

# MISSION ESSENTIALS

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



# Study 2.

## Characteristics of God: God is love (his heart for the nations)

*God's purposes in redeeming a  
people for himself and his  
desire that none should be lost.*





## Getting started:

- Try to list some of the ways people show love for one-another.
- Now, list some of the ways that God demonstrates his love to us (try to list the big things and the small).





## Question 1

At the very start of the Bible God was in relationship with humankind through Adam and Eve. Sadly, they rebelled against him and the human story took a calamitous turn. How did God respond?





## Read Genesis 12:2-3

‘I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’





This is the first time God spoke to Abram. What do you notice?

How was God's concern for the whole world revealed in God's call to Abram?





## Question 2

**Read Exodus 19:4-6:** “You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”





**Read Isaiah 49:6:** ...he says: 'It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'







What do you think God was seeking to do through Israel? Did he simply want a holy people that he could relate to? Was he seeking something more?





## Question 3

**Read Psalm 64:9:** “All people will fear; they will proclaim the works of God and ponder what he has done.”

**Psalm 86:9:** “All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.”





**Read Isaiah 2:2:** “In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.”





In the Old Testament there are over 50 examples like this. What should our personal response be?





## Question 4

**Read Ezekiel 33:11:** Say to them, “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?”





**Read Jeremiah 31:3:** The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.’

**Read Luke 19:10:** “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”





**Read 1 John 4:7-8:** “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”





**Read 2 Peter 3:9:** “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”







What moves the Lord?  
What do you think is on  
his heart?





**Making it real:** The Arabs of North Africa are a very diverse people with a population of 91 million and very few churches. They are spread across North Africa. The governments of those countries are aggressively against the sharing of the gospel - persecuting any believers in Christ with prison and social exclusion. The Lord loves the Arabs of North Africa with 'an everlasting love' and desires that 'everyone to come to repentance'.





Spend some time praying to the Lord for the Arabs of North Africa, that he would have mercy on them, and that they would hear the gospel and respond in faith.





**Bringing it home:** As you respond to this study, maybe you could discuss a few of these questions together, or think about some of them over the week to come?

- What has struck you from this study?
- Do you disagree with anything?
- What do you think about the idea that God is a God of love and desires everyone to come to repentance? In what ways does that challenge you?





- If it's true that he desires no-one to perish, then what implications does that have for us as his followers?
- Does this study change the way you think about your neighbours, your co-workers or friends and family who don't know him?
- When we watch the news and hear of events happening around the world, do you have a burden for those people that don't know Jesus? What is a godly response?



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](https://eu.aimint.org/resources)**

