



# AWAKEN

## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE



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**Bible passages taken from the English Standard Version  
[Crossway, 2001] unless noted otherwise.**



# WELCOME TO AWAKEN

Thank you so much for saying “yes” to the call and the opportunity to lead an AWAKEN group. We believe that the work God has called the Church to is far greater than what any one person can accomplish alone. His mandate is global. His mission is clear. His message needs messengers. We’ve formatted this book as an 8-chapter study to stir hearts towards God’s global purposes and help mobilize people to participate in His mission.

AWAKEN was written by a team of mission practitioners with over 100 years of combined experience serving overseas and training teams for global missions. We believe it is a powerful catalyst to stir the hearts of people to participate in God’s redemptive work wherever they are.

Things to keep in mind as an AWAKEN small group leader:

- Approach AWAKEN with an expectation that God will work deeply in your own life, not only in the lives of those you are guiding through the study.
- The Word of God is the foundation of this study. Be intentional to engage with the passages of Scripture in meaningful ways. The truths that the Holy Spirit will reveal are far greater than the words of Man.
- Use the provided prompts to help the members of your group to make meaningful connections to the content with their own discipleship journey.
- We at TRIAD are committed to taking this journey with you. If you have registered as a small group leader, you have direct access to our team! Your feedback is important to us. Please reserve time at the end of your AWAKEN experience to have your members complete the survey that will be emailed to you.

# THREE HABITS OF AWAKEN

Throughout your AWAKEN journey, you will encounter three habits that work together to help you and your group members capture the weight of God's love for the nations of this world and participate in the commission of Christ.

## IMMERSE IN GOD'S WORD

The power of Scripture to transform the hearts, minds, and behaviors of any person is infinitely greater than the words of Man. Taking the claim that the "word of God is living and active" [Hebrews 4:12] to heart, we have saturated AWAKEN with Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, AWAKEN traces the thread of God's love for the nations of this world and brings into focus our great responsibility to join in His work. The passages of Scripture in this study aren't a supplement to our writing; our writing is a supplement to them.

## SEEK HIS WILL

In John 16, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth. Every time we intentionally encounter the Word of God, we allow the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to us and shape us into the image of Christ. How different would our lives look if we approached every interaction with God with a concerted effort to align our will to His? Throughout AWAKEN, we have dedicated space for such encounters through the reflection points and closing Selah of each day. Do not gloss over these sections in an effort to speed through the day's reading and reflection. Instead, go through them prayerfully to seek and align with God's will.

While seeking God's will is a personal endeavor, we often see that God works in the context of community to help clarify and confirm His will. With this in mind, AWAKEN was written with the intent to be experienced with others. What God says to *us* as a group is often more profound and insightful than what God says to *me* as an individual. It's no mistake that every great movement of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts happened among the believing community and not isolated from it.

## ENGAGE IN HIS WORK

AWAKEN is not a "how to" manual for leading missions trips or building missions programs. However, we know that for transformation to happen, some action is required. With this in mind, we've provided opportunities to guide you into engaging in God's work of reaching the nations. Each chapter will introduce you to essential missions themes and terms that are particularly relevant for serving and advocating for unreached people groups. Along the way, you will be introduced to eight unreached people groups whose stories desperately need to be heard by the local church. We will also lead you through a range of spiritual formation practices, such as intercession, that position you to partner with God's global agenda regardless of your current locale.

# SUGGESTED USES OF AWAKEN

## EIGHT WEEK STUDY

AWAKEN is rich in Scripture and reflection. When possible, we encourage you to progress through AWAKEN one chapter per week. Each chapter consists of a total of five readings: four devotionals and one people group focus. This allows some flexibility should someone miss a day.

## MEETING LESS FREQUENTLY

We understand that it isn't always possible for groups to meet weekly for eight consecutive weeks. Some schedules require different meeting frequencies, such as every other week. Here are some suggestions on how to get the most out of AWAKEN when not meeting weekly:

- Create a group chat thread that promotes discussion around the content that is covered on weeks when you don't gather. On those weeks, give your group prompts like: *"What was your favorite quote from this week's reading? What did you learn about the Bhar people group in India?"*
- Be selective about which questions from the Small Group Leader's Guide you'll ask each time you gather. Rather than rushing through all the questions in two chapters, focus on 5–6 that touch on the most important ideas.
- Consider other opportunities for your members to connect together like optional video calls on non-meeting weeks or pairing members with a reading and prayer buddy who they can stay in regular connection with.

## FOR USE IN GLOBAL MISSIONS PROGRAMS AND MISSIONS TRIPS

AWAKEN is not a "how to" manual for leading missions trips or building missions programs. However, its emphasis on aligning hearts to God's own heart for the nations makes it a powerful formational resource for global missions programs and overseas teams. We encourage you to use AWAKEN as a formational resource for your teams.

# CONTINUING AFTER AWAKEN

The completion of AWAKEN doesn't need to be the end of your journey with TRIAD! We have some exciting opportunities for you to continue being part of God's mission in the world. Visit [triad.earth](http://triad.earth) to learn more about each of them:

## EMPOWER

EMPOWER is a 30-day immersive program in Armenia where you will experience God as never before and step into your missional calling as a disciple. You will gather with others like you who have a burning desire to see lives and communities transformed by the power of the Gospel. Receive the tools and training to follow Jesus wherever He leads you—without compromise or regrets.

## ENCOUNTER

ENCOUNTER is a short-term trip to Armenia that will allow you to engage with God's heart for unreached nations, create opportunities for you to encounter God in ways that will help you bring His purposes into your daily life, and experience TRIAD's strategic work, first hand.

## PRAYER

We are utterly dependent upon God for this mission. In our own strength and ability, we are unable to do what He has called us to. Through prayer, we are connected to our Creator and remain in step with His Spirit. We cannot overstate the priority of prayer and fervently desire fellow believers like you to rally alongside us in prayer as we pursue God's mission. See the Conclusion of the AWAKEN book for a 14-day prayer guide.

## SUPPORT THE WORK OF TRIAD

TRIAD exists to glorify the King by mobilizing, training, and deploying the body of Christ and fueling indigenous-led work in the hardest-to-reach places and people groups. Financially supporting the mission of TRIAD helps us equip and deploy followers of Christ to spread the Gospel among every nation, tribe, people, and language.



# COMPONENTS OF AWAKEN

We have composed each chapter of AWAKEN using a format that we believe will provide you and your group with an engaging, meaningful, and transformative experience.

## MEMORY VERSES

Each chapter has a carefully selected passage of Scripture that we strongly encourage you to memorize. Memorization of and meditation on God's Word allows it to permeate into our souls and take deep root. It also serves as a corrective measure toward a shallow interpretation of the Bible based on our biases and whims. As you memorize and meditate on a verse, the Holy Spirit will begin to turn His floodlight of illumination and understanding on the meaning.

Below is a handy tool to help you with memorizing Scripture. Like any tool, the more you practice with it, the more natural using it becomes. Just remember that you need to say the following out loud, not just in your head!

1. Start with the reference: the book, chapter, and verse(s).
2. Then add the first phrase of the verse, and say the reference again.
3. Each time you say the passage, add one more phrase. Start and end with the reference each time so that you will remember it and bring the verse to mind whenever you see or hear the reference.
4. Many also find it helpful to write the verse out by hand and put it somewhere where they will see it regularly throughout the week.

## DAILY READING

Every chapter is based upon a key theme throughout Scripture that quickens us to God's love for the nations. So often, we tend to "plow through" a chapter in a book that we hardly remember what we've read, let alone give it the space to speak deeply to us. To address this, we organized the chapters into four daily readings to expound upon the chapter's key theme and give you ample space for pause and reflection.

It bears repeating that the passages of Scripture in this book aren't a supplement to our writing, but that our writing is a supplement to them. Approach the passages as if you were in a conversation with God as He confers upon you His love for the people of this world. Take your time, read and re-read, highlight, underline, and make notes.

Throughout the daily readings, you'll find questions aimed at helping you reflect upon what you've just read and eliciting a response to deepen your understanding. Use the journaling space provided in those sections to record what God reveals to you and share those insights with your group when you gather.

Each daily reading concludes with a *Selah*. You may have noticed that word when reading through the Psalms. *Selah* is a technical musical term likely used to indicate an accentuation or a pause. As you read, take the psalmist's advice and pause to reflect and meditate on what God is communicating through His Word. The term will also indicate the natural pauses to separate the daily reading. You might find situations where you must or prefer to read more than one day at a time. That is fine; just don't rush through the reading to simply mark it off your to-do list.

## **PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS**

At the end of each chapter, you will find a dedicated People Group Focus. We will give you a front-row seat to the plight of eight people groups on this Earth who remain unreached. You will learn their story, hear from those who have first-hand accounts, and explore the complex challenges they face daily. Then we will give you the tools you'll need to intercede before the throne of grace and advocate on their behalf.

Now, may God awaken you to His heart for the nations and stir you into action for the glory of His name!



# USING THE SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## CHAPTER BY CHAPTER

### OVERVIEW

The overview summarizes the focus of each chapter. Use this when your group is in need of a quick refresher of what they encountered in their reading.

## THE GLORY OF GOD

Everything begins and ends with the glory of God! Because God is supremely good, holy, just, and loving, He is right to be jealous for His name and to call us into a white-hot affection for Him. His passion for His glory doesn't limit His love for us, it actually strengthens it. God's passion for His name should be our central motivation for our engagement in world evangelization, local witness, fellowship, and even in the daily activities of life.



### MEMORY VERSE

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
His marvelous works among all the peoples!*

*Psalms 96:1-3*

**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**DRUKPA IN BHUTAN**

**KEY TERM:**  
**GLORY OF GOD**

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER



## PRAYER POINTS

*The group would get off to a great start with together.*

*That people's hearts would come prepared to their understanding of His heart for the nation*

*That God would work through you as you lead your group.*

## PRAYER POINTS

Take time before each session to pray for God's guidance and empowerment as you lead your group.



## GROUP TIME

### WELCOME AND WARM UP: 15 MINUTES

Welcome each person and thank them for coming, using name tags to help everyone get to know each other. Give everyone a chance to share what led them to this group.

When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker online.

### SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES

Have someone from the group share their story based on the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in "global missions" or church support a missionary or organization? Is AWAKEN their first foray into the world of global missions? If so what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve others (neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.)?

### GROUNDING

Give your group an overview of the reading for the week in this guide or summarize this chapter's reading if you have time.

### MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES

- What were some things that stood out to you in the reading? Is there something God showed you? What is some

## GROUP TIME

This outline is meant to help you organize your time with your group. There are no hard and fast rules to follow, but this is a great place to start. The discussion questions are designed to facilitate natural conversation that covers the main points of each chapter. Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter reading; allow room for God to speak through your members.

## SHARE YOUR STORY

Everyone in the group has a story of how God has worked in their lives. We encourage you to choose someone each week to share his or her story with the group. We've provided prompts in the Chapter by Chapter section for you to give your members.

## CHAPTER ONE

# FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Everything begins and ends with the glory of God! Because God is supremely good, holy, just, and loving, He is right to be jealous for His name and to call us into a white-hot affection for Him. His passion for His glory doesn't limit His love for us, it actually strengthens it. God's passion for His name should be our central motivation for our engagement in world evangelization, local witness, fellowship, and even in the daily activities of life.



### MEMORY VERSE

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
His marvelous works among all the peoples!*

*Psalms 96:1-3*

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**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**DRUKPA IN BHUTAN**

**KEY TERM:**  
**GLORY OF GOD**

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE LEADER

The aim of the opening chapter of AWAKEN is to lead the reader into the discovery that our appropriate response to the glory and majesty of God is to develop a burning passion to see Him glorified in our lives and throughout the world. Since everyone in your group is at a different point in their journey of faith, it's important not to assume they have already developed an intimate relationship with God. This is why we have provided ample space for reflection during the reading time and encourage you to provide time during your meeting so that your members can share their current views of God.

As the leader of the group, pay close attention to how your members express their views of God. This way you can track how God is working to transform them over the course of your meetings. This will also give you an opportunity to provide meaningful encouragement to them as you see those changes take place. You may even consider having your members write their thoughts about God on a piece of paper, which they hand to you. Then you can return this paper at your final meeting so they can see firsthand how God has worked in their lives.

Some members of your group may struggle with the idea of a *Jealous God*. Know that this is a normal response and likely due to the destructive consequences they have witnessed with human jealousy. J.I. Packer's quote in Day 3 helps us to understand that God's jealousy is simply the appropriate response to His supreme goodness. His immeasurable love towards us is satisfied with nothing less than having the supreme place in our affections. This truth is at the heart of the Westminster Confession introduced in Day 4. Our ultimate purpose is to both enjoy God and glorify Him! Think about what it means to "*glorify God and enjoy Him forever*." Write down how this is practically worked out in your life. Use this simple exercise to help the members of your group make connections on how they can practically live to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

In the People Group Focus portion of this chapter, you'll find a robust definition of global missions by renowned missiologists Arthur Glasser and Donald McGavran. It's important to notice that while the work of global missions is multifaceted, it always centers upon the person of Christ and God's desire to be glorified among the nations. Consider spending time unpacking this definition with your group, especially if you are reading AWAKEN as part of your preparation for an upcoming mission trip.



## PRAYER POINTS

*The group would get off to a great start with no issues or challenges in gathering together.*

*That people's hearts would come prepared to encounter God's Word and deepen their understanding of His heart for the nations.*

*That God would work through you as you lead your group.*



## GROUP TIME

### WELCOME AND WARM UP: 10 MINUTES

Welcome each person and thank them for coming. If this is your first meeting, consider using name tags to help everyone get to know each other more quickly. Also, set aside time to give everyone a chance to share what led them to joining this group.

When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker. There are plenty of examples online.

### SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES

Have someone from the group share their story based on one or more of the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in “global missions” in the past? Did you or your church support a missionary or organization? Have you been on a missions team? Is AWAKEN your first foray into the world of global missions? If so, what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve those in your local community [neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.]?

### GROUNDING

Give your group an overview of the reading for the chapter. You can read the overview in this guide or summarize this chapter's reading in your own words.

### MAIN DISCUSSION - TIPS

- Bring your Bible and encourage your members to do the same.
- Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter's reading. Instead, prayerfully choose a handful of questions from the reading you'd like to discuss.



- A question for each day of this chapter is provided below; feel free to use them, but remember they are simply there to guide the conversation.
- Give the members of your group “room” to share what impacted and challenged them and ask any questions they might have.

### **MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES**

- What were some things that stood out to you from this chapter’s reading? What is something God showed you? What is something you learned about God?
- This chapter’s reading focused on the “Glory of God.” What thoughts or images come to mind when you hear that phrase?
- In Day 1, we read a quote from A.W. Tozer, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” What thoughts and images come into your mind when you think about God?
- What does it mean to you that God is both incomprehensible in every way and yet so personal in His deep love for you?
- What are your thoughts about God being a “jealous God”?
- Reflect on the question and answer from the Westminster Confession found in Day 4. What does it mean to glorify God and enjoy Him forever?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to the Drukpa people group in Bhutan. What stands out to you about their story?

### **PRAYER TIME: 10 MINUTES**

- Take prayer requests from group members and pray over them.
- Pray over your group that they would be motivated to live for the glory of God.
- Pray for the Drukpa people group using the prayer points from the book.

### **COMING UP NEXT CHAPTER**

Next chapter, you will begin exploring how God blesses His people to further His efforts to reach the nations. The focus will be on the implications and importance of the Abrahamic Covenant.

## CHAPTER TWO

# A COVENANT TO BLESS ALL NATIONS

God's unyielding commitment toward humanity was expressed through the covenant He formed with Abraham. It is through this covenant with Abraham that God initiated humanity's redemption on a global scale. From its inception, this covenant was not meant to be bound to any one tribe or nation but to be accessible to all through faith. The fullness of blessing of God's covenant with Abraham would ultimately come in the form of Jesus, the Son of God, who by His death and resurrection would once and for all reconcile humanity to God.



### MEMORY VERSE

*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. 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. 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*

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**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**DOLPA IN NEPAL**

**KEY TERM:**  
**PEOPLE GROUP**

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE LEADER

Chapter 2 lays the groundwork for an exploration of Scripture that highlights God's unceasing activity to reconcile all humanity to Himself and be glorified among the nations. This begins with God's redemptive response to humanity's sinfulness starting with the Fall and continuing throughout the early chapters of Genesis. In His immeasurable grace and mercy, God formed a covenant with Abraham that would serve as the means by which He would redeem all humanity through Christ. God's commitment to Abraham was that He would not only bless him, but would also bless all the nations of the Earth through him. This means that when God formed the covenant with him the redemption of all humanity was at the forefront of His mind! Spend some time reflecting with your group on what it means for us to be in a covenant relationship with God through Christ. What are both the blessings and implications of being in a covenant relationship with God? You may also want to set aside time with your group to consider the depth of love that is demonstrated by God through His decision to enter into such a relationship with a sinful humanity for the sake of our redemption.

This chapter also introduces the biblical definition of the term *blessed*. We see that our enjoyment of God's blessings includes such things as health, prosperity, success, protection, and joy. You may want to consider having each member write down various ways that God has blessed them and then have them share what they wrote with the group. Afterwards you can ask, "What is the so that of the blessings you listed? In other words, how can you leverage your blessings to bless others?" An activity such as this creates a stewardship mentality of our blessings so that we are constantly seeking to bless others in return. We sum up this "*so that*" dynamic of blessing with the phrase "*conduits, not containers*." Given the fact that the members of your group have agreed to participate in an 8-week study focused on God's glory among the nations, it's likely that they desire to experience what it means to be a conduit of God's blessing! This being said, a useful exercise for helping your members understand the value of being a conduit is to have them reflect on how God worked through other people to bless them. They were blessed because someone else chose to be a conduit. Now they have the opportunity to do the same for others.

In the People Group Focus portion of this chapter, you'll find a definition of the term "people group." This is an important term to understand because it helps us to better appreciate the differences of culture, language, religion, geography, and so forth that impact the spread of the Gospel from people to people. Consider reading Revelation 7:9-10 in light of this deepened understanding of the term people group. Imagine the scene of the over 17,000 people groups in this world giving praise to God!



## PRAYER POINTS

*That people's hearts would come prepared to encounter God's Word and deepen their understanding of His heart for the nations.*

*That the members of your group would begin to experience authentic community with one another.*

*That the members of your group would develop a deeper understanding of the purpose behind God's blessing.*

*That God would continue to empower you to lead and support your group.*



## GROUP TIME

### WELCOME AND WARM UP: 10 MINUTES

Welcome each person and thank them for coming. Find out how their week has been and follow up on any prayer requests from the week before. When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker. There are plenty of examples online.

### SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES

Have someone from the group share their story based on one or more of the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in “global missions” in the past? Did you or your church support a missionary or organization? Have you been on a missions team? Is AWAKEN your first foray into the world of global missions? If so, what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve those in your local community [neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.]?

### GROUNDING

Give your group an overview of the reading for the chapter. You can read the overview in this guide or summarize this chapter's reading in your own words.

### MAIN DISCUSSION - TIPS

- Bring your Bible and encourage your members to do the same.
- Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter's reading. Instead, prayerfully choose a handful of questions from the reading you'd like to discuss.

- A question for each day of this chapter is provided below; feel free to use them, but remember they are simply there to guide the conversation.
- Give the members of your group “room” to share what impacted and challenged them and ask any questions they might have.

### **MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES**

- What were some things that stood out to you from this chapter’s reading? What is something God showed you? What is something you learned about God?
- This chapter’s reading focused on the covenant God made with Abraham. What comes to mind when you hear the word “covenant”? Why is it significant that the God of the Universe entered into a covenant with a man?
- In Day 1, we saw how even in the midst of judgment, God’s redemptive character is shown. What does this teach us about God? How have you experienced His redemptive love?
- If you’ve read the story of Abraham you know that he wasn’t perfect, yet God worked through him to accomplish His purposes. What does that say about God’s ability to use each of us?
- Reflect on the Galatians 3 readings from Day 3. What insights do those passages give us into God’s ultimate purpose for the Abrahamic Covenant?
- How would you describe what it means to be “blessed”?
- In Day 4, we explored the idea of being a conduit and not a container of God’s blessing. What does that mean to you?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to a key missions term: ethne, or people group. Why is this an important term?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to the Dolpa people group in Nepal. What stands out to you about their story?

### **PRAYER TIME: 10 MINUTES**

- Take prayer requests from group members and pray over them.
- Pray over your group that they would come into a deeper understanding of the purpose of God’s blessing.
- Pray for the Dolpa people group using the prayer points from the book.

### **COMING UP NEXT CHAPTER**

Next chapter’s reading will cover moments in the Old Testament where God is at work among His people with the intent of blessing and impacting other nations.

## CHAPTER THREE

# BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

One of the major themes of the Bible is that God blesses His people to accomplish His purpose of redeeming the nations. This theme is developed in key moments throughout the Old Testament such as the Exodus, the rescue of Daniel, and Solomon's dedication of the Temple. As we catch a vision for what God is doing among the nations, it's important to wrestle with what the redemption of God looks like at an individual, corporate, and societal level. God invites us to join Him in His work wherever we are; let us be sensitive to those invitations.



### MEMORY VERSE

*"Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!"*

*Psalms 46:10*

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**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**KOREANS OF NORTH KOREA**

**KEY TERM:**  
**UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP**

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE LEADER

Chapter 3 explores pivotal moments in the history of Israel to uncover how God blesses His people with the intent of impacting the nations around them. This leads us into a handful of important themes when considering the redemptive work of God in and through the nation of Israel as He sought to be glorified among all nations. First, we notice that there is both an upper and lower story told throughout Scripture. The lower story recounts the lives and events of people—Abraham, Noah, Joseph, and so on. It's the point of view we are most acquainted with because it mirrors how we experience our own lives. The upper story is God's perspective. It tells what He is up to as He weaves all the threads of the story together, creating one glorious narrative tapestry of redemption. Ask your members to share how they have seen God's upper story at work in their lower story. This can be especially encouraging for those going through a difficult season or one in which major life decisions need to be made.

This chapter reinforces the “so that” dynamic of God's blessing as it delves into the various phases of entering into, residing in, and exile out of the Promised Land. In each and every phase God was at work through His people so they could be instruments of His blessing to others! Lastly, we see how even in the worst of circumstances, the Babylonian Captivity, God's people were tasked with seeking the welfare (shalom) of those around them to further the redemptive purposes of God. In many ways, this speaks to the heart of what it means to be a disciple of Christ in a fallen world. Jesus Himself declared that we are to be considered blessed when we are persecuted for the sake of righteousness (Matthew 5:10–12). Help your group to think through how they can be tangible blessings to those around them who may be confrontational towards them and the Gospel.

In the People Group Focus of this chapter, we are confronted with staggering statistics regarding the unreached. Our experience shows that many Christians are simply uninformed of the enormity of the task that remains in terms of bringing the Gospel to the ends of the Earth as Jesus instructed. It can be difficult to imagine just how large of a number 3.2 billion is (the estimated number of unreached people on Earth) as well as fully understand why there remain so many unreached. Consider visiting [triad.earth/the-unreached](http://triad.earth/the-unreached) to help your group members gain a better understanding of this important topic.



## PRAYER POINTS

*That people's hearts would come prepared to encounter God's Word and deepen their understanding of His heart for the nations.*

*That the members of your group would begin to participate in the activity of seeking and praying for shalom in the lives of those around them and the cities in which they live.*

*That the members of your group would develop a desire to see God work through them to bless others.*

*That God would work through you as you lead your group.*



## GROUP TIME

### WELCOME AND WARM UP: 10 MINUTES

Welcome each person and thank them for coming. Find out how their week has been and follow up on any prayer requests from the week before. When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker. There are plenty of examples online.

### SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES

Have someone from the group share their story based on one or more of the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in “global missions” in the past? Did you or your church support a missionary or organization? Have you been on a missions team? Is AWAKEN your first foray into the world of global missions? If so, what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve those in your local community [neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.]?

### GROUNDING

Give your group an overview of the reading for the chapter. You can read the overview in this guide or summarize this chapter's reading in your own words.

### MAIN DISCUSSION - TIPS

- Bring your Bible and encourage your members to do the same.
- Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter's reading. Instead, prayerfully choose a handful of questions from the reading you'd like to discuss.



- A question for each day of this chapter is provided below; feel free to use them, but remember they are simply there to guide the conversation.
- Give the members of your group “room” to share what impacted and challenged them and ask any questions they might have.

### **MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES**

- What were some things that stood out to you from this chapter’s reading? What is something God showed you? What is something you learned about God?
- This chapter’s reading focused on how God’s blessing upon His people was used to further His effort to reach the nations. Why is it important that we understand this?
- In Day 1, we looked at the Exodus story. What was the connection between God blessing Israel through His deliverance and God’s global redemptive purpose?
- How have you seen the “upper story” and “lower story” of God work out in your own life?
- Share your responses from the Selah of Day 2 regarding God’s blessing and His purpose in your life.
- In Day 3, we explored the concept of shalom. What are some ways you can bring shalom to those around you?
- What stood out to you from the prayers of Moses and Solomon in Day 4?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to a key missions term: Unreached People Group. Why is this an important term?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to the Koreans living in North Korea. What stands out to you about their story?

### **PRAYER TIME: 10 MINUTES**

- Take prayer requests from group members and pray over them.
- Pray over your group that they begin to develop a conviction to view their lives within the context of God’s work of redeeming the nations.
- Pray for the North Korean people group using the prayer points from the book.

### **COMING UP NEXT CHAPTER**

Next chapter, we will see how the Psalms and Prophetic Books express God’s heart for the nations in powerful ways! We’ll see how God spoke through the psalmists and prophets to declare His love for all people.

## CHAPTER FOUR

# KINGDOM MESSENGERS

The Psalms and Prophets stir our hearts and minds to see God glorified among the peoples of the Earth, many of whom are considered unreached. Fifty of the 150 Psalms in the Old Testament speak positively of the nations and emphasize God's kingship over them. The Old Testament prophets weren't sent exclusively to Israel but to other countries as well, so that God could be glorified among them.



### MEMORY VERSE

*May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah  
that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!*

*Psalms 67:1-3*

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**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**IRANIAN ARABS IN IRAN**

**KEY TERM:**  
**T.H.U.M.B.**

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE LEADER

Chapter 4 reminds us that while we are invited into an intimate and personal relationship with God, He is not our sole possession. God is King of the Nations! A journey into the Psalms reveals that 1/3 of them speak positively of the nations and emphasize God's kingship over them. Even in the midst of His covenantal relationship with the nation of Israel, God remained concerned with the nations of the world. As the leader of the group, this is a perfect opportunity for you to help your group explore modern worship through the lens of God's love for the nations. One way this could be done is to select a song that speaks of God's love for the nations and have your group listen to it with the accompanying lyrics. Then, ask the group to share how they see God's love for the nations expressed in that song. Some other questions you can consider asking your group include:

- Why is it important that at least some of the worship songs we sing display God's heart for the nations?
- How can our worship of God fuel our desire to see Him glorified among the nations? In what ways might God be personally inviting you to act upon that desire?

In this chapter, we see that the prophets of God were not sent exclusively to the nation of Israel, but also to other nations and peoples. A major function for the Old Testament prophets was to serve as God's mouthpiece so that people could become aware of God's intents and plans. The fact that God would communicate His heart and mind to people He was not in a covenantal relationship with serves to reinforce both His lordship over and love for all nations. It's with this in mind that we take a closer look at the prophet Jonah, the reluctant messenger who struggled to overcome his own prejudices towards the Ninevites. Throughout the book of Jonah, we see a dramatic contrast between God's love for a sinful people and Jonah's animosity towards them. As the leader of the group, do some gentle digging with your members to help uncover biases that may hinder their ability to truly reach out to others with redemptive love. What kind of people do we tend to avoid? What are our reasons for avoiding them? Help your members to process through ways to overcome such biases so that they can be a loving and authentic representation of Christ in the midst of those very people.

In the People Group Focus of this chapter, you'll find the acronym T.H.U.M.B. which is a helpful way to remember the major religious categories of the unreached: Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious, Muslim, and Buddhist. Consider organizing a group outing to interact with people from one of the T.H.U.M.B. groups and creating space for conversation on what they may have learned about that group.



## PRAYER POINTS

*That people's hearts would come prepared to encounter God's Word and deepen their understanding of His heart for the nations.*

*That your members' journey through the Psalms and Prophets would reinforce their understanding of God's love for all peoples.*

*That the members of your group would have a greater desire to see God glorified among the nations.*

*That God would give you increasing insight on how to care for your group.*



## GROUP TIME

### WELCOME AND WARM UP: 10 MINUTES

Welcome each person and thank them for coming. Find out how their week has been and follow up on any prayer requests from the week before. When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker. There are plenty of examples online.

### SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES

Have someone from the group share their story based on one or more of the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in “global missions” in the past? Did you or your church support a missionary or organization? Have you been on a missions team? Is AWAKEN your first foray into the world of global missions? If so, what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve those in your local community [neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.]?

### GROUNDING

Give your group an overview of the reading for the chapter. You can read the overview in this guide or summarize this chapter's reading in your own words.

### MAIN DISCUSSION - TIPS

- Bring your Bible and encourage your members to do the same.
- Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter's reading. Instead, prayerfully choose a handful of questions from the reading you'd like to discuss.

- A question for each day of this chapter is provided below; feel free to use them, but remember they are simply there to guide the conversation.
- Give the members of your group “room” to share what impacted and challenged them and ask any questions they might have.

### **MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES**

- What were some things that stood out to you from this chapter’s reading? What is something God showed you? What is something you learned about God?
- This chapter’s reading took us on a journey through the Psalms and Prophets. How did these passages of Scripture reinforce God’s love for all peoples?
- Reflect on your reading from Day 1. What are some things you recorded that the psalmists say about God and the nations?
- 1/3 of the Psalms speak positively of the nations and emphasize God’s kingship over them. What are some modern worship songs that reflect God’s heart for the nations?
- Share your thoughts on the story of Jonah, the reluctant messenger.
- Jonah lacked empathy towards the Ninevites. How can we develop empathy towards those who are far from God?
- What is the significance of God sending His prophets to other nations?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to a key missions term: T.H.U.M.B. Why is this an important term? What are some examples of T.H.U.M.B. people groups in your local area?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to the Iranian Arabs of Iran. What stands out to you about their story?

### **PRAYER TIME: 10 MINUTES**

- Take prayer requests from group members and pray over them.
- Pray over your group that they begin to develop a conviction to view their lives within the context of God’s work of redeeming the nations.
- Pray for the Iranian Arabs using the prayer points from the book.

### **COMING UP NEXT CHAPTER**

Next chapter, we will see how the fullest expression of God the Father’s heart for the nations is found in Jesus, His Son. He revealed that He wasn’t simply a national Messiah, but the Savior of the World!

## CHAPTER FIVE

# THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

When Jesus revealed Himself to be the Messiah, He did so in a context that had strong nationalistic ideas about who the Messiah ought to be and what He ought to do. Throughout His life, Jesus battled these misconceptions to demonstrate that He was the Savior of the World, not a national savior for the Jewish people. As we consider the ramifications of Jesus being the Savior of the World, it's important to also consider the personal implications of being a disciple of the Savior of the World. As a disciple, each of us is Jesus' student: learning from Him, following His example, and modeling our life after His.



### MEMORY VERSE

*Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."*

*John 4:39-42*

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**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**BHAR IN INDIA**

**KEY TERM:**  
**STRATUS INDEX**

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE LEADER

In Chapter 5, we see that Jesus was clear that His mission as Son of God and Messiah was to inaugurate the Kingdom of God and to give His life for the redemption of all who would place their faith in Him. He did not come to be just the savior of the Jews, but the Savior of the World. Consider providing time for your group to reflect on what it means for them to be a disciple of the Savior of the World. How do we live out what it means to be a disciple in light of this fact?

The Gospels teach us that a primary reason that Jesus was rejected by His own people was that He did not meet their expectations of a nationalistic and militant messiah. They were so set in their own preconceptions of what they expected from God that their hearts were hardened to the fact that He was doing something far greater than restoring a temporal nation on Earth. One of the tests of our own discipleship is how we respond to God when situations don't pan out as we had hoped or expected they would. Yet, if we keep the upper and lower story dynamic from Chapter 3 in mind, we can possess the hope that God is truly working out all things for our good. This would be a great opportunity to have your group share the challenges they've faced in their discipleship and to encourage those who are in the midst of difficult circumstances.

While in Samaria, Jesus commented on his disciples' blindness to the harvest field right before them. Sadly, their prejudices towards Samaritans hindered them from seeing those people as potential recipients of the Gospel. Some questions you might ask your group are: What are some blinders that we have from seeing the harvest before us? Who are the *Samaritans* in our own communities that God might be prompting us to reach?

In the People Group Focus of this chapter, the members of your group are introduced to the Stratus Index. Practice navigating the [stratus.earth](http://stratus.earth) website before your next meeting. Consider setting aside time during your next meeting to help the members of your group become familiar with this incredible resource. Since the People Group Focus of this week is the Bhar in India, you may want to download the country profile of India from Stratus for your group.



## PRAYER POINTS

*That people's hearts would come prepared to encounter God's Word and deepen their understanding of His heart for the nations.*

*That God would begin to reveal to your members what it means to be a disciple of the Savior of the World.*

*That any members of your group who are considering major decisions would make those decisions in light of their call to be disciples of Jesus.*

*That you would experience renewed energy as you reach the halfway point of leading your group.*

## GROUP TIME

### **WELCOME AND WARM UP: 10 MINUTES**

Welcome each person and thank them for coming. Find out how their week has been and follow up on any prayer requests from the week before. When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker. There are plenty of examples online.

### **SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES**

Have someone from the group share their story based on one or more of the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in “global missions” in the past? Did you or your church support a missionary or organization? Have you been on a missions team? Is AWAKEN your first foray into the world of global missions? If so, what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve those in your local community (neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.)?

### **GROUNDING**

Give your group an overview of the reading for the chapter. You can read the overview in this guide or summarize this chapter’s reading in your own words.

### **MAIN DISCUSSION - TIPS**

- Bring your Bible and encourage your members to do the same.
- Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter’s reading. Instead, prayerfully choose a handful of questions from the reading you’d like to discuss.
- A question for each day of this chapter is provided below; feel free to use them, but remember they are simply there to guide the conversation.
- Give the members of your group “room” to share what impacted and challenged them and ask any questions they might have.

### **MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES**

- What were some things that stood out to you from this chapter’s reading? What is something God showed you? What is something you learned about God?
- This chapter’s reading highlighted that Jesus wasn’t a national messiah, but the Savior of the World. What does that mean for us today?
- Share your reflections and insights from the passages in Isaiah found in Day 1.



- In Day 2, we saw the importance of relating to Jesus as not only our personal savior but as the Savior of the World. How does relating to Jesus as the Savior of the World change the way you relate to the world around you?
- Jesus was rejected by those who hoped for a militant Messiah. Why is it important for us to submit to Jesus' lordship on His own terms and not attempt to make Him into the Jesus we want Him to be?
- In what ways might Jesus have used the detour in Samaria to prepare His disciples for spreading the Gospel after His ascension?
- Share your response from the Selah of Day 3.
- Are there any major decisions you are considering? What would it look like to make those decisions as a disciple of the Savior of the World [from Day 4, Selah]?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to a key missions term: Stratus Index. What are some factors that determine the challenges of bringing the Gospel to certain locations?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to the Bhar people group in India. What stands out to you about their story?

### **PRAYER TIME: 10 MINUTES**

- Take prayer requests from group members and pray over them.
- Pray over your group that they begin to see themselves as disciples of the Savior of the World.
- Pray for the Bhar people group in India using the prayer points from the book.

### **COMING UP NEXT CHAPTER**

Next chapter, we'll see how Jesus intentionally and strategically encountered Gentiles throughout His earthly ministry. As He did so, He worked to prepare His disciples for the global task they would one day embark upon.

## CHAPTER SIX

# COMMISSIONED TO THE NATIONS

The Gospels provide us with powerful accounts of Jesus' interactions with Gentiles (non-Jews) as a means to convey God's concern for all nations. With each encounter, Jesus stripped away at the cultural biases of His disciples to prepare them for the global task they would one day embark upon. Today, Jesus' ministry among the Gentiles provides us with a model of how we are to shape our interactions with those who do not know Him. Like Jesus, we are called to be embracing, proactive, and compassionate.



### MEMORY VERSE

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:18–20*

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**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**HAZARA IN AFGHANISTAN**

**KEY TERM:**  
**PROGRESS SCALE**

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE LEADER

In Chapter 6, we see how Jesus prepared His disciples for the continuation of His mission. Jesus was intentional to place His followers in cross-cultural exchanges that enabled Him to strip away at their deeply held cultural biases. Much has already been addressed, in both the book and this guide, on identifying and working to address those biases in light of what we see in Scripture. Now, as we enter the tail end of AWAKEN, you as the leader are in a prime position to ask a few “how” questions to your group that would continue their growth:

- How has God worked in your heart to develop a greater understanding of and love for others?
- How can we model Jesus’ interactions with others? Specifically, what does it mean for us to be embracing, proactive, and compassionate?

A large portion of this chapter is dedicated to what we refer to as *The Great Commission*. While Matthew 28 tends to be the most well-known commissioning statement, it’s important to consider what all five have to teach us. Encourage your group members to prepare their own summary of all the commissioning statements [the Selah for Day 3] to share at your group meeting for Chapter 6. Give everyone time to read their summary and explain why they wrote it in such a way and why they included the points they did.

Day 4 is dedicated to the commissioning statement found in John 20. Intimacy is a major and recurring theme in John’s Gospel: 1) Jesus describes His intimacy with the Father, 2) Jesus invites His disciples into intimacy with Him, 3) Jesus expects His disciples to experience intimacy with one another, and 4) It is through our relationship with Jesus that we can experience intimacy with the Father. This week provides a natural opportunity for you to give your members a chance to share about their intimacy with God. Some leading questions can include:

- What does intimacy with God mean to you?
- What does it say about a good, loving, holy, and perfect God that He desires intimacy with us?
- What does intimacy in a Christian community look like? How do we cultivate this?

In the People Group Focus of this chapter, we see the term “Progress Scale,” which is an estimate of the progress of church planting among a people group, people cluster, country, or language. Take some time to familiarize yourself with the Joshua Project website ([joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)). It provides a wealth of information for areas your church may be sending people to or supporting work in. These insights can be used to have better informed intercession times as well as give key insights on how to best serve people in those regions.



## PRAYER POINTS

*That people's hearts would come prepared to encounter God's Word and deepen their understanding of His heart for the nations.*

*That the members of your group would be awakened to Jesus' call to the nations.*

*That members of your group would open their hearts to the Holy Spirit's work of stripping away cultural biases.*

*That God would continue to work through you as you lead your group.*



## GROUP TIME

### WELCOME AND WARM UP: 10 MINUTES

Welcome each person and thank them for coming. Find out how their week has been and follow up on any prayer requests from the week before. When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker. There are plenty of examples online.

### SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES

Have someone from the group share their story based on one or more of the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in “global missions” in the past? Did you or your church support a missionary or organization? Have you been on a missions team? Is AWAKEN your first foray into the world of global missions? If so, what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve those in your local community [neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.]?

### GROUNDING

Give your group an overview of the reading for the chapter. You can read the overview in this guide or summarize this chapter's reading in your own words.

### MAIN DISCUSSION - TIPS

- Bring your Bible and encourage your members to do the same.
- Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter's reading. Instead, prayerfully choose a handful of questions from the reading you'd like to discuss.

- A question for each day of this chapter is provided below; feel free to use them, but remember they are simply there to guide the conversation.
- Give the members of your group “room” to share what impacted and challenged them and ask any questions they might have.

### **MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES**

- What were some things that stood out to you from this chapter’s reading? What is something God showed you? What is something you learned about God?
- This chapter’s reading highlighted Jesus’ call to the nations. What are the implications for us today?
- In Day 1, we got a glimpse of Jesus’ ministry among the Gentiles. Based upon Jesus’ example, how are we to shape our interactions with those who are different from us and who do not know Him?
- In Day 2, we see that it was the outsiders who were the heroes of each of those stories. What might be the significance of this?
- Share your response from the Selah of Day 2.
- Read your summary statement of the various commissioning statements from Day 3.
- In Day 4, we saw how Jesus lived in intimate submission to the Father’s will and mission. What does it look like for us to do the same?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to a key missions term: Progress Scale. Why might this be something to consider when we think about global missions and how we partner with others to see God glorified among the nations?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to the Hazara people group in Afghanistan. What stands out to you about their story?

### **PRAYER TIME: 10 MINUTES**

- Take prayer requests from group members and pray over them.
- Pray over your group that they begin to see themselves as participants in Jesus’ call to the nations.
- Pray for the Hazara people group in Afghanistan using the prayer points from the book.

### **COMING UP NEXT CHAPTER**

Next chapter, we’ll see how the Church was birthed in a global context and was empowered by the Holy Spirit to advance the Gospel. Just as God worked in the Church 2000 years ago, He still desires to work in us today.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

# TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

God's heart for the nations was on full display during the first days of the Early Church. The Church was born at Pentecost when people from regions spanning over 2,000 miles were present. The work and influence of the Holy Spirit led and empowered the disciples to be Jesus' cross-cultural witnesses in spite of persecution. In His wisdom and sovereignty, God opened doors for His people to share the Gospel regardless of the barriers they faced.



### MEMORY VERSE

*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, 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*

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**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**SOMALI IN SOMALIA**

**KEY TERM:**  
**PERSECUTION RANKING**

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE LEADER

In Chapter 7, we see the Early Church embark on the beginning stages of taking the Gospel to the ends of the Earth. The empowerment of the apostles at Pentecost by the Holy Spirit enabled them to become bold cross-cultural witnesses for the faith. While various streams of Christianity may differ in their views of how the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of believers today, it is clear that, at the very least, He works in and through us to glorify God and fulfill His purposes. Give your members time to share how they have seen the Holy Spirit work in their lives. In what ways did He motivate and empower them to do something they otherwise wouldn't or couldn't have? In what ways are they currently sensing His leading in their lives?

The ability of those present in the upper room to speak in various languages was one way God demonstrated His desire to be glorified among all peoples of the Earth. He divinely orchestrated a critical moment in human history to birth the Church. The Pax Romana [Roman Peace] was in full effect, allowing for safe travel on well-guarded roads and trade routes. Jewish communities were scattered far and wide throughout the empire giving Jesus' Jewish disciples entry points to share the Gospel of the Messiah. For centuries, Greek had been established as the common language enabling the Gospel to be communicated across different cultures. Each of these factors proved essential and instrumental in the spread of the Gospel. Consider reviewing the map from Day 2 with your group to reflect on how incredible God's planning and timing is!

Perhaps the second most significant event in the Book of Acts was the Jerusalem Council which met to determine whether or not Gentiles were expected to embrace Judaism in order to become Christians. The decisions made at this Council ensured that the Gospel would not be confined to any cultural expression but that faith in Christ was what reconciled someone to God and gave them entrance into the community of faith. A meaningful activity you might do with your group is to have them list all the various ethnicities and cultures that are present in your community of faith and then reflect on how such diversity enriches our fellowship. The story of the Jerusalem Council brings up an incredibly relevant question for the members of your group, *"How should we, as faithful disciples, interact with people from different cultures without imposing our own cultural values upon them?"* The Gospel doesn't belong to any one culture, and there are aspects of how we follow Jesus in our own culture that may not be suitable in another.

In the People Group Focus of this chapter, we see the term "Persecution Ranking" which reflects the severity of persecution a given people group faces. Visit [opendoors.org](http://opendoors.org) to take a closer look at the 50 most persecuted countries in the world and print a country report to share with your group.



## PRAYER POINTS

*That people's hearts would come prepared to encounter God's Word and deepen their understanding of His heart for the nations.*

*That your members would be inspired by the ways God worked through the Early Church to spread the Gospel.*

*That the members of your group would seek and experience the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live as witnesses for Jesus wherever they are.*

*That God would give you increasing insight on how to care for your group.*



## GROUP TIME

### WELCOME AND WARM UP: 10 MINUTES

Welcome each person and thank them for coming. Find out how their week has been and follow up on any prayer requests from the week before. When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker. There are plenty of examples online.

### SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES

Have someone from the group share their story based on one or more of the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in “global missions” in the past? Did you or your church support a missionary or organization? Have you been on a missions team? Is AWAKEN your first foray into the world of global missions? If so, what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve those in your local community [neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.]?

### GROUNDING

Give your group an overview of the reading for the chapter. You can read the overview in this guide or summarize this chapter's reading in your own words.

### MAIN DISCUSSION - TIPS

- Bring your Bible and encourage your members to do the same.
- Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter's reading. Instead, prayerfully choose a handful of questions from the reading you'd like to discuss.



- A question for each day of this chapter is provided below; feel free to use them, but remember they are simply there to guide the conversation.
- Give the members of your group “room” to share what impacted and challenged them and ask any questions they might have.

### **MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES**

- What were some things that stood out to you from this chapter’s reading? What is something God showed you? What is something you learned about God?
- This chapter’s reading focused on God’s work through the Early Church to take the Gospel beyond Jerusalem. What were some key ways that God intervened?
- Share your thoughts on the Arthur Glasser quote from Day 1: “The Holy Spirit must primarily be seen as the driving force behind any and all movement of the people of God outward, beyond the frontiers of faith to share the gospel with those who have not yet heard it.”
- Reflect on your reading from Day 2 regarding Pentecost. How did God set the stage for the global reach of the Gospel?
- In Day 3, we explored how God intervened to ensure His purpose was completed. What are some ways God has intervened in your own life to see His will done?
- What do you believe is the relationship between faith and culture? Draw on your reflections from Day 4.
- In this chapter, we were introduced to a key missions term: Persecution Ranking. Why is the persecution of our brothers and sisters in Christ in other locations something we should concern ourselves with?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to the Somali people group in Somalia. What stands out to you about their story?

### **PRAYER TIME: 10 MINUTES**

- Take prayer requests from group members and pray over them.
- Pray over your group that they would experience the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live as fruitful witnesses and disciples.
- Pray for the Somali people group in Somalia using the prayer points from the book.

### **COMING UP NEXT CHAPTER**

Now we enter the final chapter of AWAKEN! This final chapter focuses on how we can take our place as participants in the mission of God.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

# HIS MISSION, OUR PARTICIPATION

Our participation in God's mission begins with aligning ourselves to His will. This occurs as we seek the intentional development of intimacy with Him. Fueled by our intimacy with God, we must also be thoughtful about how to best engage the complex cultures around us so that the Gospel is neither hindered nor compromised. Lastly, we can trust that, by His Spirit, God has uniquely equipped each of us to make an impact for His Kingdom!



### MEMORY VERSE

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

*1 Peter 2:9*

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**PEOPLE GROUP FOCUS:**  
**NORTHERN KURD IN IRAQ**

**KEY TERM:**  
**THE GREAT IMBALANCE**

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## THOUGHTS FOR THE LEADER

Chapter 8 concludes AWAKEN by taking a closer look at the personal implications of what has been explored to answer the question, “How do we take our place in God’s mission to be glorified among all nations?” We begin this chapter with an emphasis on developing intimacy with God, for it is through intimacy with Him that our hearts are aligned to His will and we are empowered to become participants in His mission. Now is a great time for you, the leader, to ask the members of your group how they have grown in intimacy with God over the course of AWAKEN.

In Day 2 of this chapter, readers are encouraged to select a handful of spiritual disciplines to begin incorporating into their lives to help them grow in intimacy with God. Help your members understand that spiritual disciplines aren’t meant to be formulaic or produce a “works-based” mentality for experiencing the grace of God. They are, however, time-tested practices that provide us with an intentional means for continued growth. This stems from the example of Jesus who made it his *ethos* [custom] to dedicate time in God’s presence because He understood that He couldn’t accomplish His mission without an intimate relationship with the Father. Consider inviting the members of your group to share which disciplines they plan to embrace and encouraging them to select an accountability partner to keep them on track.

The cultures of our world are becoming increasingly complex and nuanced, requiring us to consider how to effectively engage them in such a way that the Gospel is neither hindered or compromised. By developing cultural intelligence we become more effective cross-cultural witnesses for the Gospel. Below are a few ways you can dive into this portion of the chapter beyond the questions provided in the discussion portion of this guide. Those embarking on a missional trip to another country might find these especially useful:

- Read 1 Corinthians 9:19–23 and reflect upon the aspects of your church experience you consider to be *scriptural* [straight from the Bible] and those you consider to be *cultural* [shaped by your context]. For example, worshiping God through song is certainly scriptural. However, *how* we worship through song—modern instruments and PA systems, hymns, body posture, liturgy, etc.—is most definitely shaped by culture. Know that it isn’t necessarily wrong for our church experience to be shaped by our culture, but it is important to be aware of those cultural aspects if we want to be welcoming towards those whose cultures are different from our own. You could even further this activity by sharing how your own faith has been deepened by witnessing how believers in other cultures practice their faith.
- Plan a cross-cultural outing with the members of your group. This could be anything from eating foreign cuisine, watching a film produced in another country, or hosting a family from your church that hails from a country other than your own.

The final reading in AWAKEN brings the book to a close by circling back to the opening question, “What comes into your mind when you think about God?” Give your members an opportunity to share their updated responses to this question now that AWAKEN has finished. If you had them write their initial response in Week 1, have them do it again and then compare the two versions. Be sure to celebrate the growth you’ve seen in your group!

As a parting activity, you may want to talk through the story of Moses and his staff. Have the members of your group share the “staffs” they believe God has equipped them with and how they can be used for His glory. For those embarking on a mission trip, this would be a great way to process how the giftings and resources of your team can be leveraged for the people you are serving.

In the final People Group Focus of AWAKEN, we address the concept of the “Great Imbalance” as a means to increase awareness, advocacy, and involvement for the cause of the unreached. This is in no way to detract from the work that is currently being done in the global missions space, but it is meant to highlight what most people are simply unaware of. By leading a group through AWAKEN, you have stood shoulder to shoulder with us in our efforts to address the Great Imbalance. Provide time for your group to strategize how they might continue to labor on behalf of the unreached and partner with organizations that have this as a point of emphasis.



## PRAYER POINTS

*That people's hearts would come prepared to encounter God's Word and deepen their understanding of His heart for the nations.*

*That your members would experience a deepened intimacy with God that would continually shape them as participants in His mission.*

*That the members of your group would have a clear sense of what's next for them.*

*That God would provide opportunities for you to continue pouring into your group after AWAKEN.*



## GROUP TIME

### WELCOME AND WARM UP: 10 MINUTES

Welcome each person and thank them for coming. Find out how their week has been and follow up on any prayer requests from the week before. When appropriate, get a group going with an ice breaker. There are plenty of examples online.

### SHARE YOUR STORY: 5 MINUTES

Have someone from the group share their story based on one or more of the prompts provided:

- How have you been involved in “global missions” in the past? Did you or your church support a missionary or organization? Have you been on a missions team? Is AWAKEN your first foray into the world of global missions? If so, what led you to join the group?
- How has God worked in your life to serve those in your local community (neighborhood, place of work, church, etc.)?

## **GROUNDING**

Give your group an overview of the reading for the chapter. You can read the overview in this guide or summarize this chapter's reading in your own words.

## **MAIN DISCUSSION - TIPS**

- Bring your Bible and encourage your members to do the same.
- Do not feel pressured to cover all the content and questions from the chapter's reading. Instead, prayerfully choose a handful of questions from the reading you'd like to discuss.
- A question for each day of this chapter is provided below; feel free to use them, but remember they are simply there to guide the conversation.
- Give the members of your group "room" to share what impacted and challenged them and ask any questions they might have.

## **MAIN DISCUSSION - QUESTIONS: 45 MINUTES**

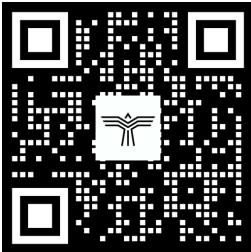
- What were some things that stood out to you from this chapter's reading? What is something God showed you? What is something you learned about God?
- This chapter's reading focused on our participation in God's work as an outflow of our intimacy with Him. What does intimacy with God mean to you?
- Reflect on your reading from Day 1. Why is "being still" an essential practice of developing intimacy with God?
- In Day 2, we looked at spiritual disciplines that nurture our spiritual growth. Which disciplines have you practiced? How have they shaped you? Which ones will you begin practicing?
- Consider the parable of the Monkey and the Fish. Why is cultural intelligence essential for ministering to and serving others?
- What are some practical steps you can take to develop your cross-cultural intelligence to be a better witness for Christ?
- What is the "staff" that God has placed in your hand? How can you use it for His glory?
- Now that you've finished AWAKEN, what comes into your mind when you think about God?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to a key missions term: The Great Imbalance. What should our response to this be?
- In this chapter, we were introduced to the Northern Kurd people group in Iraq. What stands out to you about their story?

**PRAYER TIME: 10 MINUTES**

- Take prayer requests from group members and pray over them.
- Pray over your group that they would faithfully enter into the next steps that God has for them.
- Pray for the Northern Kurd people group in Iraq using the prayer points from the book.

**CELEBRATE!**

Congratulations on completing AWAKEN with your group! If you haven't already done so, take some time to celebrate with your members and affirm the work God has been doing in their lives. Talk through whatever next steps you have in place at your ministry. Please have your group members scan the QR code at the end of their book to learn about more opportunities with TRIAD and to share their experience with us.



















## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE