



# Week 4: Global Consciousness - Influencing the World at Large

**FACILITATOR’S NOTE:**

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week’s application challenge.
- ✓ Review the “Big Idea” to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message and focus your group’s discussion towards a clear direction.
- ✓ Read this week’s scripture passages together and guide your group through the “Discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message.
- ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in “Apply”. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.  
**NOTE:** You do not have to cover all the questions provided in “Apply”.
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week’s “prayer practice”, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

<b>CHECK-IN</b>	<p><b>(10 minutes)</b></p> <p>What step have you or your family started to take this past week to live more intentionally with respect to our modern-day challenges, as captured in the acronym S.C.E.N.E. (Speed, Convenience, Entertainment, Nurture and Entitlement)?</p>
<b>BIG IDEA</b>	<p>To understand our role and mission as the body of Christ, it’s helpful to reflect on our origin and how the church came to existence. Perhaps one of the most outstanding characteristics of the early church was that it was intensely engaged - engaged in its community, engaged in caring for the needs of others, and engaged in reaching the nations. The DNA of the early church has been passed down to us. How do we continue this legacy and be more missionally engaged?</p>
<b>DISCUSS</b>	<p><b>Read Acts 11:19-30 and Acts 13: 1-4 (20 minutes).</b></p> <p>We will be adopting some questions from a <i>How to Study the Bible</i> online resource to help us to interpret the passage. Supplementary questions follow each of the “big questions” in order to connect them to the sermon message. The beauty of using a set of “big questions” like these is that we can apply them to any Scripture passage. Choose at least one question from each question type.</p>

- 
1. **What does this teach me about God?** What can we learn about the 5 men in the church at Antioch that were mentioned in Acts 13:1? Why do you think the Holy Spirit revealed God's will to them?
  2. **What does this reveal about my sin (or the human condition)?** Why do you think the Holy Spirit instructed the group to "set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work"?
  3. **How does this point to Christ's redemption?** Why do you think the early persecuted Christians were willing to spread the good news despite all their suffering? What do you think the author meant when he said "the Lord's hand was with them"?
  4. **What is the one truth that I need to apply to my life this week?**  
What currently hinders you from responding to God's call to engage with those in need or share the good news?

**PRAYER  
PRACTICE**

**Praying for Direction (20 minutes)**

This week's prayer practice is intended to be in the middle of the group experience, rather than as a way to end the evening. Prayer can be an application practice, that allows the discussion to be centered around listening to God. With mission, the greatest challenge may be *how*, rather than *why*. Use this prayer time to invite the Holy Spirit to guide the discussion - to prepare your hearts and minds to partner with God in what He is already doing, and is calling you to.

- 
1. **Worship.** Open your group prayer by thanking and praising God, as a response to reading Scripture. Acknowledge His attributes and character - He loves and desires to be known.
  2. **Ask.** Ask the Lord your honest questions about mission and where He might be taking you individually and as a group. If you are struggling with mission, share that with God in prayer. Ask for discernment to know what is from God, and what is not. Ask Him to guide your discussion and to bring out the your group's giftedness, passions, and existing connections to people. Ask Him for creativity and courage to respond to His calling.
  3. **Listen.** Spend a few minutes in silence, then regroup. What might God be saying to you? If you do not have a sense, that's okay. Listening to God is a practice that gets better over time, and listening as a group works the same way.

**APPLY**

How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?

**(30 minutes)**

In order to move from theoretical discussion to application, use these questions to brainstorm practical ideas and next steps. Hold each other accountable by designating tasks and timelines.

1. Share about a time when you responded to God's calling to help meet someone's need, serve in the community, or participate in a mission opportunity? How did that experience impact your relationship with God?
2. As a member of the body of Christ, how are you currently engaged in mission? Are you engaging people locally? Are you meeting the tangible needs of others? Are you willing to send others or go to where the Lord is leading you?
3. Begin to make a list of people who God has placed in your life who have needs that the group can help meet. Come up with a plan.