




God's Plan for the Nations

 COLLEGIATE STAFF-IN-TRAINING BIBLE STUDY

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Self-directed study on the topic of God's heart and plan for the nations by examining three mission strategies throughout the Scriptures.

(8-10 hrs)

REFLECT AND RESPOND

Questions to help you process your study and the implications on our Navigator calling, core values, and campus work. **(1-2 hrs)**

SOMETHING TO SHARE

Create useful content for students based on what you discovered about God's heart and plan for the nations.

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Talk with your campus trainer about how what you're learning will continue to shape your life and role in the Navigators.

God's Plan for the Nations

Collegiate Staff-in-Training Bible Study

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES:

- 1) Genesis 12:1-3 and Acts 1:8 are bedrock passages in gaining understanding of God's heart for the nations. Make note of the implications and significance of the promises God makes to Abram in Genesis 12:2-3 and the disciples in Acts 1:8 . (30 mins)
- 2) With the promises of Genesis 12 in mind, use passages in the Old Testament to articulate how God strategically used Israel to accomplish these promises. (3-4 hours)
- 3) Using a gospel of your choice, articulate Jesus' mission strategy, giving attention to how He advanced the Kingdom relationally and geographically. (2-3 hours)
- 4) Using the book of Acts, articulate God's mission strategy for the apostles, giving attention to how He advanced the Kingdom relationally and geographically through them. (3-4 hours)

REFLECT AND RESPOND:

**Write two to three paragraphs for each of the following four prompts. Draw from your study above. (15-30 mins each)

- 1) How would you describe God's heart and plan for the nations? Why does He care about the nations?
- 2) We can be driven to action through a sense of duty to a task or devotion to a person or purpose. What role do you see both duty and devotion playing in your motivation for God's Kingdom to be advanced into the nations? What leads you to a sense of duty or devotion?
- 3) You've spent time looking at how God used the people of Israel and the early church to advance His Kingdom into the nations. Develop a personal mission statement that captures how you desire Him to use your life to advance the Kingdom. This statement should be personal to you, but broad enough to carry over into every season of your life. Consider Acts 1:8 and how the Spirit of God may use your life to have an impact locally, with those different from you or opposed to you, and to the ends of the earth.
- 4) Every disciple maker has been shaped by a variety of gifts, experiences, challenges, ethnicity, inherited cultural norms, and generational values. The Navigator calling statement says, "to advance the Kingdom of Jesus and His kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of disciples living and discipling among the lost." In participating in this calling, how do we protect the purity of the gospel in how we pursue the advancement the Kingdom of God and guard ourselves from advancing our cultural understanding/experience of Christianity?

SOMETHING TO SHARE:

** choose one

- 1) Drawing from your work above, create an interactive experience for a student you disciple or students in your ministry that would grow their understanding of God's heart for the nations. In the New Testament we see examples of going, sending (through prayer and giving), locally ministering to those culturally unlike us, and inviting others to join in the going. Develop a plan to help your student(s) understand the variety of means in which they can participate in advancement of the Kingdom. Connect with your local campus trainer / campus director before you start - they might have some ideas on how to overlap this assignment with a need on campus.

- 2) One benefit of being a part of an organization like the Navigators is that we have access to a wealth of individuals who have spent much of their life living and discipling among the lost in countries other than our own. Invite a student to do two missionary interviews with you (in person or on Zoom). These interviews can be of someone who is currently on the field or someone who has spent 10+ years abroad. Develop questions with your student prior to the interview and spend time afterward processing what you both heard and learned. Develop a plan for regularly praying for the nations with that student.

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION:

Take a minute to reach out to your campus trainer. When you meet, share some of your major takeaways from this study and ask if there is a plan for you to do an overseas missions trip during your SiT years. Share with them hesitations you have in going or sending. Discuss any shifts that you may desire to make in your personal ministry on campus to live out convictions you developed through this study.