

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Missions: Nathan Watkins, Notes: Ted Rastatter - 7.31.22

Let the nations be glad and the peoples sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth. Let the peoples praise you, oh God; let all the peoples praise you! Psalm 67:4-5

In that verse we understand the point of missions – that the nations (think ethnicities – not borders) would find their gladness in God, in his rule and reign over the earth, and praise him forever. John Piper uses this verse to explain the point of missions when he says, “*Missions exist because worship doesn’t*”. Our hope for missions is that the whole world would find the joy that we know is only found in Christ.

Nathan Watkins spoke yesterday about their family’s upcoming move to Thailand and Jesus’ compassion on the lost. “*He had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd*” (Mk. 6:34). He challenged us with the exclusive claims of Christ (John 14:6) and how the reality of people suffering eternity apart from him ought to motivate us to go to people who do not know him.

Discussion and Challenge:

1. Be obedient to Christ. Read the Great Commission (**Matt. 28:18-20**). All Christians are called to missions in some capacity. Whether by going yourself, sending workers with financial assistance, or supporting the work in prayer. How do you personally, as well as your community group and Forest Ridge as a whole, need to become more obedient to the Great Commission. Write these things down in your Bible, your journal, share them with the group and pray about it.
2. Nathan spoke about the need to focus on Unreached People Groups. He defined UPG’s as people where “Christ is largely unknown and the church is insufficient to make Christ known”. Go to www.joshuaproject.net — have a few people from your group click on a picture and give a quick review of some of the UPG’s.
3. A lot of things are called “missions” that are not missions in the biblical sense. Missions does not mean “doing good works for people” (like digging wells, feeding people, smiling at people, building houses, etc.) though it may include those things. People attribute the quote “*Preach the gospel wherever you go and use words if necessary*” to Francis of Assisi, which is not his quote and couldn’t be further from the truth. **Romans 10:14-17** tells us there is specificity involved in mission. Read this together and talk about what makes a mission a biblical mission.

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4. Finally, Jesus told the disciples they would be his witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (**Acts 1:8**). We can contextualize this by saying Jerusalem and Judea are like our Riverside/Huber/Tipp/Beavercreek/Dayton. How can your community group be active in Christ's mission here?