

WEEK 2: Understanding God's Global Purpose:

Key Verses:

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Psalm 67:3 - "May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you."

STARTING: Study and Reflection Questions

1. Why did God reveal Himself to Abraham? (Genesis 12:2-3)

***So that all peoples on earth will be blessed.**

2. Why did God judge Egypt with 10 plagues? (Exodus 9:13-17)

***Because Pharaoh wouldn't let Israel go in order to worship God. Also Pharaoh was raised up for this purpose, so that God could show him His power and that His Name would be proclaimed in all the earth.**

3. Why did God part the Jordan River? (Joshua 4:23-24)

***That all the peoples on the earth might know that the hand of God is powerful and so that they might always revere the Lord their God.**

4. Why did God give Solomon wisdom? (1 Kings 4:29-34, 10:23-25)

***So that all the earth would know of the wisdom that God gave him.**

5. What has God shown you personally this week about Himself?

***Personal answers**

LEARNING: "Top Line-Bottom Line" Concept

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

The message was given to Abraham in two simple parts – what Bob Sjogren (in his book, *Unveiled at Last*) calls the "top line" and the "bottom line."

The top line refers to God's blessing of Israel. He wants to bless His people. **The bottom-line** responsibility reveals that He wants His people to not only enjoy that blessing, but then to turn around and be a blessing to all the families on the face of the earth, resulting in His greater glory.

Here are more examples:

Luke 24:46-48

“He (Jesus) told them, ‘This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day [top line], and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem [bottom line].’”

1 Samuel 17:45-46

“David said to the Philistine ... “This day the Lord will hand you over to me [top line] ... and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel [bottom line].”

Luke 12:48

“To whom much has been given [top line], much is required [bottom line].”

Jeremiah 33:6-9

“... I will bring health and healing to it (Judah); I will heal my people and let them enjoy abundant peace and security [top line] ... then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise, and honour before all nations on earth [bottom line]....”

The 10 Commandments

The first four deal with your relationship to God [top line]. The next six deal with your relationship to man [bottom line].

DISCUSSING: Understanding God’s Global Purpose through Scripture

**Any good literature has an introduction, a plot, and a conclusion. The Bible is no different. Looking at the Bible we see: Intro-Gen.1-11 (introduce what God is setting up); Thesis-Gen.12:1-3 (end of intro); Theme (carried through Bible); Conclusion-Revelation (scene of heaven). The main character of the Bible is GOD (Not us, not anyone else!)*

THE OLD TESTAMENT:

1. God sets forth His **global purpose** by His first revelation to Abraham. (Genesis 12:1-3)
2. The Old Testament exhortations that God's glory be declared and praised among all nations. (Psalm 47:1, 96:3; Isaiah 12:4)
**The reason Abraham was blessed was because all peoples on earth would be blessed through him.*
3. The Old Testament gives promises that all peoples will one day **worship** the one true God. (Psalm 86:9; Isaiah 49:6, 56:7, 66:18; Habakkuk 2:14)

4. The Old Testament shows confident **prayer** that God would be praised among all peoples. (Psalm 33:8, 67:3, 96:9; 2 Kings 19:19; 1 Chron. 16:8; 2 Chron. 6:33)

5. The Old Testament shows God's intense desire to show **Himself** to all nations. (Ezekiel 38:23)

THE NEW TESTAMENT:

1. Christ is announced as the Saviour for Israel and **all peoples**. (Luke 2:10, 31-32)

2. Christ stepped out of the boundaries of Israel in His ministry and teaching. (Luke 4:23-27; John 8:12)

**CONTEXT. In Matthew 15:21-28 the woman is ultimately healed...was Jesus using "sarcasm" to make a point to his disciples?*

3. Christ taught that His return is directly **related** to the fulfilment of the global purpose of God. (Matthew 24:14)

**Today there are nearly 7 billion people in the world – close to 2.5 billion claim to be Christians. Approx. 4.5 billion lost and around 2400 people groups with no access to the gospel in their own language.*

4. Christ left a clear command to His **disciples** to take His gospel to all people and to the ends of the earth. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8)

**Great Commission: We have to deal with these words of Jesus..."What does this mean for me?" It's different for everyone. Acts 1:8 for us is to do whatever we can locally, nationally and globally.*

5. Paul taught that the blessing of Abraham finds its fulfilment in Christ. (Gal. 3:8-9)

6. Paul had a passion to reach the **unreached** of all nations. (Romans 1:5, 15:20; 2 Corinthians 10:15-16)

7. We are reminded that Christ did not die only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

8. The New Testament ends with a glimpse of the completion of the global cause of Christ: representatives from **ALL nations** worshipping Jesus. (Revelation 5:9, 7:9-10)