

How to Develop a World Christian Discipleship Study Group

David Mays

Stuff you need to know about Doing Missions in Your Church, a CD of missions resources for local churches, produced by ACMC March 2004. Link: www.davidmays.org

Discover the world in the Scriptures. Build your global vision through World Christian Bible Studies.

Getting Started

- Begin with one or two or a few committed people.
- Establish objectives, such as inspiration, information and intercession.
- Decide on a place and a manageable block of time.
- Pray for and recruit others who show interest.
- Explain the purpose to all newcomers to stay on focus for the long haul.
- Expect opposition.
- Select your own format. Besides study of selected Bible passages, you might include elements such as corporate worship, words of encouragement, brief reports on current events, brief discussion of prayer needs, and time for intercession.

Group Starter Questions

- The most exciting thing God is doing in my life right now is...
- The most important thing God is teaching me is...
- My most encouraging answer to prayer this week is...
- The most difficult thing for me to deal with as a Christian is...
- The thing that frightens me about obeying God is...
- The thing holding me back is...
- The best way I could contribute to world evangelism right now is...

Guidelines for Study

- Observation. What does this passage say about Christ's global cause?
- Interpretation. What does the passage mean for Christ's global cause?
- Application. What does it mean for my walk with Christ and my involvement in Christ's global cause?
- Context. Although many Scripture passages apply to God's global cause, see them first in the context of the whole book, the section of the book, the historical times, and the overall flow of God's redemptive plan.
- Footnotes. Follow the footnotes to trail missions themes through the Scriptures.

Questions to Ask. How can I see more clearly...

- God's world-wide purpose in Christ?
- A world full of possibilities for fulfilling that purpose?
- A world full of people who need Christ?
- My role, strategic ways God can use me in His purpose now?
- Big dreams about serving Christ in the future?

References and Prayer Resources

- *In the Gap*, David Bryant, Inter-Varsity Press
- Global Prayer Digest, www.globalprayerdigest.org
- International News
- Operation World, www.operationworld.org
- World Pulse, www.worldpulseonline.com



Missions Bible Study Guide Booklets:

- *God's Heart for the Nations*, Jeff Lewis, Caleb Project
- *Missions: God's Heart for the World*, Paul Borthwick, Inter-Varsity Press
- *Witnesses to All the World*, Jim and Carol Plueddemann, Waterbrook Press

Sources:

- *Keep Your Vision Alive*, Steve Moore, Kingdom Building Ministries, www.kbm.org
- *How to Create World Christian Bible Studies*, David Bryant, Inter-Varsity Missions