

Foundations

Week 2 – December 13, 2020

Scripture: Psalm 96:1-3, Genesis 1:27-28 & 12:1-2, Matthew 28:18-20

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Do you like to experience new places? What is your favorite type of adventure?

Read Psalm 96:1-3, Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 12:1-2, Matthew 28:18-20 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

In week 1 of this series we talked about being imagineers...creatives...that every person can create and in fact we are designed to create since we are made in the image of a creative God. We looked at the very beginning of scripture...the first five words of the Bible are "In the beginning God created..." (Genesis 1:1-2).

There was a unique call on the lives of our founders and the calling of our church. Because of Steve Andrew's heart for the world, love of cultures and people, there has always been a drive to "go" from nearly the beginning of Kensington. This week we will explore how we are called to take the gospel - *the good news of Jesus* - to ALL people.

Share your thoughts about following questions:

1. In the very beginning of scripture we find out that all humankind is made in the image of God and God's people are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 1:27-28 and Genesis 12:1-2).
 - a. The people of God are not blessed to hold onto God's blessing. What is easy for you to give away? What is difficult for you to share with others?
 - b. The Kingdom of God is filled with values that seem backwards to the world. Pause and reflect on this statement "*You can have it all if you give it all away*". What comes to mind? How do you resolve this paradox?
2. Author and speaker Michael Goheen says in his book *Light to the Nations*:
"God's people, at God's invitation and command, take part in God's own mission within the history of the world for the redemption of God's creation. Mission is what God is doing **for the sake of the world**: it is God's long-term purpose to renew the creation. God's mission involves God's people living in God's way in the sight of all people. God's people are to be an attractive sign before all nations of what God had intended in the beginning, and of the goal toward which he was moving: **the restoration of all creation and human life**... God's chosen people do not exist for themselves. Rather, they exist **for the sake of God's glory and his mission, and for the sake of others.**"
 - a. In order for God to renew creation, He calls us to GO on mission with Him. What challenges exist in putting this to action?
 - b. How would our relationship with God change if we fully lived out this mission?
3. In Matthew 28:18-20 God reminds us that He is with us until the end, no matter what He calls us to. It is not about being happy, but rather living a life of mission and purpose. We often need to lay down our preferences. What could happen if we joyfully released everything we have for the plan and purposes of God?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. When we release our blessings, the world is blessed and so are we. Spend a few minutes praying together as a group with your hands open, palms up, on your lap. Ask God to reveal to you in what area of your life you need to have "open hands". Thank God for His promises and love.