

MISSION ESSENTIALS

4 Bible studies to help
your small group discover
God's character and his
purposes for the world



Study 3.

Characteristics of a disciple (1): Sharing God's heart

*Sharing God's heart
(loving people), desiring
and declaring his glory*





Getting started: In British culture it has become common to talk about 'being passionate' about something. So, companies might be 'passionate about providing quality photocopying' or 'passionate about good food'. What does our culture mean when it says that? Do you think God is passionate about us?





Question 1

Just as God is love, his followers are also called to love. **Read John 15:12:**
“My command is this: love each other as I have loved you.”

Mark 12:30:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”





Read Matthew 5:44: “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”





Who should we love?





Question 2

What does loving each other, our neighbours and our enemies mean? Can you think of any verses that help us understand what God wants us to do? What is included in loving others? Is anything excluded?





Read Matthew 28:18-20: “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”





Question 3

How do you think this fits with God's call to his followers to love those around him? How does loving people fit with Christ's call in Matthew 28:18-20 to go and make disciples of all nations?





Question 4

Read 2 Timothy 4:2: “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.”





Read Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”





Read Romans 10:14-15: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”





In many ways UK culture has become 'post-Christian'. A few decades ago, our culture was generally accepting of the Christian message. That is changing. Living in a multi-cultural society, tolerance is highly valued. With this in mind, does Christ's call to take 'make disciples of all nations' make you feel uncomfortable? Perhaps you might agree with it intellectually but not put it into practice? How important is it to purposefully share the good news with people?





Question 5

Read Mark 16:15-16

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.’”





With God's concern for all peoples, and his desire that all should come to repentance, what does that mean for the rest of the world?

How should we respond to Christ's 'Great Commission' in Mark 16:15-16?

From this verse, what is the state of those that do not believe?





Making it real: The Acacia* people of Chad are a large Muslim people group of over six hundred thousand people living along the shore of Lake Chad. They are the traders and business people of Chad and have very few churches among them. Acacia parents send very few of their children to secular French-speaking schools, preferring to send them to Muslim Madrasas.

**The people group name has been changed for security reasons*





The Acacia live in a very arid, inhospitable region with very few gospel workers among them. They stand condemned unless they hear and respond to the gospel. Spend some time praying for them.





Bringing it home:

How have you been challenged by today's study? Do you agree with the idea that our modern British culture is ashamed of the gospel? What does that mean for us? Are we embarrassed by the gospel? What do you think about the suggestion that as followers of Christ we must join God in his concern that all the peoples of the world come to repentance?





Are you up for a challenge?

Write down the names of three friends, neighbours or work colleagues, and aim to share something about your relationship with God with them this week.



For resources to help you
think more about God's heart
to reach the lost in your
personal prayer time, visit:
eu.aimint.org/resources

