

GETTING A **GOD-CENTERED** CAUSE FOR YOUR LIFE

BY Cliff Lea



*An Introduction to World Christian
Discipleship*

A 5-week study exploring:

- The Passion of God
- The Purpose of God
- How God Fulfills His Global Purpose
- Integrating the Cause of Christ into My Life
- Maintaining a God-Centered Cause for Life

*The Passion of God..... Week 1**

Memorize:

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord! That is my name. I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.”

John 12:28 “Father, glorify your name! Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and will glorify it again!’”

Suggested Bible Reading:

John 1

John 2

John 3

John 4

John 5

John 6

John 7

Study and Reflection Questions:

1. Why did God create the people of Israel? (Isaiah 43:1-7, 20-21)
 2. Why did God rescue Israel from the Land of Egypt? (Psalm 106:7-8)
 3. Why did God withhold His wrath when the people sinned against Him?
(1 Samuel 12:20-22)
 4. What is the major reason for the return of Christ according to verse 10?
(2 Thessalonians 1:8-10)
 5. What are your thoughts on the statement: “God’s ultimate passion is for His own glory”? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

The Passion of God.....(Week 1)

Understanding God's Ultimate Passion for His Own Glory

1. We were formed into being for the _____ of God. (Isaiah 43:6-7)
2. God chose His people for the _____ of His name. (Jer. 13:11; Eph. 1:4-6, 12, 14)
3. God did mighty acts in the Old Testament for the honor of His _____. (Ex. 14:4; Ezekiel 20:14, 30:22-23; 2 Samuel 7:23; 2 Kings 19:34)
4. God _____ sin for His sake. (Isaiah 43:25; Psalm 25:11)
5. Jesus endured suffering for God's glory. (John 12:27-28)
6. Jesus aims that we see and _____ His glory. (John 17:24)
7. God pronounced judgment for all who _____ His glory. (Malachi 2:2; Romans 3:23; Acts 12:23)
8. God's glory will be our eternal companion in heaven. (Revelation 21:23)

Aligning Ourselves with God's Ultimate Passion

1. Constantly have before our minds that _____ in life must be done for God's glory. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
2. Walk in fellowship with and dependence on the Spirit. (John 16:14)
3. Depend on the _____ of God for life and service. (1 Peter 4:11)
4. Pray. (John 14:13)
5. Do good works with a pure heart. (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12)
6. Be _____ in all that God leads you to do. (John 17:4)
7. Ask to see and know more of _____ . (Exodus 33:18-23)

*The Purpose of God.....Week 2**

Memorize:

Genesis 12:3 “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Psalm 67:3 “May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.”

Suggested Bible Reading:

John 8

John 9

John 10

John 11

John 12

John 13

John 14

Study and Reflection Questions:

1. Why did God reveal Himself to Abraham? (Genesis 12:2-3)
 2. Why did God judge Egypt with 10 plagues? (Exodus 9:13-17)
 3. Why did God part the Jordan River? (Joshua 4:23-24)
 4. Why did God give Solomon wisdom? (1 Kings 4:29-34, 10:23-25)
 5. What has God shown you personally this week about Himself?

The Purpose of God.....(Week 2)

Top Line/Bottom Line:

Genesis 12:3

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

The message was given to Abraham in two simple parts – what Bob Sjogren (in his book, Unveiled at Last) calls the “top line” and the “bottom line.” The top line refers to God’s blessing of Israel. He wants to bless His people. The bottom-line responsibility reveals that He wants His people to not only enjoy that blessing, but then to turn around and be a blessing to all the families on the face of the earth, resulting in His greater glory.

Here are more examples:

- Luke 24:46-48
“He (Jesus) told them, ‘This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day [top line], and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem [bottom line].’”
- 1 Samuel 17:45-46
“David said to the Philistine ... “This day the Lord will hand you over to me [top line] ... and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel [bottom line].”
- Luke 12:48
“To whom much has been given [top line], much is required [bottom line].”
- Jeremiah 33:6-9
“... I will bring health and healing to it (Judah); I will heal my people and let them enjoy abundant peace and security [top line] ... then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise, and honor before all nations on earth [bottom line]....”
- The 10 Commandments
The first four deal with your relationship to God [top line]. The next six deal with your relationship to man [bottom line].

More Bottom Line Examples: (list a few examples of your own)

The Purpose of God.....(Week 2)

Understanding the Beginnings of the Global Purpose of God (O.T.)

1. God sets forth His _____ by His first revelation to Abraham. (Genesis 12:1-3)
2. The Old Testament exhortations that God's glory be declared and praised among all nations. (Psalm 47:1, 96:3; Isaiah 12:4)
3. The Old Testament gives promises that all peoples will one day _____ the one true God. (Psalm 86:9; Isaiah 49:6, 56:7, 66:18; Habakkuk 2:14)
4. The Old Testament shows confident _____ that God would be praised among all peoples. (Psalm 33:8, 67:3, 96:9; 2 Kings 19:19; 1 Chron. 16:8; 2 Chron. 6:33)
5. The Old Testament shows God's intense desire to show _____ to all nations. (Ezekiel 38:23)

Understanding the Continuing Global Purpose of God (N.T.)

1. Christ is announced as the Savior for Israel and _____ . (Luke 2:10, 31-32)
2. Christ stepped out of the boundaries of Israel in His ministry and teaching. (Luke 4:23-27; John 8:12)
3. Christ taught that His return is directly _____ to the fulfillment of the global purpose of God. (Matthew 24:14)
4. Christ left a clear command to His _____ to take His gospel to all people and to the ends of the earth. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8)
5. Paul taught that the blessing of Abraham finds its fulfillment in Christ. (Gal. 3:8-9)
6. Paul had a passion to reach the _____ of all nations. (Romans 1:5, 15:20; 2 Corinthians 10:15-16)
7. We are reminded that Christ did not die only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)
8. The New Testament ends with a glimpse of the completion of the global cause of Christ: representatives from _____ worshipping Jesus. (Revelation 5:9, 7:9-10)

How God Fulfills His Global Purpose.....Week 3

Memorize:

Psalm 67:1-2 “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.”

Acts 1:8 “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.”

Suggested Bible Reading:

John 15 _____

John 16 _____

John 17 _____

John 18 _____

John 19 _____

John 20 _____

John 21 _____

Study and Reflection Questions:

1. What is the purpose of the blessing of God in our lives? (Genesis 12:2-3; Psalm 67:1-2)

2. How did God fulfill His global purpose by delivering Daniel from the lion's den? (Daniel 6:25-27)

3. What does Psalm 50:15 teach us about our response and God's response in prayer?

4. What is one example you've found in the Bible of the top line/bottom line idea?

5. List some ways you can personally get involved in glorifying God throughout the nations.

How God Fulfils His Global Purpose Week 3

Eight Different Ways We can be Involved in God's Purpose

1. God fulfils His global purpose through _____. (Genesis 12:2-3; Psalm 67:1-2; Jeremiah 33:1-9)

- Blessings always bring _____.
- God's main purpose in blessing our lives is that we might directly bless the lost peoples of the world with our spiritual blessings.

2. God fulfills His global purpose through _____. (2 Kings 17:24-28; Ezekiel 39:21-24)

- God brings discipline to His people to inspire them to bless other people.
- God brings discipline to _____ Himself to the nations.

3. God fulfills His global purpose through ______. (Daniel 6:25-27; Joshua 4:23-24; Ezekiel 38:23; 2 Kings 19:19)

- God's purpose in demonstrating His power is to draw people to _____ and _____ Him.

4. God fulfills His global purpose through the _____ of believers. (Deut. 4:6;

Genesis 12:4)

- As we obey God, the _____ will see the reality of our relationship with God.
- The first step in our fulfilling the global cause of Christ is always _____.
- Obedience: Doing what we're told to do, when we're told to do it, with a happy heart.

5. God fulfills His global purpose through the _____ of His people. (Psalm 105:1; Acts 1:8)

- God has chosen believers to participate with Him in His redemptive mission by verbally communicating the gospel to the nations.

6. God fulfills His global purpose through _____. (Psalm 2:8; Matthew 6:10; John 15:16; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

- Prayer is designed to extend God's kingdom into lost hearts and nations.
- True prayer shows the _____ of God in His global purpose. (Psalm 50:15)

How God Fulfills His Global Purpose....Week 3

(8 ways to be involved ... continued)

7. God fulfills His global purpose through _____.

- The goal of God's global purpose is for people to _____ and to rejoice in the greatness of God. (Psalm 67:3-4, 97:1)
- Worship is also the fuel of missions. People cannot gladly recommend what they do not treasure. (Psalm 9:2, 104:34)

8. God fulfills His global purpose through _____.

- God uses suffering to increase the _____ of believers. (Phil. 1:12-14)
- God uses suffering to bring the lost to greater _____. (2 Cor. 1:5-6; 2 Tim. 2:10)
- God uses suffering to _____ the church to greater missions commitment. (Acts 8:1, 11:19-21)

This week I will pray specifically for

Integrating the Cause of Christ into My Life

Week 4

Memorize:

Revelation 5:9 “And they sang a new song: ‘ You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.’”

Matthew 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Suggested Bible Reading:

Genesis 22 _____

Psalm 96 _____

Psalm 105 _____

Ezekiel 38 _____

Isaiah 66 _____

Matthew 24 _____

Revelation 5 _____

Revelation 7 _____

Study and Reflection Questions:

1. What does God communicate about his desire for the world in Psalm 96? Does your personal and corporate worship reflect the God of all nations?
2. Sum up Christ’s teaching on money in Matthew 6:19-21 in your own words?
3. Does your lifestyle match your responsibility to God’s heart for the nations and the needs of a lost and dying world? What specific areas need adjustment?

Integrating the Cause of Christ into My Life

Week 4

Understanding the Importance of Spiritual Disciplines

1. What are spiritual disciplines?

- Spiritual disciplines are spiritual _____ and responsibilities that believers utilize to deepen their personal relationship with the Lord.
- Spiritual disciplines are not ends in and of themselves, but the means to the end of getting to know God better.
- Some of the spiritual disciplines are prayer, meditation, Bible study, fasting, worship, evangelism, awareness, and choice.

2. Why are spiritual disciplines important?

- Godliness and Christ-likeness are not _____. Believers must train themselves to be godly. (1 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 9:27)
- The example of _____ and Godly people in the Bible show the importance of spiritual disciplines. (Mark 1:35, 6:46)
- Nearness to God comes only as we _____ to draw near to Him. (James 4:8)
- The Christian life is a _____ battle. (Luke 9:23; 1 Timothy 6:11-12)

Practicing Spiritual Disciplines from the Right Perspective

1. A God-centered perspective

- Spiritual disciplines should not bring attention to themselves.
- The disciplines are utilized so we may further know, _____, and _____ Christ. (Philippians 1:21, 3:7-10)
- God Himself should be the conscious _____ of _____ our spiritual activity. (Deuteronomy 4:39; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 43:21)

2. A global perspective

- We must practice spiritual disciplines in light of God's heart for all nations to _____ know Him.
- Find creative ways to integrate God's heart in common spiritual activity.

Integrating the Cause of Christ into My Life....

Week 4

Six Spiritual Disciplines from a Global Perspective:

1. Discipline of Awareness

- Develop the Biblical foundation of God's love for the nations.
- Be aware of God's activity in the world. Know He is drawing nations to Himself. (Habakkuk 1:5)

2. Discipline of Prayer

- Pray for missionaries, unreached _____ and global current events. (1 Thessalonians 5:25; Ephesians 6:19-20; Nehemiah 1:4)
- Pray for personal requests in light of our _____ to bless others with the gospel. (Psalm 67:1-2)

3. Discipline of Choice

- Constantly ask yourself, "Do the choices I make reflect God's heart to bless the nations?"
- Does the way I spend my time (Psalm 90:12), money (Matthew 6:19-21), and energy match my _____ to reach the nations with the gospel?
- How do the choices I make about lifestyle, relationships, location and future reflect God's heart for the nations? (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)

4. Discipline of Worship

- Does my public and private adoration of God reflect the Biblical view of the God of all nations? (Psalm 86:9, 105:1)
- Does worship inspire me to a greater passion and commitment fulfilling God's global purpose?

5. Discipline of Bible Study

- Watch for the underlying _____ of God pursuing His own glory and drawing the nations to Him.
- Allow the Bible to be nourishment for the real mission of taking the gospel to the nations.

6. Discipline of Evangelism and Discipleship

- ❑ Witness to people that God puts in your life. See how they fit into the global purpose of God.
- ❑ Practice _____ - _____ witnessing. Utilize mission opportunities, international students, immigrants, etc. (Acts 1:8)
- ❑ Disciple new believers with a global view. Challenge them with God's heart for the nations.

Maintaining a God-Centered Cause for Life

Week 5

Memorize:

Psalm 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

1 John 2:2 “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

Suggested Bible Reading:

Luke 5:1-10 _____

Matthew 9:35-38 _____

John 4:34-38 _____

Mark 8:31-38 _____

Romans 10:12-17 _____

Psalm 46 _____

Psalm 67 _____

Study and Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think God is trying to communicate in the last part of Psalm 46:10?

2. What are some barriers that keep us from living a life committed to Christ's global cause? (1 John 2:1-2)

3. What are some truths you need to be continually reminded of to help you stay focused on God's global purpose?

4. Explain how your ministry is a means toward the overall goal of bringing God greater glory by reaching all nations with the gospel.

Maintaining a God-Centered Cause for Life

Week 5

Remember the Passion and Purpose of God

1. God's ultimate _____ is for His own glory. (Isaiah 48:11)
2. Believers should align themselves with God's passion and diligently pursue God's glory. (Isaiah 43:21; Proverbs 19:21)
3. God's ultimate _____ is for all peoples for all nations to intimately know and worship Him. (Genesis 12:3; Revelation 5:9)
4. God is committed to His purpose, and fulfills it in many ways. (Isaiah 14:24; Ephesians 1:9-10)
5. God's passion and purpose should be the _____ in our life and the life of our church. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Proverbs 21:30)
6. We must integrate God's heart for the nations into every aspect of our personal and corporate Christian life. (1 Corinthians 7:32-34)
7. All spiritual disciplines must be practiced from a _____ perspective.

Obey the Direction of God

1. God's global purpose is a huge task with a _____ task for individuals.
2. Since God always acts in consistency with His purpose, every act of obedience in our lives furthers the global cause of Christ.
3. Our first response to the global purpose of God is simple and total _____ . (Genesis 12:1-4)

Statistics on the World

- ❑ Two-thirds of the world's population is located in the 10/40 Window.
- ❑ There are over two billion Muslims and Hindus in the 10/40 Window.
- ❑ More than 95% of the world's unreached people live in the 10/40 Window, which outlines the heartlands of the major non-Christian religions of the world.
- ❑ About 80% of the poorest of the world's poor live in this region, enduring humanity's lowest standards of living.
- ❑ Out of every \$1,000 given in North American churches, five cents is given to reach the one billion Muslims in the 10/40 Window.
- ❑ In areas of the 10/40 Window, there is only one missionary for every one million people.

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) God’s heart is with the nations. Where is ours?

The Diaspora Arabs: an unreached people group

- ❑ There are more than 150 million Arabs who make up the majority populations of 15 nations. They represent the largest, most diverse, and most politically influential Muslim ethnic group in the world.
- ❑ About 93% of all Arabs are Muslims.
- ❑ Fortunately, the weakening of their traditional Muslim culture will undoubtedly present opportunities for the presentation of the Gospel.

Pray specifically for:

- ❑ The Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with them.
- ❑ That God will raise up faithful intercessors that will stand in the gap for the Arabs.
- ❑ That God will strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Muslim Arabs who have converted to Christianity.
- ❑ That the softening of their traditional Muslim culture will create more open doors for the Gospel to be preached among them.
- ❑ That the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of the Arabian people towards Christians so that they will be receptive.
- ❑ That the Lord will raise up strong local churches among the Diaspora Arabs.

Praying for the World

There is an easy way to remember the five major unreached people groups. Just remember ... THUMB

T – Tribals

H – Hindus

U – Chinese (turn the C sideways)

M – Muslims

B – Buddhists

Book List

Disciples are Made, Not Born, by Walter Henrichsen (relationship evangelism)

The Lost Art of Disciple Making, by Leroy Eims (how to biblically disciple others)

Unveiled at Last, by Bob Sjogren (about God's heart for the nations to know Him)

Run with the Vision, by Bill & Amy Stearns (how to practically live out world vision)

The Pursuit of God, by A.W. Tozer (intimacy with God)

The Pursuit of Holiness, by Jerry Bridges (obedience and living by the Spirit)

The Practice of Godliness, by Jerry Bridges (very practical: traits of Godly Christians)

Classic Christianity, by Bob George (new identity in Christ and sanctification)

A Chance to Die, by Elizabeth Elliot (inspiring biography about Amy Carmichael)

If, by Amy Carmichael (very short and convicting book on God's love and our lack of)

Compact Guide to World Religions, by Dean Halverson (comparison of religions)

Websites

www.thetravelingteam.org

www.missionfrontiers.org

www.uscwm.org

www.urbana.org

www.acmc.org