

# The Invitation

## For the World (Week 4)

### LifeNotes

## TALK IT OVER

### Main Ideas

We will pray that God's glory would be known and enjoyed by people in every nation.

**Patriotic ideology can inhibit our application of God's global theology.**

### Why should we pray for the world?

#### 1. It empowers us to fulfill our mission.

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19*

#### 2. It unites our hearts to God's purpose.

*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. Revelation 7:9*

### What should we pray for the world?

#### • Pray for the unreached.

*He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. Matthew 9:37-38*

#### • Pray for the persecuted.

*And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Acts 4:29*

#### • Pray for the vulnerable.

*Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. Psalms 82:3-4*

*Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows. Isaiah 1:17*

### Start talking.

- What are the pros and cons of patriotism?
- What can go wrong when patriotic ideology informs our theology?
- In what way do followers of Jesus have dual citizenship?

### Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 28:19. Who is this mission for? How can pray empower us toward fulfilling this mission?
- Read Revelation 7:9. Which nations a new people will be gathered before God's throne? In this passage, do some nations stand above others?
- Read Matthew 9:37-38. What is the "harvest"? What are we commanded to do in this passage?
- Read Acts 4:29. How did early Jesus followers respond to persecution?
- Read Psalms 82:3-4 & Isaiah 1:17. What is God's desire for vulnerable people? What is meant to be our response?

### Start sharing.

- Do you pray for other nations? Why or why not?
- Joel made the statement, "America is not a more favored nation." How do you feel about that? What nations does God care for?
- Of the three prayers to pray for the world, which one are you most drawn to? Explain.

### Start doing.

- Harbor is honored to partner in relationship with three wonderful families around the world.
  - Pray for the Crandall's (Nate, Steph, Isaac, and Grace) in Chiang Rai, Thailand as they have recently launched two churches.
  - Pray for the Quattlebaum's (Jeremy, Shawna, Tatiana, and Kira) in Yokosuka, Japan as they work alongside US Navy men and women and build relationships among the Japanese.
  - Pray for the Porier's (Crick, Mindy, Grace, and Asher) in Tartu, Estonia as they continue building relationships with local leaders, ministries, and unchurched Estonians.

### Closing prayer.

Jesus your heart has always been for people from all nations to come to know and experience your glory. Remind us to pray for those who are unreached and have yet to hear the good news of your love and forgiveness. Remind us to pray for fellow believers who are enduring incredible persecution. And impress upon us the needs of the vulnerable around the world. Lord meet their needs, and reveal to us how we could partner in helping to meet those needs. Jesus we also specifically pray for the Crandall's, the Quattlebaum's, and the Porier's. Holy Spirit would be encourage them, empower them, and give them the passion to continue serving you.