

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

Mission Emphasis Month

Sermon Series

03, 10, 17 October 2021

Genesis 12:1-9; Exodus 19:1-6; Jonah 4:1-11

Mission is the Basis of the Old Testament

24, 31 October 2021

Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 5:6-12

Mission is the Goal of the New Testament

03, 10, 17 October 2021

Genesis 12:1-9; Exodus 19:1-6; Jonah 4:1-11

Mission is the Basis of the Old Testament

What part of a story do you think is the most important – the beginning, the middle, or the end?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Gen 12:1-3.

(a) What did God tell Abram to do, and for what purpose?

(b) Why will God bless those who bless Abram and curse those who curse Abram?

(c) How does Gen 12:1-3 signal the beginning of God's redemptive mission to the world? (Consider the events of Gen 11:1-9.)

2. Read Gen 12:4-9. What did Abram do? How does this begin to accomplish God's redemptive mission of making Himself known to all nations?

3. Read Exodus 19:1-6.

(a) What has God done for Israel prior to this? (v.4; cf. Exod 1-18)

(b) What response is God asking of Israel and what does this have to do with God's redemptive mission to all the nations? (Consider Exod 20-23.)

(c) What does it mean for Israel to be God's treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation? (vv.5-6)

4. Read Jonah 1:1-3, 4:1-4. Who were the Ninevites and why did Jonah not want to go to them? (Consider both Israel's relationship with Assyria and God's character as stated in Jonah 4:2.)

5. Read Jonah 4:5-11.
 - (a) Why was Jonah angry about the vine?

 - (b) Nineveh is being compared to the vine. What are the similarities and differences between Nineveh and the vine?

 - (c) What is the difference in Jonah's attitude towards Nineveh and Jonah's attitude towards the vine? Why is there this difference?

6. Jonah ends with God's question, which remains unanswered. What do you think the answer is intended to be and how does this match with the message of Gen 12:1-9 and Exod 19:1-6?

7. How has the story of God's redemptive mission to make Himself known to all nations developed through these three texts?

APPLICATION

8. First Peter 2:9-10 tells us that we Christians, the Body of Christ, are now "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God" – these are terms taken straight out of Exod 19:1-6.
 - (a) What does this tell us about our role in God's redemptive mission to make Himself known to all nations?

 - (b) God's redemptive mission is not simply a mission to give us salvation individually but to constitute for God a people belonging to Him. We not only belong to God but also to each other as both a community of redeemed people and a redeemed community. In what ways can we (as a redeemed community of redeemed people) reflect the redemptive compassion and justice of God to the world around us?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

DISCIPLESHIP IN COMMUNITY*

- **Reflect and Act:** Brainstorm ways in which your small group can serve the community around you and in so doing make God known through your service. Plan to carry these plans out this month as a group.
- **Testify:** Remind each other of how God brought you to know Him and how you have seen each other live out your responses to the gospel.
- **Worship:** Spend time together as a small group praising and worshipping God.
- **Pray:** Write down the name of a person who you really want to know God, and the name of a person who you most dislike. Share both names with your small group, and as a group, pray for these people to come to know God.
- **Pray:** As a group, spend some time in prayer for a country using Operation World's Prayer Calendar (<https://operationworld.org/prayer-calendar/>)

*Groups should choose one or more of these to do together as a group, either during the small group study time or during the week.

24, 31 October 2021

Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 5:6-12

Mission is the Goal of the New Testament

Have you watched multiple seasons of drama series, or read multi-part book series? How do the following parts link with the previous parts?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Matt 28:18-20.

(a) What instruction is Jesus giving to his disciples, and what does he base his instructions on?

(b) Why is it important that Jesus is with us always, to the very end of the age? How is Jesus with us?
(cf. John 14:15-19, 16:1-3, 16:13-15)

(c) Read Gen 12:1-3 and Exod 19:4-6. How is Matt 28:18-20 similar and/or different?

2. Read Rev 5:6-12.

(a) What are we told about the Lamb in vv.6-8? What does this tell us about his status and his identity?

(b) What has the Lamb done, and what has this accomplished? (vv.9-10)

(c) In Exod 19:3-6, Israel is given a new status as a kingdom of priests, a holy nation; in 1 Pet 2:9-10, Christians are identified as a royal priesthood, a holy nation; and in Rev 5:10, men from every tribe and language and people and nation are identified as a kingdom and priests to serve God. What does this tell you about God's purposes and God's mission?

(d) What is the Lamb worthy of according to vv.11-12? Why is the Lamb worthy?

3. Consider the Bible as a grand narrative of redemption. What do our five texts for the month add to this narrative?

Creation	Genesis 1-2	Creation of the world, living beings, and man
Fall	Genesis 3	Disobedience by Adam and Eve leading to death
Redemption	Genesis 3:15	Hint of hope – the serpent will be crushed
	Genesis 12:1-9	
	Exodus 19:1-6	
	Jonah 4:1-11	
	Matthew 27:50 Mark 16:37 Luke 23:46 John 19:30	Cross
	Matthew 28:1-10 Mark 16:1-8 Luke 24:1-12 John 20:1-9	Resurrection
Restoration	Revelation 5:6-12	
	Revelation 21-22	New creation; complete restoration

APPLICATION

4. Today, participating in God’s redemptive mission to make Himself known to all nations means making disciples of all nations by bringing people to identify with Christ and teaching them to live out the gospel. Are we doing this? Why, or why not?

5. How does the story of God’s redemptive mission to make Himself known to all nations comfort you and challenge you?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson and a key verse from this study.

How should we pray and change in response to what we have learnt?

DISCIPLESHIP IN COMMUNITY*

- **Pray:** Pray for specific people that your group wants to reach out to with the gospel. Pray for courage, and strength to proclaim the gospel, and for your lives to reflect the gospel, being a light on the hill to draw others to know God.
- **Act:** As a group, intentionally reach out to one or two people to join you in Bible study and fellowship.
- **Act:** Commit yourself to join an Evangelism Equipping course as a small group, or to accompany a pre-believer friend to Christianity Explained and/or Lessons on Assurance.
- **Worship:** Spend time together as a small group praising and worshipping God.
- **Reflect and Act:** Consider how you conduct your lives outside of church – commit yourself to one change in your life so that your identification with Christ and/or your gospel living is more intentional. Ask your group to keep you accountable for this change.

*Groups should choose one or more of these to do together as a group, either during the small group study time or during the week.