

Session 1: THE CHRISTIAN AND CULTURE



DVD: Week 1



Read Acts 17:16-34

It would be very hard to find another passage in the whole of the Bible that clearly defines the life of a Christian than what is seen in the Apostle Paul at Athens.



Activity: Brainstorm and discuss the many definitions of the name "Christian".

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Mark 16:15: The Greek word for 'world' is 'Kosmos' and it means the 'social function'; 'to all creation' is not only the unreached people groups of the 'Kosmos' but it is to everyone within that social function that you find yourself in whether that be the family, work or leisure.

List the names of people that are known in each group member's 'Kosmos'.

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• The Christian lives within culture

- ▼ The Christian identifies with culture

There can be found at least three categories of Christian:

- >**of culture**. Discuss what you think this category is.
- >**of culture**. Discuss what you think this category is.
- > **with culture**. Discuss what you think this category is.

In Acts 17:16-23: Which of the above categories do you see Paul adopted whilst addressing the people of Athens and how?

Key Verse:

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Mark 16:15 (NIV)

Profile:

The Apostle Paul, known as Saul before his conversion, was one of the most influential early Christian missionaries, with his writings forming a considerable portion of the New Testament.

Things to know...

The Epicureans:

A philosophy that believed God is far away and considered happiness, or the avoidance of pain, to be the highest good and advocated that the pursuit of pleasures can be enjoyed in moderation.

The Stoics:

Believed each of us are our own gods and they advocated the calm acceptance of all occurrences as the unavoidable result of the natural order.

▼ The Christian has knowledge of the culture

In Acts 17:24-29 Paul tackles the Epicureans and the Stoics, but he tackled them only because he knew what they believed.

Choosing the culture that you live in discuss the faiths and the history of it. Can you find links that could be used to direct people towards God?

• The Christian message within culture

In Acts 17:24-31 Paul addresses the idol worship within their culture. Idols are not limited to Athens or primitive societies. An idol is a god-substitute. Any person or thing that occupies the place God should occupy is an idol.

What idols do you see in your culture and how do you go about addressing those with the message of the gospel?

We can learn a lot from Paul's method for addressing the people of Athens.

He sets out the foundation of the gospel.

1. God is
 "The God who made the world and everything in it." v24

2. God is
 "The Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands." v24

3. God is
 "He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else." v25

4. God is
 "He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands" v26

5. God is
 "Reach out for him and find Him" v27 & "We are His offspring" v28-29

6. God is
 "he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world" v30-31

? Interesting Fact:

Six centuries before Paul spoke in Acts 17, Apollo who inaugurated the court of the Aeropagus had declared in an Aeschylus's play, "when a man dies, and his blood is shed on the ground, there is no resurrection." On that same spot Paul declares that God unveiled himself by appointing a man to be a judge for the whole world and had certified this by raising him from the dead.

Take the links developed previously from the faiths and history of your culture and discuss how a presentation of the gospel could be brought.

Remember...

Some will sneer, they will laugh. Others want to hear more, they are unsure but want you to tell them more and others will believe.

▶ Putting it into practice...

Think of three friends or colleagues, they could be people listed earlier or different people, who have either a different or no faith. List 6 bullet points of how you can reach out to them through their culture.

Prayer Direction...

At the end of this session go back and pray over the list of names of group members' 'Kosmos' and also pray that each group member will be an identifier within their culture.



Session 2: REACHING THE OUTCAST



DVD: Week 2



Activity: Discuss different types of outcast we see in today's society.

Why are they an outcast?

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Who says they are an outcast?

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Can this group of outcasts be categorized as 'sinners'? Why?

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Can these outcasts teach us anything?

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Read Jeremiah 30:17

The term 'outcast' in the Old Testament means.....

In the 1st century, Judaism was not a state religion. In fact there were many traditional groups and new emerging sects coming through:

- 1.
Concerned with purity, they believed they alone possessed the truth.
- 2.
The most meticulous observers of the Torah law.
- 3.
No less pious than Pharisees but opponents of them.
- 4.
most famous of them was the Zealots who turned religious Interpretations into a political agenda against the Roman Empire.

It was into this diverse but very religious society that Jesus was born, educated, worked and did ministry. As he grew up in this society he became aware of groups of people who were increasingly being marginalized, left behind and discarded because no one knew really what to do with them.

Key Verse:

"For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds," says the LORD, "Because they called you an outcast saying: "This is Zion; No one seeks her" "

Jeremiah 30:17 (KNJV)

Things to know...

Outcast (noun):

A person who is rejected or excluded from a social group; thrown out or rejected

Hebrew meaning of Outcast:

Nadach {naw-dakh'}
This word means to throw out; push off, to impel, thrust, drive away, banish.

Last week...

How did you get on with last weeks PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE? Did you think of three people who have either a different faith or no faith at all? What six bullet points did you come up with?

Share your thoughts with the group



Read Luke 7:36-50 : Jesus teaches that:

Outcasts are.....

“Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman?” v44a

- > Jesus forces Simon to look at the woman and see what he sees.
- > Simon does not see a person but sees an object
- > Simon has no kind words for this woman (v39)

Outcasts can become

v44b: 3 times Jesus says that Simon did not do something yet the woman had.

“I tell you, her sins - and they are many - have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” v47



Interesting Fact:

Hatred between Jews and Samaritans was fierce and long-standing. After the time of Joseph Israel was divided into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom, called Israel, established its capital eventually in Samaria. In 722 BC. Assyria conquered Israel, including Samaria. The foreigners brought with them their pagan idols, which the remaining Jews began to worship alongside the God of Israel, intermarriages also took place. Meanwhile, the southern kingdom of Judah fell to Babylon in 600 BC. Its people, too, were carried off into captivity. But 70 years later, a remnant of 43,000 was permitted to return and rebuild Jerusalem. The people who now inhabited the former northern kingdom - the Samaritans - vigorously opposed the repatriation and tried to undermine the attempt to reestablish the nation. So walls of bitterness were erected on both sides and did nothing but harden for the next 550 years.



Putting it into practice...

Read John 4:1-27 : Jesus teaches that:

• To reach the outcast...

> You have to tread on a deep-seated protocol

1. The Samaritans the Jews and vice versa. v9
2. A man wouldn't speak to a woman. v27
3. Do not mix with v17&18

Discuss: How is this teaching of Jesus true in your own experience or of those you love?

In the DVD introduction we hear the story of Arthur Forbes. Do you know of an Arthur Forbes within your community?

How can we better love the outcasts within our society?

Prayer Direction...

Pray for the Arthurs in your community, church and even family.

If you are unable to identify any outcasts pray that God would open your eyes to those outcasts around you.

Pray for God to give the group ideas of how to practically be the hands and feet to the outcasts within our society and how to best share the practical love of Jesus with them.

Next week...

During this coming week, in your day to day activities: shopping, working, going for a coffee, church etc. Look for an Arthur Forbes. Look for someone who could be an outcast and help them. It could be someone who is struggling to pack their shopping, someone unable to cross the street. However small it may seem, step out this week and help.

Session 3: HOPE FOR THE WORLD



DVD: Week 3



Activity: How would you describe the state of your town/city? What role is the church playing?

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Read Ezekiel 47:1-12

Ezekiel's message is our message to a broken world:

• **There is Hope in**

Because of thev1

God is always doing something new. He makes all things new. Throughout the world the Church is the threshold offering new life to people of all tribes. There are villages that have little else, but they do have a church. You could visit millions of villages around the world that don't have a school, a clinic, a hospital, a fire department, or a post office. They don't have any businesses. But they do have a church.

What new thing has God done in you or through you?

Because of thev1

The altar is the place of sacrifice. There are three important words to describe sacrifice that is at the heart of the church:

1 Acts 1:8
 Meaning 'witnesses' - There are many stories from around the world of Christians giving up their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

2 Phil 2:5-6
 Meaning 'emptied himself' - to dedicate yourself to a cause, to your neighbour, to the world and it costs. Where many may desire the stage and the pulpit, those with kenosis desire the tables and the towels.
Further Reading: John 13:1-16 and John 3:30.

3 1 Cor 3:16; 6:23
 Meaning 'Holy of Holies'. The pursuit of holiness is not the desire to be a hermit neither is it to have a life of sinless perfection.

Holiness is to seek Christ and to gaze on his perfections and live in the light of those.

Key Verse:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.."

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Things to know...

The Book of Ezekiel
 Ezekiel, exiled in Babylon, experienced a series of seven visions during the 22 years from 593 to 571 BC, a period which spans the final destruction of Jerusalem in 586. The visions, and the book, are structured around three themes: (1) judgment on Israel (chapters 1-24); (2) judgment on the nations (chapters 25-32); and future blessings for Israel (chapters 33-48)

Last week...

How did you get on with last weeks PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE? Did you find an outcast that you were able to help?

Imagine MARTYRIA, KENOSIS and NAOS taking place in the town or city where you live. What does that look like for you?



Interesting Fact:

Most people have no idea how many Christians there are in the world: More than 2 billion people claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. That's one third of the world's population! Malicious leaders have tried to destroy it, hostile groups have persecuted it, and sceptics have scoffed at it. Nevertheless, God's Church is bigger now than ever before in history.

Every day 60,000 new people come to believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour? By the end of today, thousands of new churches will be started throughout the world, and that will happen tomorrow and the next day and the next.

• **There is Hope in our.....**

It is a mission of fruitfulness – The Gospel is a human story.

Read John 1:14

God has chosen to live in the human story to cause and help it to bear fruit.

Read Joel 2: 21-22, 28-29

The result is fruitfulness; the whole of your life to blossom and to thrive.

This is the request of the majority who wake up every day saying, "I want to be a better person." The gospel is much more than a message of sin, repentance and hell. We must rediscover the good news of the gospel. It is our hope. The gospel addresses human concerns and aspirations.



Putting it into practice...

End this week's study sharing how the gospel lives in the human story of your life and how it has transformed others through you.

If you have ever shared the gospel with someone, share your experience.

This week is your chance to bring the gospel into the human story. Why not think of a non-Christian friend, pray for them and pray for opportunities to share the gospel with them.

Prayer Direction...

Pray for each other, sharing the gospel can be a daunting task. We can feel belittled, insecure, threatened and foolish. Pray that God would give everyone in the group the boldness to share the gospel with a friend in the coming weeks.

Next week...

Go out into the streets of your local community.

Take photos of areas that have been neglected. It maybe an area that is full of litter or an area that is covered with graffiti. If you are able, take photos of people who are in need of God. This could be the homeless, or even the rich in your community. If you are artistic then feel free to create a drawing or collage that represents your community.

You could also cut out photos and articles that catch your attention from your local paper. Articles that are both positive and negative that reveal aspects of your local community.

Get these photos printed, picture drawn and articles cut out ready for next week.

Session 5: **PASSION FOR THE HARVEST**

Activity: Discuss how you are getting on with praying for a non-Christian friend that was discussed in session 3. Be honest and remember none of us are perfect.



DVD Week 5



Read Ezekiel 37: 1-14

What did Ezekiel see in the valley?

Discuss the participation Ezekiel played in partnership with God in this vision.

We are living in one of the most exciting periods in God's salvation history. Patrick Johnstone, author of Operation World, states, *"We are living in the time of the largest ingathering of people into the Kingdom of God that the world has ever seen."* - **See 'Facts' >**

Discuss: Have you seen a harvest time in your lifetime, in your town or city? Give examples.

Challenges from the Harvest

- The Gospel for every person

.....% of the world's population has Scriptures in their language.

However, to complete the remaining% will require possibly as many as 3,000 new translations.

.....% of the world's population has access to Christian radio broadcasts in their own language.

There have been overviewings of the Jesus film

and it is available in languages spoken by over% of the world's population.

.....% of the world's population has heard the gospel

.....% has had virtually no exposure to the gospel message.

Key Verse:

"Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life [...] Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

Ezekiel 37: 4-6 (NIV)

Facts...

During the 20th century, the world population has multiplied 3.7 times. In Europe, Christians have not kept pace with the population, growing only 1.5 times. However, in Asia, there are 15 times more Christians than 100 years ago, and in Africa, there are 38 times more Christians.

New believers are being added to the Church:

20,000 per day in Africa
15,000 per day in India 10,000
per day in Latin America
100+ million in China since
1950

Christianity is growing by 115,000 people per day worldwide. It is estimated that each week, over 5,600 new churches are being planted around the world.

Source: International Leadership Institute national conference and Patrick Johnstone Operation World.

There is a challenge:

More Christians were martyred in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined.

There is a challenge:

The remaining people groups and individuals tend to be in remote locations, have great language and cultural barriers, practice religious fundamentalism, and are the most resistant to the Gospel.

There is a challenge:

The countries with the most least-reached tend to be closed to Christianity.

Discuss what challenges do you face from your own harvest?

Get a different member in your group to read each of these historical examples of passion for the harvest.

John Wesley: *“Let us all be of one business. We live only for this, to save our own souls and the souls of those who hear us.”* God used John Wesley to bring revival and transform thousands.

Discuss how this quote from John Wesley challenges your own passion?

John Knox: When John Knox’s wife pleaded with him to get some sleep, he answered, *“How can I sleep when my land is not saved?”* He would often pray all night in agonizing tones, *“Lord, give me Scotland or I die!”* God shook Scotland. God gave him Scotland.

Discuss how these quotes from John Knox challenge your own passion?

George Whitfield: Whitfield prayed, *“O Lord, give me souls or take my soul.”* It is said his face shone like the face of Moses when he sobbed that prayer.

Discuss how this quote from George Whitfield challenges your own passion?

William Booth: The King of England asked Booth what the ruling force of his life was. Booth replied, *“Sir, some men’s passion is for gold, other men’s passion is for fame, but my passion is for souls. On to Calvary! On to death for the world! Let us not refuse the smiters! No halting! No rest! On suffering, sorrowing, weeping, dying for God and men,*

till the hosts of hell fly from this last defence and we march on over a burning world into everlasting glory!”

Discuss how this quote from William Booth challenges your own passion?**Putting it into practice...**

This week is your chance to take a bold step by speaking to the person you have been praying for about Jesus. You may get the opportunity to ask them if they would like you to pray for a situation in their life, you may get the chance to share how Jesus has done something in your life. However small it may seem, be bold and step out.

Prayer Direction...

Pray for each other, sharing the gospel can be a daunting task. We can feel belittled, insecure, threatened and foolish. Pray that God would give everyone in the group the boldness to share the gospel with a friend in the coming weeks.

Next week...

Come prepared to tell your story about how you have stepped out this last week by sharing the gospel.

Do not feel discouraged if you are not telling a story of someone coming to salvation. This is an opportunity to become a stepping stone in someone’s journey to faith in Jesus.

Many of us have stories of important people in our lives who were influential in us coming to faith.

Seek out opportunities to model the love of Christ and share what he means to you when the opportunity presents itself.

Session 6: THE POWER IN MISSION



Start this week by telling your story about how you have stepped out this past week by sharing the gospel. Do feel you have to embellish your story, be honest, the difficulties, your feelings, responses etc.



DVD Week 6



Read Acts 2:42-47

Discuss: What do we understand of what happens when a church receives God's power?

What will we devote ourselves to? v42

- The power in mission is expressed through.....

What does this look like:.....

.....

On the DVD you heard about one of the most well-known martyrdoms in the history of China, that of John and Betty Stam in December 1934. A few weeks before John was martyred he wrote to his father and included the poem found to the right.

What message does the poem bring to you as you hear it through the filter of the word devotion?

What wonder will we be filled with? v43

- The power in mission is expressed through.....

We are in danger of losing so much wonder that was commonplace for our ancestors. We have a need to understand everything. We must understand God. We reduce Him to a mathematical problem to be solved.

Discuss a time when you can think of anything that brought the wonder of God to you?

The wonder found in the Stams story is this. Many young men and women offered to replace the Stams. One leader said "I personally know of hundreds of volunteers of all ages who gave their lives to the Lord for missionary service because of their death" A co-worker wrote

Key Verse:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1: 8 (NIV)

Song:

*To be a martyr for the Lord
 To be a martyr for the Lord
 I am willing to die gloriously for the Lord.
 I am willing to take up the cross
 and go forward
 To follow the apostles down the
 road of sacrifice.
 That tens of thousands of
 precious souls can be saved
 I am willing to leave all and be
 a martyr for the Lord.*

Chinese House church song

Poem:

*Afraid? Of what?
 To feel the spirit's glad release?
 To pass from pain to perfect
 peace? The strife and strain of
 life to cease? Afraid - of that?*

*Afraid? Of what? Afraid to see
 the Saviour's face? To hear His
 welcome, and to trace the glory
 gleam from wounds of grace?
 Afraid? - of that? Afraid? Of
 what? A flash - a crash - a
 pierced heart; Darkness - light -
 O heaven's art! A wound of his
 counterpart!*

*Afraid? - of that? Afraid? Of
 what? To do by death what life
 could not - Baptise with blood
 a stony plot, Till souls shall
 blossom from the spot?
 Afraid? - of that?*

John Stam 1934

to Betty's parents "A life which had the longest span of years might not have been able to do 100th of the work for Christ which they have done in a day."

What will community look like? v44

- The power in mission is expressed through.....

It is not just the community of those who attend church but those who are yet to do so.

Discuss these three bullet points:

- Inviting the neighbour for coffee will become as important as inviting them to church.
- "Where brothers live together in unity there the Lord commands a blessing" Psalm 33 becomes a verse important not just for the church but for the workplace.
- We embrace the 'incarnation' as never before. Community means we will leave our comfort zones, our glory and get burdened and involved with the problems of the world.

This is best illustrated in that when she was 14years, Helen, the daughter of the Stams was asked if she hated the Chinese people for all they had done to her parents. She immediately responded, "Oh, I think they are just wonderful. I love them."

What will we give to and whom? v45

- The power in mission is expressed through.....

When the power of God comes upon the church then Christians will get serious about:

The tithe.

- It is a mark of
- It leads to
- It makes me spiritually
- It shows God I am
- It helps me to be aware of all my
- It has brought me closer to

The offerings.

This is money that is from your 90% and/or money that comes to you.

Brainstorm tithe and offerings. How important are they to you?

The story of the Stams is the story of a couple who did not withhold from God in any way.

1932: "Shall we beat a retreat, and turn back from our high calling in Christ Jesus, or dare we advance at God's command in the face of the impossible? Let us remind ourselves that the Great Commission was never qualified by clauses calling for advance only if funds were plentiful and no hardship or self-denial was involved." Betty would write, "I want something really worthwhile to live for. Like most young people, I want to invest this one life of mine as wisely as possible, in the place that yields richest profits to the world and to me...I know very well that I can never realize the richest, most satisfying life Christ meant for me, if I am not giving my life unselfishly for others."



Putting it into practice...

Continue this week speaking to the person you have been praying for about Jesus. Maybe this week is your chance to express the power in mission by creating community. Invite your friend to your house for a meal, go out for a coffee...

Prayer Direction...

Pray for people around the world today that face persecution and even death, like the Stams, for their faith. In 2010 an estimated 100 million Christians faced persecution (Open Doors UK), particularly in North Korea, Iran and Saudi Arabia. A recent study, cited by the Vatican, reported that 75 out of every 100 people killed due to religious hatred are Christian.

Next week...

Come prepared to tell your story about how you showed the power in mission by creating community with your non-Christian friend.

Remember not to pressure your friend into meeting up. It is a journey.

Session 7: JOURNEYS OF LIFE



Activity: Discuss how you are getting on with sharing Jesus with your non-Christian friend.



DVD Week 7



Read Acts 20:1-12

Our journey involves:

.....with people

- Be an (v1,2 & 12)

The word is *paraklesis* having a range of meanings from appealing through exhortation to comforting and consoling.

Discuss how you have been an encourager and write down some ways we can be better at encouraging people:

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- Be a

It was whilst Paul was in Greece, in fact Corinth (v3), that he wrote his letter to the Romans. In this letter Paul seeks prayers for his special work, that of collecting money from the Greek churches to give to the poor Christians in Jerusalem. For Paul this special work symbolized that there is one united family of God made up of Greek and Jew in Christ.

“Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there.” Romans 15: 25-27

Their testimony was that they had been uniting people of different background and persuasions in Christ.

- People (v4-5)

Paul did not work alone. He was a team player and a builder of teams.

Key Verse:

“... Paul sent for the believers and encouraged them. Then he said good-bye and left for Macedonia. While there, he encouraged the believers in all the towns he passed through...”

Acts 20:1-2 (NLT)

Things to know...

Acts was written by Luke, the physician, he also wrote the Gospel of Luke.

Acts 20 was written at the same time that Paul was in Macedonia, Illyricum & Achaia (55–57AD). It was also the same time that Paul wrote his letters to both the Corinthians and the Romans. This was during Paul’s third missionary journey.

Profile:

Luke The Physician was a Greek and the only Gentile Christian writer of the New Testament. Being a Greek and a doctor would explain his scientific and orderly approach to writing, giving great attention to detail in his accounts. Luke was a faithful friend and travel companion of Paul. He wrote the book of Acts as a sequel to the Gospel of Luke.

The benefit of team for Paul was:

a) Protection for

He had a large amount of money that had been collected from many places to take to Jerusalem. Having people around him kept him accountable for the safe arrival of that money.

b) Protection for

Having several people around him caused a protection for the money from those who would want to cause trouble.

c) Protection for

A good way to test whether we have the future in mind is to ask the question, 'Would the work continue when we are taken out of the situation?'

Discuss some examples of how these 3 areas have been of benefit in your own life.

Our journey involves:

.....to situations

- (v3)

For Paul, we are not told the nature of the plot but can rightly assume it is not only to harm him but also to take the money.

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Some decisions are

During the period of v1-2 Paul decided to write a letter to Corinth which according to 2 Corinthians 2:4 *"I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears."*

Some decisions are a

Because the Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. (see 2 Cor 2:12-13)

- (v7)

The story of a young man called Eutychus, depicting the meaning of his name - Lucky!

Take some time to share times when you have been through threatening or surprising situations, or times when you have had important decisions to make.

What has separated our life from the rest is that the journey of our life since we met Christ has focused on his resurrection.

- The resurrection is(v6 -7)

Paul was probably preaching about the resurrection given the season just like churches do today. This passage is speaking loud and clear from beginning to the end of resurrection. **It is how our own journey of faith can be described: for resurrection is everything to us too, it is our confirmation and hope.**

- Resurrection calls us to
..... (v10)

Paul pauses his sermon and did what Elijah did (1 Kings 17:19) and what Elisha also did (2 Kings 4: 32-33).



Read Psalm 18:16

- Resurrection means we don't (v10)

Paul's declaration is a reminder that even though something appears over and finished, only God is the announcer of such things.

Prayer Direction...

This week pray for the non-Christian friend you have been reaching out to over these last few weeks. Pray that God would continue to draw them to himself and continue to use you effectively.

Next week...

Next week's session is on Islam. Within the group take one of the follow areas and take 10 minutes to look up what Islam says about it. Come next week ready to share a couple of sentences about what you have found: The Five Pillars, Jesus, Muhammad, The Qur'an and God.

Session 8: UNDERSTANDING ISLAM



- **Jesus:**.....
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- **Muhammad:**.....
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- **The Qu'ran:**.....
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- **The Five Pillars:**.....
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- **God:**.....
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Things to know...

The followers of Islam are called Muslims. Muslims come from all races, nationalities and cultures across the globe. They may be Arabs, Turks, Persians, Indians, Pakistanis, Malaysians, Indonesians, Europeans, Africans, Americans, Chinese, or any other nationality.

While there are over one billion Muslims in the world, there are only about 200 million Arabs. Thus Arab Muslims constitute about twenty percent of the Muslim population of the world. It is important to note that not all Arabs are Muslim and not all Muslims are Arab.

Twenty percent of all Muslims are found in Sub-Saharan Africa. The most populous Muslim nation is Indonesia.

Substantial parts of Asia and almost all the Central Asian republics are Muslim.

Significant minorities are found in China, India, Russia, Europe, North America and South America.

One out of five people in the world are Muslim.

There are approximately five million Muslims in North America.



DVD Week 8

Take notes from the interview with Mohammad Yusuf Muquit. Can you see any bridges that could be built with Muslims from what he says? Is there anything that he says that confuses/angers/surprises you? Use additional note sheets if you need more space.

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Session 9: LOCAL CHURCH STRATEGY



DVD week 9



Read Acts 1:8

Using Acts 1:8 discuss where your:

Jerusalem:.....

Judea:.....

Samaria:.....

Ends of the world:.....

Key Verse:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Discuss the following as a group to help create a starting point for a strategy for missions.

• **Culture:** Where does global missions fit into your church? What are the values and vision of your church?

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• **Who is here:** Who are the International people? Who have contacts globally?.....

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• **What are the passions within the church?:** Identify the gifts, skills and hobbies.....

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- **Services:** Preach missions as the normal. Respond to disasters with prayer. Be a gatherer of news.

- **Publicity:** Fund-raisers. Food and Fasting events. Every few years pick a big project. Be Creative.

- **Raise missionaries to be more global and commission them:** Send short-term teams: young and old.

- **Raise missionaries to be more global, yet keeping them in the church:** Fair-trade / Freedom Project etc

- **Personal, Poor and the Persecuted:** The personal must have some relevance to the church. The poor keeps the church connected to the biblical mandate and aware of their own wealth. The persecuted because they are our family and because of the positive influence they have on the church regarding faith and hope.

This is very much a starting point for you and your church to embark on a missions strategy. If your church works in missions already, maybe this is an opportunity to look again at what you do and its effectiveness. Are you doing what you should be doing? Are you supporting what you should be supporting?

Don't stop here... Take what you have discussed in this session and also what you have learnt from previous sessions and go into all the world. That may be your current work/college or home. Go knowing that God is with you and that He will give you strength.

Next week...

Next week is the final session and the main reason for this is to enjoy some fellowship and food together. As a group decide what sort of food you want to enjoy together and who will make/purchase what. This is a great opportunity to have food that is important to you and your family. It may be a national dish or something you grew up eating. You could also wear the national dress of the nation your food is from.

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