

3. Jesus gives new words to our mission as believers in the great commission (Matthew 22:36-40) and the great commandment (Matthew 28:16-18). Also in Matthew 10:5-15 we read about our Mission as Jesus sends out his disciples. What do you notice about Jesus' assignment to us?

4. There are two parts in our mission that are equally important. The caring for sick and poor on the one side, and the making people disciples on the other side. How would you describe yourself?

For some names and numbers: Jesus clearly states that he came for both the Jew and the Gentile (Romans 1:16, Acts 1:8). In light of that it's interesting to read that in Matthew 10 Jesus sends out the 12 disciples, and Luke 10:1-12 he sends out the 70 disciples. This is also a clue to the fact that Jesus came for the Jews and Gentiles. In Genesis 35: 23 the sons of Jacob are named, who would later become the 12 tribes of Israel. (by the way, do you know how they got the name Israel?).

And in Genesis 10 we see a list of Noah's descendants. These were the 70 people groups that God scattered over the earth at the tower of Babel. It's one the hidden signs of Jesus that he came for the Gentiles.

5. We read how God uses Israel as an example for the nations around them to show that He is God. Choose one of the following stories to read (you can read parts of the story ☺) and discuss the questions.

- The story of Moses (Exodus 6-12)
- The story of Esther (Book of Esther),
- The story of Daniel (Daniel 5-6),
- The story of Jonah (book of Jonah)

- How does God use the situation to make His name known?

- How do the Israelites respond to God's acts?

- What can we learn from this story for our own mission?

6. Choose one of the following statements and discuss them in your group:

- God is not just loving people but is also transforming them to become people that fully love Him.

- To confess Jesus as Messiah is to commit yourself to His mission to the nations. You can't have one without the other.

- Mission is far more than just my personal atonement and individual forgiveness. It's about the whole creation. A full biblical understanding of the gospel clearly shows us that.

- The practice of mission is Cross-centered: All Christian mission flows from the cross. All Christian Message is shaped by the cross

7. William Booth was quoted in the sermon. He had another quote also:

“The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without

repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell.”

William Booth said this in the early 1900. How do you view his words looking at our society nowadays? And what do you think is the biggest danger for the coming century? How can we respond to that in our mission?

8. The New Testament follows with the Mission of God through the early church. They've taken Jesus commandment in Matthew 28 and starting bringing the gospel to all nations. That didn't come easy, they were persecuted and scattered. Also here, God uses the fact that they are scattered because of persecution, to further grow his kingdom. The following chapters in Acts describe the first steps of the early church. You can read through the chapters and discuss what you notice about it.
 - i. Acts 1: They started in Jerusalem after Pentecost.
 - ii. Acts 8: Judea
 - iii. Acts 8: After Stephen was stoned, believers scattered around with Philip taking the message to Samaria. Peter and John went there to approve the mission there.
 - iv. Acts 10: Peter travels to Lydda and Joppa and encounters Cornelius, the first gentile. This is after a clear vision of God to Peter to go to this gentile man.
 - v. Acts 11: 'some believers' went to preach the gospel to the gentiles and started the first church in Antioch. (the church from which Paul was commissioned)
 - vi. Acts 13: God calls Paul, the most unlikely missionary. The most fervent persecutor of the Church become the most fervent preacher of the gospel. He is sent directly to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). Key in his mission was that he let the Christian gentiles keep their gentile-ness. He didn't force them in the Jewish culture and habits.