1–5).

Read Matthew 28:18–20 and pray for the church's faithfulness to make disciples, both baptizing and teaching them to observe all that Christ has commanded.

Read Luke 10:2 and pray for the church's faithfulness to send disciples to those who are far from God, both across the street and around the world—to our neighbors and to the nations.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

»PRACTICE→

This week, seek opportunities to give generously for the sake of gospel advancement.

- Why is faithful giving important as a spiritual discipline? (Malachi 3:7–10; Acts 2:45; 20:33–35)
- Why should sacrificial generosity mark the Jesus follower's life? (2 Corinthians 8–9)

- Use this week to evaluate your regular spending and giving habits. For example:
  - o If you do not regularly give as an act of worship and submission, what changes might you need to make in your finances to begin to pursue this act of obedience?
    - For more on getting started with giving, check out Money in the Light of Eternity and the corresponding Blueprint Guide in the Resource Center.
  - o If you consistently spend money on excess or unneeded things, prayerfully consider if this is the best use of your funds and resources.
  - o If you already regularly give as an act of worship and submission, consider what sacrifices you might make this week or this month in order to give above and beyond for the sake of supporting or fueling gospel advancing work.
    - o Visit tcbchurch.org/give2go to learn more about this pursuit at TCBC.

- If you are married, use this as an opportunity to prayerfully consider your family's budget and make a plan to pursue sacrificial generosity together.
- If you have children in your home, use this as an opportunity to have conversations that teach and train your children about the spiritual discipline of giving.

»PROCLAIM→

This week, seek opportunities to go: to proclaim the gospel to your neighbors and the nations.
"We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (5:20).

- This Thanksgiving, talk about what you are thankful for and be intentional to turn these conversations to gospel conversations.
  - o When you think about what you are thankful for, are you more likely to think about temporal things or eternal things? (Colossians 3:2)
  - o Ask others what they are thankful for, and don't be afraid to turn the conversation to eternal things. Talk about how everything we have on this earth comes from God and points us to ultimate enjoyment of Him.
  - o Talk about being thankful for the gospel. In Jesus we have redemption by His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).
  - o Talk about being thankful for your purpose in Christ: your life is not your own; you exist for Him. You have been sent into this world as His ambassador (John 17:18; 2 Corinthians 5:20).
- Invite others to respond to the good news of the gospel in repentance and faith.

- Prayerfully consider what opportunities you could have to make Jesus known to the nations.
  - o Could you sacrifice a week next year on a Go Trip? Are you in a season of life such as college, singleness, or retirement where you could devote a summer or year to relocate to an area that is less reached with the gospel on a Go Season? Could your family serve as long-term cross-cultural missionaries on a Go Stay? Learn more about opportunities at tcbchurch.org/gotrips.