



# APRIL BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

## THE CHANGING PARADIGM OF MISSIONS

### THAT THEY MAY KNOW *(Week One: Matthew 28:19)*

*Pray, asking God to speak to you through His Word.*

1. Read Matthew 10:5-6; Romans 1:16; 2:10. Summarize Jesus' (and Paul's) strategy for evangelism. \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you think He sent His disciples only to the lost sheep of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus also targeted Gentiles. What is significant about these Gentiles who came to Jesus?  
Roman centurion (Matthew 8:5-13) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Syrophenician woman (Matthew 15:22-28) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Read John 10:15-17. Most Bible scholars agree these "other sheep" are Gentiles. In the context of our present world, who might today's "other sheep" include? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Our New Testament includes five occurrences of the Great Commission. Read each one, noting any insights and thoughts. Commit at least one of these passages to memory.  
Matthew 28:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark 16:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 24:47 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 20:21 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Greek word, *ethne*, rendered "tribe" in Revelation 7:9 can also be translated "ethnic group" or "people group." How does this correspond with the changing paradigm of missions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Locate the 10/40 window on a world map. Choose an unreached people group to pray for daily. List at least three facts about this group.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE CHANGING ROLE OF MISSIONARIES

### THAT THEY MAY KNOW *(Week Two: Matthew 28:18-20)*

*Pray before you begin, inviting God's Holy Spirit to reveal truth to you.*

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Does Jesus' command encompass changing roles of missionary work? \_\_\_\_\_  
How? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Paul's missionary role also changed. This was particularly evident in his work at Ephesus. In each of these passages, note Paul's primary role (pioneer, partner or participant).



Acts 19:8-10; 18-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:17-35 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 1:14-18; 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what role do you most often view missionaries? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Imagine yourself as a pioneer missionary in your neighborhood. How would you make contacts or lay the groundwork for evangelism? \_\_\_\_\_

## THE CHANGING SCENE FROM OUR DOORSTEP

### THAT THEY MAY KNOW (Week Three: Matthew 25:31-46)

Pray, asking God to speak to you through His Word.

1. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Rate yourself and/or your church's ministry in these areas.

**Hungry** (no ministry) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highly effective ministry)

**Thirsty** (no ministry) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highly effective ministry)

**Strangers** (no ministry) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highly effective ministry)

**Clothing Needs** (no ministry) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highly effective ministry)

**Sick** (no ministry) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highly effective ministry)

**Prisoners** (no ministry) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (highly effective ministry)

2. What specific needs can you identify in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you consider yourself a "stay-at-home" missionary? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read John 4:35. From your doorstep, what fields do you see? \_\_\_\_\_

In our planning and preparation to do great things for God, we can miss opportunities He's already afforded us. Sometimes it takes a farmer's close examination to determine whether a crop is ripe and ready. Have you explored any of the fields visible from your doorstep to see if they are "white unto harvest"? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Hebrews 13:3. How faithful are you to pray for the persecuted church around the world? \_\_\_\_\_

Find helpful online resources at [persecution.com](http://persecution.com); [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org); and [bibleleague.org](http://bibleleague.org).

## THE CHANGING PROCEDURE FOR MISSIONS (CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENTS)

### THAT THEY MAY KNOW (Week Four: Luke 10:1-9)

Pray, asking God to speak to you through His Word.

1. Under the CPM (Church Planting Movement) model for missions, a church planter first seeks to establish relationships. Specifically, he finds access to friendship with disconnected people.

Read Acts 17:1-2, 17. How did Paul typically begin his ministry in a new city? \_\_\_\_\_

In today's world, what would this look like or how could this be accomplished? Where could a church planter begin? \_\_\_\_\_



2. *Next, the church planter serves and loves these disconnected friends.* Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.

To what extent did Paul serve and love? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to do the same? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Matthew 10:5-13 and Luke 10:1-9 regarding Jesus' sending out of His disciples and a larger group of His followers. In both instances, Christ instructs His followers to inquire about or specifically seek out whom (Matthew 10:11; Luke 10:5-7)? \_\_\_\_\_

*Following Christ's model, the church planter now identifies a "person of peace" within his new circle of friends.* This "worthy" person or "son of peace" is crucial for all future efforts. The person may not be a believer, but will be a respected lover of truth who is not involved in conflict within the community.

4. *The church planter then works with this person of peace to invite his family/friends/acquaintances into a 15-30 week inductive Bible study led by the person of peace or someone else in this group.* (The church planter privately teaches the person of peace, who in turn shares the teaching with the group. Due to illiteracy, in about 90% of CPM's, this involves oral sharing or story telling.)

Why would this Insider approach to evangelism typically find more acceptance than the traditional "missionary comes and teaches the people" approach? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 18:24-28. How was the role of Priscilla and Aquila's with Apollos like or unlike that of a church planter with a man of peace? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Timothy 2:2. We generally think of this verse in the context of discipling believers. Is it possible to disciple someone toward salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Over time, hearing the Word, the group together decides to follow Jesus and become a church.* Who became believers in these passages?

Acts 16:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 16:25-34 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 18:8 \_\_\_\_\_

*The new church then sends out church planters to start the process again.* (Most efforts are not considered a CPM until after the third cycle of church planting occurs.)

All over the world, God is building His Kingdom as whole communities and people groups are choosing to follow Christ and fulfill His Great Commission. Yet, even CPMs are not without challenges. One mission leader\* noted this concerning CPM's,

"The main obstacles are not cross-cultural and geographic barriers of isolated people groups or restrictive governments but the lack of commitment to the task on the part of God's people...When we get a passion for reaching a lost world, prayer will break down the barriers, and people will be willing to make it happen."

\*Jerry Rankin, president, IMB ([www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=11202](http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=11202))