

Texts: Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 10-11 – People are spread across the earth.

Genesis 12:1-3 – God's plan is to bless all the peoples of the earth.

- The blessing God is referring to is Jesus.

God's heart for all the people of the world is woven through the Scriptures:

- Exodus 19:5-6; Psalms 67:1-5; Isaiah 45:22-23; Isaiah 56:6-7; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 7:9-10; Revelation 22:2-3

Pastor Habtom:

- We are the light of the world (Ephesians 5:8; Philippians 2:15-16; Colossians 1:13)
- We are the salt of the world (Matthew 5:13)
- We are ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

Questions for reflection:

- Are there ways that my American Western experience with Christianity keep me from seeing God's heart for all peoples of the earth?
- How can I grow in better understanding God's heart for the nations, & praying for the nations?

Recommended books:

- From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya by Ruth A. Tucker
- The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity by Philip Jenkins
- The New Faces of Christianity by Philip Jenkins

Recommend Prayer Resources:

- <https://joshuaproject.net>

Pray: Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

Looking Back:

Is there something God taught you this past week? Or is there something that happened that we can be praying about?

Who engaged in our spiritual practice for this month? How did it go for you?

Looking up:

Have you ever interacted with Christians from different ethnic or cultural backgrounds than yours? What did you learn from them?

What did you hear from Pastor Habtom that was most inspiring and/or most challenging to you?

How does tracing God's heart for the nations from Genesis-Revelation influence the way you see others? Where do you see apathy in partnering with God's heart for people who are different than you? Where do you see misunderstanding leading to judgment, prejudice, or division? How are you inspired and encouraged by what you see of God's heart for all people?

How does being a recipient of the Gospel compel you to be an ambassador of the Gospel? (2 Corinthians 5:14-21) What struggles do you face in that?

Looking forward:

What is God stirring in your heart and what does it look like for you to obey Him?

Spiritual Practice for October: Silence/Solitude.

Set a minimum of 5 minutes/day aside to be in silent reflection before God. During this time, seek to quiet your mind and heart. Ask God to examine your heart and bring to your attention anything that you need to hand over to Him. Discuss your experience with your life group at the beginning of each week's gathering.