THE GUIDE

THE
MISSIONS
COURSE
A PROGRAM OF AIRO.

Introduction

WELCOME TO THE MISSIONS COURSE!

We're so glad you're here.

This guide was designed to help you take notes and mark your progress throughout the course. At the end of every lesson, there is a Lesson Reflection. Each week, we encourage you to take some time to reflect on what you're learning and the next steps you are planning to take.

What is one thing you hope to learn from The Missions Course?

Introduction Video Notes

Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

Ezekiel 36:22-23

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14

Lesson 1

THE THREAD

"Missions is the overflow of our delight in God because missions is the overflow of God's delight in being God."

JOHN PIPER

1 Now the Lord said to Abram,
"Go from your country and your
kindred and your father's house to
the land that I will show you.

2 And I will make of you a great
nation, and I will bless you and
make your name great so that you
will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,
and him who dishonors you I will
curse, and in you all the families of
the earth shall be blessed."

GENESIS 12:1-3

SPEAKER : TODD AHREND

God's Purpose? *His Glory praised through Jesus among the nations.*

GENESIS	TODAY
70 languages	7,150 languages

Genesis 1-11: *Creation, Fall, Flood, Nations*

Genesis 1-12: *The mission of God begins to take shape*

> *"The world offers us a rock to polish, God offers us a purpose to pursue".*
> – TODD AHREND

Psalm 46:10: *"Be still and know that I am God,*

1. God blessed and provided for the Israelites. How have you been blessed to complete the task?

SAVINGS SAFETY RESUME RELAX

2. Are these similar to your four words? How does God's plan affect your four words?

The 5 Commissioning Statements

1. Matthew 28:18-20

Four "All" Statements:

All

All

All

2. Mark 16:15

3. Luke 24:46-47

4. John 20:21

5. Acts 1:8

"We want the blessing of salvation but not the responsibility of taking it to the nations." - TODD AHREND

LESSON REFLECTION

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MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 1:15-20

REFLECTION NOTES

Lesson 2

ACTS & THE GREAT COMMISSION

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed."

HUDSON TAYLOR

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "you heard from Me;

5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit — not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

ACTS 1:4-9

SPEAKER: MATT MESSNER

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Book of Acts

AUTHOR: *Luke* **PURPOSE:** *Luke 1:1-4*

1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Acts Outline (Fill In)

Acts 2-7:

Acts 8-12:

Acts 13-28:

Acts is the living out of the Great Commission and the Genesis 12 promise.

Matthew 28:18-20 and **Acts 1:8** give the same command, with the same context, with the same promise.

"Persecution will not stop the advancement of the gospel" - MATT MESSNER

1. When and to whom was the Great Commission given? Why is this important?

2. How does Pentecost reverse what happened at the Tower of Babel?

3. What implications does the Lord's Missional Call have on the local church today in the areas of finances, preaching, discipleship, ministry opportunities, prayer, etc.?

4. How does the promise in Acts 1:8 encourage your own obedience in the Lord?

Theologically and Missiologically, the gospel is for the nations. The strategy may vary, but the substance does not.

"From Genesis to Revelation, God is working to create a people for himself from every tribe, tongue, and nation who would gather to worship Jesus."
– MATT MESSNER

TRIBAL

Most tribal peoples are animists. This means that they believe in spirits that live all around them: in trees, in fields, in rocks, in rooftops, in animals, etc. People must try to keep these spirits happy and enlist their help. Animists usually live with a certain amount of fear that a spirit will be unhappy with them. Often they have traditions and practices that involve appeasing certain spirits they believe can provide blessing for their people or harm.

POPULATION

206 million people, 3% of the world population

UNREACHED

1,004 unreached tribal groups

LOCATIONS

Most tribal peoples are concentrated in Africa and Southeast Asia

Pray

- Pray for freedom from fear and false worship.
- Pray for an end to tribal fighting, revenge killing, and sorcery-related violence.
- Pray for Bible and discipleship materials in all 300+ languages still needing translation work.
- Pray for unity of the Spirit across isolated and diverse communities.

TRIBAL | HINDU | UNRELIGIOUS | MUSLIM | BUDDHIST

LESSON REFLECTION

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MEMORY VERSE

Acts 1:4-9

REFLECTION NOTES

Lesson 3

MISSIONARIES TO KNOW

"Expect great things from God.
Attempt great things for God."

WILLIAM CAREY

7 Remember your leaders,
those who spoke to you the
word of God. Consider the
outcome of their way of life,
and imitate their faith.

HEBREWS 13:7

SPEAKER: NATHAN ALLEN

WILLIAM CAREY

"Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God."

ADONIRAM JUDSON

HIS GOAL:			WHAT GOD DID:		
1 Church	+	100 Believers	100 Churches	+	8,000+ Believers

"I will not leave Burma until a cross is planted here forever"

JOHN G. PATON

"Life and any life would be well spent under any conceivable conditions in bringing one human soul to know, love, and serve God and His Son..."

HUDSON TAYLOR

"The needs in China are so great and Christ's call to go reach them is so clear. The only way I won't go to China is if you go in my place."

AMY CARMICHAEL

"The missionary life is simply a chance to die."

H

HINDU

Hinduism is nearly impossible to explain simply since it is actually a conglomeration of ideas, practices, beliefs, and convictions. They believe in hundreds or thousands of gods (which are likely appearances of one divine essence). They believe in karma and in reincarnation -- that is, when you die, you come back to life as an insect or a cow or a person.

POPULATION	UNREACHED	LOCATIONS
1.19 Billion people, 15.1% of the world	*2,476 unreached Hindu groups*	*Most Hindus are concentrated in India*

Pray

- Pray for the few followers of Jesus to be effective in demonstrating how Jesus blesses and heals families and communities.
- Pray for families and communities to discover and embrace the free gift of life found by trusting in Christ and his finished work.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to give Hindu people love for God's Word and a desire to spread its influence.
- Pray for outreach workers who can explain the gospel with accuracy and cultural sensitivity.

LESSON REFLECTION

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MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 13:7

REFLECTION NOTES

Lesson 4

THE UNFINISHED TASK

"The evangelization of the world waits not on the readiness of God but on the obedience of Christians."

BILL SULLIVAN

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

REVELATION 7:9-10

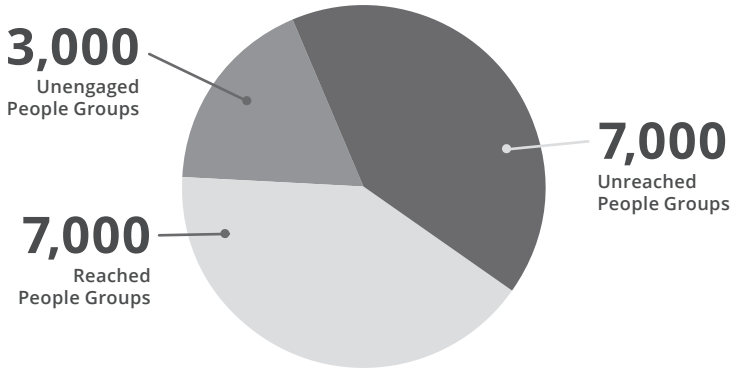
SPEAKER: CYNDI LOGSDON

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14

10/40 WINDOW
(97% of the world's unreached)

17,000 People Groups



What percentage of missionaries are sent to the 10/40 window?

_____ %

"The Human Condition is one of Pride and self-centeredness... one of the challenges to following Jesus obediently is making sure that our lives and our plans and our priorities align with God's plans and God's priorities."
– CYNDI LOGSDON

The Great Imbalance

$47 Billion
given to missions

1%

goes to the unreached

400,000
missionaries

3%

sent to the unreached

What is our role?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

"If we are going to obey the Great Commission we must make changes."
– CYNDI LOGSDON

1. How are you gifted?

2. What will you build?

3. What in your life needs to be adjusted to obey the Great Commission?

4. What obstacles do you think people and churches face in going/sending to the unreached?

U

UNRELIGIOUS / CHINESE

The largest block of non-religious peoples in the world is in China. This is a large category encompassing peoples whose dominant belief system is either agnosticism, meaning they do not believe in God and do not have much interest in spiritual things, or atheism, affirming a non-existence of God.

POPULATION	UNREACHED	LOCATIONS
1.4 billion people, 17.7% of the world	*443 unreached unreligious groups*	*Most unreligious groups are concentrated in China*

Pray

- Pray that believers will share the Gospel with boldness and clarity.
- Pray that God would stir Chinese Christians to intercede for and reach out to China's suffering peoples.
- Pray that a strong community of followers of Christ would be established among the Chinese people.
- Pray for God to show them that Jesus Christ is the sovereign, risen Savior - the only one who is truly worthy of worship.
- Pray for spiritual openness and a hunger for true righteousness, especially among their leaders.
- Pray that people would be discontent with a religion that does not provide forgiveness of sin and access to the creator God.

T H U M B

TRIBAL | HINDU | UNRELIGIOUS | MUSLIM | BUDDHIST

LESSON REFLECTION

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MEMORY VERSE

Revelation 7:9-10

REFLECTION NOTES

Lesson 5

CHURCH PLANTING

"Nothing so clears the vision and lifts up the life, as a decision to move forward in what you know to be entirely the will of the Lord."

JOHN PATON

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EPHESIANS 3:8-11

SPEAKERS: BROOKS & NINA BUSER

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20

Why is church planting the finish line of the Great Commission?

How can church planting be the primary means of carrying out all parts of the Great Commission?

What implications would learning the culture of a UPG have on the church planting process?

5 Steps for Church Planting:

1. Be a faithful church member

2. Get some good training

3. Learn the language and culture

4. Preach the gospel

5. Gather believers into a church

"The easy places have been reached. It's the hard places that remain."
– BROOKS BUSER

Reminders for Church Planting:

1. Look out for syncretism
2. Planting a church takes time
3. Be careful of your timeline
4. This is a God-sized task

3 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Romans 10:13-15

“Rest not till every people and language and nation has such a christ-centered throbbing in its midst with the pulses of New Life at full play.”
– JOHN G. PATON

MUSLIM

To be a Muslim, one must say with conviction at some point in his life the creed "There is no God but God, and Muhammad is his Prophet." They are also expected to uphold the five "pillars of Islam" which are: to recite the creed, pray five times a day, fast during the month of Ramadan, make a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, and give alms.

POPULATION	UNREACHED	LOCATIONS
1.8 billion people, 24.2% of the world	*3,470 unreached Muslim groups*	*Mainly concentrated in North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, Southeast Asia*

Pray

- Pray that Muslims will learn of the forgiveness and fulfillment found only through Christ.
- Pray for protection of the faith of Muslim Background Believers and for their families. Pray the Lord would encourage them and hold them fast.
- Pray for peace, fairness, and stability in Islamic countries. Pray the current disorder would prepare them for the gospel that Jesus offers.
- Ask the Lord to bless the government and to reveal himself to those in power.
- Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches that will plant other churches.

LESSON REFLECTION

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MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 3:8-11

REFLECTION NOTES

Lesson 6

YOUR ROLE

"We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."

JOHN R.W. STOTT

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

JAMES 1:22-25

SPEAKER: LUKE WOMACK

1. Who is missions for?

2. Who am I called to be?

3. What can I do?

1. What does Jesus' example in the Gospels teach us about welcoming and interacting with those who are different from us?

2. What are some reasons people have for not being a "goer"?

3. What are some common barriers that prevent Christians from praying for the nations?

37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38

B

BUDDHIST

Buddhists believe that the ultimate goal in life is to achieve "enlightenment" as they perceive it to exist. Buddhism teaches 'Four Noble Truths' – 1) to live is to suffer, 2) suffering is caused by desire, 3) one can eliminate suffering by eliminating all attachments, and 4) this is achieved by following the noble eightfold path – which includes having a right view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration.

POPULATION	UNREACHED	LOCATIONS
505 million people, 6.5% of the world	*530 unreached Buddhist groups*	*Mainly concentrated in South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia*

Pray

- There are some followers of Christ among predominantly Buddhist cultures. Pray they will not mix Buddhist beliefs with the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for strong commitment to Christ, and for holy living.
- Pray for Buddhist families to be drawn to Jesus and to the Bible to find out more about this man, Jesus.
- Pray that Buddhists will increasingly desire a solution for their sin problem. Pray that they will desire a Savior, someone who can provide forgiveness for sin and power to live this life victoriously.

COURSE REFLECTION

How has The Missions Course impacted your view of God, Scripture, or the Church?

Are there any barriers in the way of you playing your role in The Great Commission? If so, what are they?

What is one thing you hope to continue to learn about after The Missions Course?

MEMORY VERSE

James 1:22-25

REFLECTION NOTES

NEXT STEPS

You've finished The Missions Course! We hope over the last few weeks you've clearly seen God's heart for the nations and are emboldened to find your role in it.

We don't want things to end here, which is why we developed The Next Steps Module. With 30 unique next-step pathways, this module was designed to help you find your role.

You have a role to play. We all do.
We hope you'll take yours!

What steps do you want to take this week?

What steps do you want to take this month?

What steps do you want to take this year?

Who do you want to share these with?

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