

REVELATION 21-22:5

21. It has been said, "Human history began in a garden but will end in a city." According to this text, is that true?
22. Who lives in the Holy City?
23. What is this city made of?
24. What is the light source of this city?
25. Contrast this city with the cities you know. Mention the experiences of the people, their actions, and attitudes towards God, and the quality of life.
26. Describe the hope of Rev. 21:24-26.

CONCLUSION:

28. What changes in your attitudes are demanded now that you know what you know from the Bible?
29. What can you do practically to develop a relationship of reconciliation between yourself and one who different from you?
30. Where can your church's involvement in mission begin? Be practical.
31. Write a prayer that reflects your desire towards urban and ethnic mission and the people that God is placing there. Pray it before you leave, take it home and hang it up and keep praying about it while God changes your heart and gives you opportunity to respond.

Urban-Intercultural Mission

"A HEART FOR THE OFTEN
FORGOTTEN PEOPLE"

A Bible study guide on mission to urban &
ethnic America

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This is a topical Bible study guide designed to help the student discover a little about what God has to say regarding urban and ethnic people. The study should take no more than 40 minutes. Some suggestions for proceeding are:

1. Come to the study already prepared. Have each participant read the texts in advance and answer the questions.
2. Begin the study time with prayer, asking God to give you insight into His heart, mind, and words.
3. Remember that this is not a lecture but a discovery time. You and others will only learn as you share each of your discoveries from the texts. There are no right or wrong answers since you are only asked to share what you are discovering.
4. Try to share your discoveries as briefly as you can so others will have a chance to share. Then listen carefully to what others have to say.
5. You may wish to break the group into smaller units and assign each group a portion of the questions. Then let them come back together to share their discoveries.
6. Keep the theme of the study in mind:
“What God’s word teaches me about urban and ethnic people and our response”.

JONAH 4:1-11

10. Why is Jonah angry in verses 1-3?
11. How does God respond to Jonah’s anger (vv. 4, 9)?
12. What is God’s lesson through the vines (vv. 6-11)?
13. Have you ever felt the way Jonah felt?
14. Discuss why you believe people are prone to be prejudiced against others different from themselves.

PROVERBS 14:31; 22:22-23; 28:27; 29:7

15. What attitude and action does God expect from us with regard to the poor?
16. What promises are made to us?

ROMANS 12:9-21

17. From this passage list ways in which love brings reconciliation to relationships.
18. Identify three intercultural conflicts going on in the world today. (Include one that is close to you personally.)
19. How has society dealt with these conflicts?
20. Describe how the gospel of reconciliation can bring healing to these conflicts.

INTRODUCTION

When you think of the city what images come to your mind?

How do you feel about people who live in the Central City and people who are different class, culture, language, and/or nationality from you? Be honest.

The recent release of statistics from the 2000 census is startling. Consider these facts.

- ❖ Our nation now has the largest foreign-born population in its history – 44 million people born outside the U.S.
- ❖ 32 million people speak a language other than English.
- ❖ While the growth of “White” American is slowing down, Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, and Asians are increasing in population so that by 2010 some believe our nation will be a majority of minorities.
- ❖ In 1900, 13 percent of all Americans lived in Urban America. In 1990 75 percent were urban dwellers.
- ❖ In the top 78 major cities of America, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans collectively are more than half the population of that city.
- ❖ In 2000, more than 24 million American were receiving welfare assistance.
- ❖ In many cities gangs are growing by more than 100 new members a week.

Look at your city. Whom do you see? The homeless, mentally ill, unemployed, prostitutes, gang members, drug addicts, children, the aged, the poor, disenfranchised, people of many colors and languages and dress. How does God see these people and how should we?

PSALM 67

1. Identify the blessings the Lord wants to bring to the Nations.
2. What would these blessings look like if they came to your own culture and city?
3. What is the relationship between the blessings on Israel (“Us” in verse 1) and the nation’s blessing?

GENESIS 12:3; 18:18

4. What nation(s) does God wish to bless? How long has He desired to bless them?
5. Consider God’s attitude towards the city when you think about His dealing with Sodom, Jerusalem, Babylon, Nineveh, Rome, and Ephesus.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

6. What is the church’s mission? List each command.
7. Among whom are we to make disciples?

ACTS 17:26-27

8. According to verse 26, who determines that the Nations should be flooding urban America? According to verse 27, why are people coming to the city?
9. How do these facts change your attitude towards the new immigrant moving into your city or community?