

SC21

DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

SESSION 1

1. As we think about the purpose of our lives and our churches, why is it important to begin with God's purpose for all that he has made?
2. In light of Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), why is it important for us to see that the word "nations" is a reference to people groups rather than the nearly 200 countries in the world today?
3. All people have been created in God's image (Genesis 1:26–27). How should this truth affect our view of the church's mission?
4. What kind of motivation does the book of Revelation give us for the church's mission among all nations? (Hint: see the ethnic makeup of those who have been redeemed in Revelation 5:9)
5. Why is it good news that God seeks his own glory in all that he does?
6. How will the church's mission suffer if we do not see God as supremely beautiful and glorious?
7. What's wrong with the idea that God only began caring about the nations in the New Testament? What are some Old Testament passages you would use to support your answer?
8. Why isn't a strong desire to evangelize necessarily an indication that you should be a missionary?
9. What's wrong with the idea that the Great Commission is primarily for pastors and missionaries?
10. Given your life circumstances, what does "making disciples" look like practically for you?
11. What are some truths we should emphasize as we teach people what it means to follow Christ?
12. Why is it critical that we see the church as central to the Great Commission? Why must making disciples among all nations result in multiplying churches among all nations?
13. What is the difference between being "unreached" and being "lost"? Why is this distinction important for the church's mission?
14. How can the unreached stand guilty before God if they've never heard the gospel? How does our view of the spiritual state of the unreached affect the church's mission?
15. In your own words, what is the Great Imbalance? How might God be leading you and your church to address the Great Imbalance?

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SESSION 2

1. What are some factors that have led to the Great Imbalance? Why do you think so few Christians are aware of the Great Imbalance?
2. Why is it so critical that we see urgent spiritual needs as ultimate? How does this shape the way the church carries out its mission? What's the danger of making physical needs ultimate?
3. If spiritual needs are ultimate, why should we care about physical needs?
4. Of the different "barriers" to the spread of the gospel that were mentioned, which were new to you? Humanly speaking, which barriers seem most daunting to you?
5. How does our comfort prevent us from having a global vision? What are some practical ways this can change in our lives and in our churches?
6. In what ways have you been reluctant to respond to the command to make disciples among all nations?
7. What's wrong with refusing to address physical needs among the nations? How can addressing physical needs open doors to addressing spiritual needs?
8. Why must we look to Christ, and not our own power or wisdom, to see gospel barriers overcome? What does it look like practically?
9. What does it mean for a mission field to become a mission force?
10. What's wrong with a missions strategy that merely aims to get a good "return on investment"? How has this approach to missions helped perpetuate the Great Imbalance?
11. It's certainly critical that we share the gospel as we engage unreached people groups. Why is it also critical that we do the slow work of discipleship?
12. What things are difficult for you to leave behind—money, comfort, possessions, reputation, etc.—as you think about abandoning everything to follow Christ and to spread his gospel? What promises from God's Word give you comfort in light of your fears and the things you may have to leave behind?
13. Why is doctrinal weakness so damaging to the church's mission? How can we guard against it?
14. How does a right view of God motivate obedience to the Great Commission? What about a right view of heaven? What about a right view of hell?
15. How can you use Stratus to strategize about your role in addressing urgent spiritual and physical needs? How might this tool help you and your church pray, give, and go more strategically?

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SESSION 3

1. How might singleness be used for the sake of making disciples of all nations? What about marriage? How might the Great Commission affect who you date?
2. What are some ways that parents can raise their children to embrace their role in the Great Commission?
3. To spread the gospel is to engage in spiritual war. How does this reality change the way you approach your role in the church's mission?
4. How might the outcome of this spiritual war—Christ's certain victory!—remove our fears and anxieties?
5. How will you pray differently in light of the Great Imbalance?
6. How will you give differently in light of the Great Imbalance? What are some specific ways you could sacrifice for the sake of the spread of the gospel?
7. What characteristics should we look for in those whom we support financially for the sake of spreading the gospel among the unreached?
8. What truths and promises from God's Word can help you to give cheerfully?
9. What are some ways that you can make disciples of the nations right where you live? Where in your city can you meet people from other people groups? If you're unsure, how could you find out?
10. At this point, do you sense God leading you to be a sender or a goer?
11. What training, gifting, opportunities, etc., do you have that could be leveraged for the sake of making disciples among the nations?
12. As we think about our role in the Great Commission, why is it essential for our trust to be in God and in the power of his gospel?
13. What are some biblical traits of healthy churches? Why are such churches critical to the Great Commission?
14. If we're going to see the Great Imbalance rectified, suffering will be a necessity. How does God prepare us for and sustain us through suffering?
15. How do you sense the Lord may be leading you to respond to what you've heard in Secret Church 21? Write down some "next steps." Be sure to seek out counsel from your pastors, fellow church members, and wise Christian friends.