

→ Psalm 96

What did you apply from last weeks study?

What impacted you from the teaching on Psalm 96?

Did you grow up knowing missionaries?

Have you gone on a short term missions trip? What did you learn? How did that experience impact you?

How would you define Missions?

What is the definition of *missions*? Some see images of pith-helmeted, white-skinned people penetrating dark jungles. Others fear that it means a religious version of cultural imperialism. In Psalm 98 the psalmist introduces us to a different definition; he calls us to declare God's glory to all nations. The goal is neither conquest nor human-manipulation conversion. The goal of missions is to see God worshiped.

Group Discussion

Imagine that in response to the question "What do you believe?" you said, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—who sent Jesus Christ as our Savior—alone is to be worshiped." How do you think people would respond?

Personal Reflection

What do you believe about absolute truth? Ask God to shape your convictions through these studies.

Read Psalm 96.

What words does the psalmist use to portray God's character and works in this text?

Read vv 1-3 What imperatives call the people of God to action? How would you put these into daily practice?

How does God call us to respond to his holiness and majesty (vv. 4-10)?

What does it mean to “proclaim his salvation day after day” (vv. 2)?

Read vv. 4-6

What do you think these verses told the people of the psalmist’s time about their response to the pluralistic (accepting that multiple truths co-exist) spirit of their age?

What do these verses tell us regarding our response to the pluralistic spirit of our age that says “Everyone’s all right—there’s no one right way to God”?

What do verses 7-9 tell us about God’s primary goal in missions?

How many times are phrases like “all the earth,” “the nations,” “families of nations” and “the peoples” referred to?

In what ways does God call you to cross cultural or ethnic boundaries so that you can “declare God’s glory among the nations” right where you live?

Pray for two or three people that you have daily contact with who need to hear about God’s salvation through you—especially those who worship false gods.

Personal Application

Invite an international student to your small group.

Park has partners in East Asia, the Middle East, India, Turkey, and those who work with International Students in New York City. Email asturdy@parkcommunitychurch.org for the most recent prayer requests and needs.

Visit the Global Page (under Ministries) on Park’s website to find ways to get plugged in.



Miss this message? Listen to it online at parkcommunitychurch.org and download additional small group studies.