



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Missions Month

May 4, 2025

### Leader notes:

- *The following goal is intended to help you as a leader know where the study is going, it is not part of the group study itself.*

### Goals

- To develop globally minded Christians at Hillcrest who have a heart for world missions.
- To discuss what it means for the Kingdom of God to reach all people everywhere, including those who have never heard the story of Jesus before.
- To consider the many different ways that we can participate in reaching the world with the Good News of Jesus through our everyday lives in Bellingham, Washington.

### Hook - Getting to know one another

- Share a memory of an international event or travel experience that changed the way you see the world. How did it change you?
- Make a list of all the countries that people in your group have been to
- Make a list of all the countries that people in your group have met international students from.
- Has anyone been on a missions' trip or out of the country? Share a story from that experience about being in a new culture or place.

### Book - Scripture

- Read Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:6-7
  - At the end of Jesus's physical life on earth, what was the big message he left with his followers?
  - What do you think it meant to those listening to Jesus say these words to make disciples "of all nations" and to be his witnesses "to the ends of the Earth"?
    - When they heard this, what did they picture?
  - For us today, what does it mean to preach the good news to all creation and to the ends of the Earth?
  - What do you think Jesus means that "it is not for you to know the times



or dates the Father has set by his own authority?” What can we learn from that?

### Look - Connections to our world today

- What are a few ways that we can learn more about the work God is doing in other parts of the world? (reading books written by people from different nations, following the news from specific parts of the world, giving financially and regularly reading missionary newsletters from people you support, join Mission Core)
- What are a few ways we can reach other nations and people groups with the Good News of Jesus, here in Whatcom County? (international student ministry, supporting refugees, building friendships with people from different cultures and backgrounds than your own).
- What are a few organizations you know of that help you think more about the global church, whether they support persecuted Christians, share God's story with unreached people, extend care in times of crisis, etc.?
- What do you know about the ways that Hillcrest participates in God's mission to reach the entire world? (supporting missionaries across the world, supporting international ministries on college campuses, sending support across the world in times of crisis, supporting special projects by missionaries, providing funding support for Hillcrest travelers who support missionaries, short and long term trips).
- As a practice of thinking globally about the mission of God's people, watch this video together by Global Frontier Missions, an organization on a mission to help followers of Jesus understand God's vision and heart to reach all nations everywhere.
  - <https://globalfrontiermissions.org/gfm-101-missions-course/state-of-the-world-the-task-remaining/>
  - What stands out to you about this video?

### Took - Personal Application

- Of all these ways you've discussed that we can participate in global missions, which comes most naturally to you? Which is the most intimidating to you?
- What would it look like for you, today, to become a more globally-minded follower of Jesus?
- Are there any certain people groups or nations that your heart is drawn especially to in prayer or missions? Are there any action steps God might be inviting you to take with that connection towards these particular groups?
- What ways could we as individuals or as a small group join together with Hillcrest to reach people to the ends of the earth?



- As a small group, pick one missionary or country to pray for this month. Pray individually throughout the month, and as a group when you meet.
  - Follow up by sharing as a group what God has done in your hearts through this practice.

### **Pray**

Pray that God will send more missionaries to the nations, especially to those places and people who have never heard the story of Jesus before. Pray also for all those who are already willing to go, but who still need financial support to get there. Pray also for Christians in their countries of origin who find themselves ministering in difficult places, that they would be effective and fully supported missionaries to their own people.