

## EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

As a way of experiencing God through our hearts and mind, spend some time reading and responding to the Scripture from the sermon. Use the prompts below to guide your time:

### **1. Read Matthew 28:18-20 slowly and carefully out loud together.**

Take your time. Since there is a limited amount of text to get through, consider inviting different people in the group to read the passage more than once.

After your first couple of reads, pause & reflect (2-3mins) - *what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention as you read?*

### **2. Read the text together again.**

After your second read through, pause & reflect (2-3mins) - *how do the words, phrases or ideas you are noticing relate to your life at the moment? What do you think God might be trying to reveal to you through them?*

### **3. Respond to God.**

After pausing & reflecting a second time, transition your group to respond to God about their experience quietly by themselves (3-5mins). Some people may find it helpful to journal their responses.

Prompts to help you respond - *How do you feel about what God is revealing to you? Do you feel thankful? Respond in praise. Are you concerned? Bring your petitions. Is God asking you to do something? Discuss your next step with Him. If the text has brought something else to mind, talk to God about that.*

### **4. Rest.**

Finally, invite everyone to sit silently in God's loving presence before moving on (2 minutes). Allow any revelation you have received during this time to sink deeper into your soul.

Once this time has come to a close, ask if anyone would like to share anything they received or experienced during that time and give space for people to respond. (There is no pressure for people to share, but it may be helpful to remind the group that those who felt like they didn't receive anything from God can be blessed by the revelation received by others.)

## IDEA 1

**What comes to mind or what emotions rise in you when you hear the question: “Is global missions colonialistic?”**

The history of global missions has some incredible moments - but also some that are not so great. To deny this history is a mistake – being ignorant to how it has affected people’s perspective of mission’s work today leaves us at risk of repeating the same mistakes. So, we recognize the issues created. We grieve where indigenous churches look more like the church of the West than the local culture. And we commit to not make the same mistakes.

**What does recognizing, grieving, and committing to not make the same mistakes look like for you as an individual? As a group? As a church?**

**How can we carry out the great commission, which we are all called to, and not be colonialistic?**

## IDEA 2

It is important to recognize the value that each culture brings. Reciprocity is the antidote to a mindset of superiority. The gospel goes forth with humility. **How can reciprocity and humility help as we seek to share the gospel with all nations?**

When the gospel is shared it is proposed not imposed.

When the gospel is shared It is an invitation not an imposition.

When the gospel is shared it is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing illumination, not earthly coercion. The gospel should always allow for indigenous expressions of faith without changing the essential message.

Christian missions when done well is beautiful and pretty unique - the word of God is able to be translated - it is adaptable and contextual.

**How have you seen missions done well?**

**As you think about Revelation 7:9, and imagine what that will be like, what are you excited about? What stirs in your heart and mind?**

*After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb.*

## PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Missions is about giving people access - it is a justice issue - people should have access and be able to decide whether they want to accept the teachings of Jesus. **How are you participating in giving people access to the gospel?**

There is a lot of work to be done - here in our Jerusalem, with the nations that are calling Salem home, and to the ends of the Earth.