

# LIVING STONES DISCIPLESHIP GROUP



THIRD SEMESTER  
UNIT 2



"[Y]ou yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1Peter 2:5

# UNIT 2:

## The Mission of God



### IN THIS SESSION

- :: What is the Mission of God?
- :: What does God's mission have to do with us?
- :: What does it have to do with the Great Commission?

# UNIT 1: The Mission of God

## // OPENING SCRIPTURE

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

Ephesians 1:7-10

## // OPENING PRAYER

## // FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS UNIT

Memory Verse :: N/A

Homework :: N/A

# UNIT 2: The Mission of God

## // Checking the Rear View Mirror

:: This is the third semester of the Living Stones Discipleship Group curriculum. In many ways, this semester builds upon the previous two units. So it may be best to do a quick review. In the first semester, we looked at many of the fundamental doctrines of God. We explored a handful of ways in which God has revealed Himself to us through the Scriptures. In the second semester we looked at the way God saves us and sanctifies us. We looked at the spiritual disciplines, including Bible reading/study, prayer, and several means of grace.

:: This semester is focused around the mission of God. We will take the next six sessions to explore the purposes of God, the implications for us, and applications to our lives. We will see how the mission of God relates to and informs the way we live our lives, raise our families, perform our work, spend our money, and serve our church.

## // What is the Mission of God?

:: A mission statement is a formal summary of the aims and values of an organization. Companies have mission statements. Most churches have mission statements. What if God had a mission statement? What would it be? What are His aims? What is working toward? Take a moment and think about this question. Write down what you think God may give as His mission statement. (Don't worry getting it wrong, this is just for practice.)

God's mission is...

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:: What does the Scripture say about God's mission? There are plenty of places in the Bible where God makes His mission known. One of the clearest is found in Ephesians 1.

:: Fill out the following passage from the ESV translation ([esvbible.org](http://esvbible.org)) of Ephesians 1:7-10...

*"In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which [God] lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his \_\_\_\_\_, according to his \_\_\_\_\_, which he set forth in Christ as a \_\_\_\_\_ for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him (Jesus), things in heaven and things on earth."*

:: So from this passage, we could say the mission of God is to unite all things in Jesus. The Greek word translated as "**unite**" means 'to sum up'. In other words, the purpose of God is to sum up all things into His Son, Jesus Christ. God is all about making much of the glory of Jesus Christ. The most Christ-centered Person in the Universe is God Himself! And the most God-centered Person in the Universe is Christ Himself!

:: This is the witness of the whole of Scripture. Everything God does, He does for His glory in Christ. Over and over, we see God acting for His own sake, working for His own glory. Isaiah 48:11, "**For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.**"

:: Connect the following statements with the appropriate Bible passages about God's purposes for His glory:

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|---|-------------------|
| • God created the Universe for His glory.         | • John 21:19      |
| • God created His people for His glory.           | • John 12:27-28   |
| • God saved His people for His glory.             | • Psalm 19:1      |
| • Jesus lived and died for the glory of God.      | • Isaiah 43:7     |
| • Jesus will return for God's glory.              | • Ephesians 1:5-6 |
| • The death of the saints is for the glory of God | • 2Thes 1:9-10    |
| • All things exist for God's glory.               | • Romans 11:36    |
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## // The Greatest Show Of Glory

:: The glory of God was never displayed more purely or more explicitly than in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus endured the cross for the glory of the Father. Before His crucifixion Jesus said, **“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”** (John 12:27-28) If God’s glory is Mount Everest, the cross is its peak. God sent His Son to endure the cross as a payment for the sins of mankind. It was the greatest demonstration His glory.

:: At the Last Supper, the Lord exposes Judas Iscariot as His betrayer. He sends Judas on his dark errand (see Luke 22:1-6). After Judas leaves, Jesus says, **“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.”** (John 13:31-32)

:: In John 13:31-32 (above) we see a three-fold demonstration of God’s glory in the cross. Read those verses carefully and list each three below.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_

:: Take a moment with your group to discuss what these verses mean.

## // You Gotta See This!

:: The essence of the gospel message is that God saved Hell-deserving sinners by sending His Son to pay the penalty of their sin. This is why the gospel is such good news! Sadly, not everyone sees the gospel as good news. There are several reasons for this. Read the following verses and explain why so many don’t see the gospel as good news.

> **Ephesians 2:1-3** || Unbelievers don’t see the gospel as good news because they are spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ . Dead people “see” nothing.

> **Romans 1:18-25** || Unbelievers “\_\_\_\_\_ the truth” about who God is (v18). They exchange the truth about God for a \_\_\_\_\_. And instead of worshipping God, what do they do? (v25)

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> **2Corinthians 4:4-6** || Unbelievers cant see the glory of the gospel because their minds have been blinded by the \_\_\_\_\_.

:: In the last passage above (2Corinthians 4:4-6), the Apostle Paul describes a Christian as one who hears the gospel and sees “**the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**” Someone proclaims Christ and God opens our eyes, He shines His light on the knowledge of the glory of God in Jesus. We see Him, believe in Him, repent for our sin, and God gives us eternal life.

:: God does this through the proclamation of the gospel. Use the six verbs from Romans 10 below to complete the following sentence:

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be **saved**.’ 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**? And how are they to preach unless they are **sent**?”  
(v13-15a)

“Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. Unbelievers \_\_\_\_\_ the preaching, \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ, and are \_\_\_\_\_.”

**SAVED || CALL || BELIEVE || HEAR || PREACH || SENT**

“...I will send survivors to the nations...to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.”

❖ Isaiah 66:19 ❖

## // The Great Co-Mission

:: The great commission (below) is actually a great co-mission. God sends His people into the world, they preach the gospel. God shines His light on His Son. Men and women hear, believe, and are saved. Our role is to proclaim the gospel. The rest is up to God!

:: After the resurrection, before He ascended to the Father, Jesus gathered His disciples to Himself and commissioned them with these words: **“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)

:: This is known as the “Great Commission”. Jesus commands the disciples to do four things in this passage. What are they?

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:: In the next unit, we will explore the Christian’s role in evangelism and discipleship.

### **GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

*:: Work with your group and write out a possible ‘mission statement’ of God?*

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*:: If it is true that God is all about glorifying God, doesn't that make Him a narcissist? How is this not selfishness?*





# UNIT 2: The Mission of God

## HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

:: Memorize the following verse(s):

**"[H]is purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."**

Ephesians 1:9b-10

:: Complete the Unit 1 worksheets and activities (when applicable).

:: Pray for the needs of your brothers/sisters in your group.

:: Ensure you are able to attend the next session.