



Study Guide for “Transform the World” Feb 17, 2008 (101 level)

Open Up

Make a list of the top five challenging problems facing our world. You can discuss this from an explicitly Christian perspective, or use your imagination to think about this from a not-explicitly Christian perspective. Are there any problems on your list for which solutions exist but obvious obstacles are blocking progress?

TRANSITION: We know that God’s heart aches over the problems facing our world, but He sent Jesus as the world-transforming solution.

Dig In

(1) From the early days of the Bible, God made reaching every people group His priority. Read Genesis 22:15-18 and Galatians 3:6-9 and Matthew 8:5-11. Who is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham of “blessing to all nations”? How does the Matthew 8 story show this?

OPTIONAL: Jews hated most of the conquering Romans. We realize Jesus has been a blessing to our own nation, but what are some nations (or people groups / ethnicities / cultures) that still need God’s blessing?

(2) Read Romans 1:14-17 and 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Talk about some foreign cultures that consider Christianity “foolishness.” What factors in those cultures makes them resistant to Christianity? What are some American sub-cultures that consider Christianity “foolishness” and what has influenced them to oppose Christianity? (**BACKGROUND:** Gentiles are anyone who is not a Jew. Like Greeks looked down on non-Greeks [literal in original language *barbaroi* similar to barbarians], Jews looked down on Gentiles) **OPTIONAL:** Tell your group about someone in your circle of influence who considers Christianity “foolishness.” Ask your group for suggestions about ways you might overcome this pre-believer’s antagonism.

(3) Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:1-11. In what ways is the Holy Spirit still working spectacularly to transform the world?

Work On

(1) Mountain’s cross-cultural missions emphases are in the countries of Kenya, the Dominican Republic, India, and Brazil. Have individuals in your group talk about the connections they already have to either those missions or countries / regions: MCC child sponsorship, other sponsorships (World Vision, Compassion International, etc.), short-term missions trips (self or someone they know), vacation or business trips, know someone from that country, etc.

(2) What are some ways your group could grow more focused in praying for Mountain’s cross-cultural missionaries? **OPTIONAL:** Identify someone in your group who has a strong passion for cross-cultural missions to be your group’s ongoing “conscience.”

Lift Up

Read Psalm 46:10 to prepare your group for quiet prayer time and as a reminder that God is over every nation and people group. Ask for the Spirit’s direction for how your group can help transform the world.



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Advanced

(use with 101 level study guide)

Dig In

(1) Read Psalm 96:1-10 and Isaiah 52:6-10. What are ways that God is communicated to the nations? What are modern examples of ways we communicate to the nations?

(2) Read Jonah 1:1-3 and 3:1-5 and Jonah 4:11. (**BACKGROUND:** Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire, dreaded enemy of Israel. Jonah wanted God to destroy Assyrians, not forgive them.) How did Jonah’s feelings interfere with God’s will? In what ways do our feelings and fears sometimes interfere with God’s will?

Work On

(1) What are some obstacles that could keep you from going on a Short Term Mission trip? What are ways the Holy Spirit could use your small group to overcome these obstacles?

(2) Check the Mountain web-site for more info on upcoming STMs
http://www.mountainchristian.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=23883

Lift Up

Pray for Mountain’s cross-cultural life-term missionaries using the list from
http://www.mountainchristian.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=15151

Another Step

Check Alex Lozada’s blog for study guide updates <http://alexlozada.wordpress.com/> or email Alex@mountainchristian.org direct.