

MISSION STUDY: MAKE DISCIPLES



SEPTEMBER 12-19, 2021 | STATE GOAL \$3,500,000

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20 NIV

MUSIC: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" #225

(The New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition)

The 2021 Mission Study is a continuation from the
2020 Mission Study - As You Go.

To review that study, go to
iamtexasmissions.org.

Focus Topic: "Therefore, make disciples of all nations"
(Matthew 28:19).

One disciple, through authentic relationships, "can **make disciples** by communicating the Gospel so that men and women have a valid opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and become responsible members of His church."¹

WARM-UP

Present the mission study content by inviting two or three people to share from one of the four different sections. A short personal testimony could be included.

1. Who are the Nations?
2. Incorporate Cultural Diversity
3. Embrace Inclusion
4. Share the Gospel and Go to the Knees and Pray



¹ Edward R. Dayton, and David A. Fraser, Planning Strategies for World Evangelization, rev. ed., (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, and MARC, 1990), 52.

WHO ARE THE NATIONS AND INCORPORATE CULTURAL DIVERSITY?

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,"

MATTHEW 28:19.

"And repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem"

LUKE 24:47.



Let us open our eyes and see who God has brought as we go about our daily activities. When asked to identify the nations in our community, replies might include Jews, Gentiles, refugees, immigrants, and mixed races. Most cities have very diverse demographics. Current communities are multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-linguistic, and include

multiple worldviews. We are not living in our grandmother's Texas of yesterday when the only worldview was a western Christian worldview. All her friends looked like her, smelled like her, and shared recipes at the Monday night Quilting Circle.

Josh Ellis, Ph.D. Futurist and Executive Director of the Union Baptist Association states, *"there are not many reliable statistics for measuring lostness. Because religion is not measured on the Census and most religiosity (religious orientations and involvements "author's paraphrase"), and headcounts are guesses." However, the best estimates can be found here: <https://thearda.com/rcms2010/rcms2010a.asp?U=48201&T=county&Y=2010&S=Name>. The site: <https://thearda.com> updates every ten years; it will be updated in 2021 because they update to track with the decennial Census?"² However, the best estimates can be found here: <https://thearda.com>.*

2 Email communication with Josh Ellis, Executive Director UBA. September 25, 2020, Phone: 713-957-2000.

3 Telephone conversation with Mark Heavener, Strategist, Intercultural Ministries at Texas Baptists. October 20, 2020, Phone: 281-728-8585.

4 Email communication with Fred C. Ater, Texas Baptists Area 4 Representative. October 2020, Phone: 210-913-1891.

Other resources to provide knowledge of the community demographics and help avoid cultural blunders include:³

1. Texas Baptists Intercultural Ministries Strategists
2. The local Baptist Association may offer mapping services. Mapping the immediate community does not have to be a complicated statistical process. This mapping may be accomplished by prayer walking or prayer driving. When new people groups move into the cul-de-sac two blocks away, make a note on the subdivision map. Maps may be obtained through the homeowners association or maps.google.com.
3. Cultural Guides or Persons of Peace (the local church, apartment managers, business owners).
4. Most of the local school districts will measure the race and language of enrolled students.

So how do we develop authentic relationships in our here and now? Follow the example of Jesus. In Acts 1:8, the apostle Luke describes a series of ever-widening circles. The gospel was to spread geographically; from Jerusalem (your house, neighborhood, hometown) into Judea (your own culture or people group) and Samaria (people you do not know), and finally to the earth's ends (Jesus not known there).

Also, in Acts 2:42-47, we encounter the fellowship of the believers. About 3,000 became believers after Peter preached a powerful, Spirit-filled message. God will also provide partners to begin a collaborative outreach. Paul, Silas, and Timothy were a collaborative ministry as their faith grew. The love they had for each other increased. God's churches boast about their perseverance and dedication in all the persecutions and trials they endured. **MissionInsite.com** is a community analysis tool that helps build deeper connections. MissionInsite reveals insights about the community around you, says Fred C. Ater, Texas Baptists Area 4 Representative.⁴

"I am Texas Missions - as you go make disciples"



There are seven Religious Insite Priorities:

1. **The Executive Insite** tells the demographic story. It includes both demographic and beliefs and practices data.
2. **The Ministry Insite Priorities** provides a projection of likely religious beliefs, preferences, and practices for a defined study area.
3. **The Quick Insite Texas Report** is designed to provide a quick look at geography defined by a user.
4. **The Religious Insite Texas Report** provides a projection of likely religious beliefs, preferences, and practices for a defined study area.
5. **The Full Insite Report** integrates the full array of 2010 Census Data, the latest American Community Survey Data, and the new Experian Mosaic Cluster System.
6. **The Ministry Insite Report** provides a projection of likely religious beliefs, preferences, and practices for a defined study area. A study area can be as small as one zip code.
7. **The Religious Insite Priorities Report** provides a projection of likely religious beliefs, preferences, and practices for a defined study area.

EMBRACE INCLUSION

As it is recorded in Acts 1:8, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

In Revelation 7:9, John records, *"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."*

True believers do not have to worry about into which group they will be placed. Jesus promised everyone who follows Him a place with Him for eternity.



SHARE THE GOSPEL AND GO TO OUR KNEES AND PRAY

Following Jesus involves giving up directing our own life and allowing Jesus to control us. Along the way, Jesus opens our eyes to who He is and what that means for us. One thing we come to see is our imperfection, what the Bible calls sin. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God"* Romans 3:23.

Romans 10:10-17 says, *"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess and are saved." As Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him," for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?" "And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" "And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" "And how can they preach unless they are sent?" As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ."*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, is credited with writing 13 books of the New Testament. These books share his conversion experience and missionary journeys' narratives as his preaching

5 <https://www.pathos.com/blogs/jacksonwu/2013/03/14/seeking-lasting-reproducibility-by-interpreting-scripture-with-humility/>.

6 <https://www.pathos.com/blogs/jacksonwu/2013/03/14/seeking-lasting-reproducibility-by-interpreting-scripture-with-humility/>.

and teaching transform the worst of sinners.

Jackson Wu states, "Ultimately, we strive to reproduce Godly, Christ-like church leaders and followers of Christ. This is a holistic goal, which takes time and multiple approaches. It involves one's head, heart, and hands."⁵

This writer also believes that one disciple through authentic relationships *"can **make disciples** by communicating the gospel so that men and women have a valid opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and become responsible members of his church."*⁶ This gospel will change your worldview to a Christ-centered worldview.

CONCLUSION

End the time together by praying for the ministries that receive allocations from the Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions.

HOW TO TEACH:

1. In a group setting
2. Individual study
3. Share the Mission Study link with your Sunday School/Life Group, friends, pastor, and missions leaders.

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You are a part of all of these ministries. Your prayers and gifts through the Mary Hill Davis Offering support these ministries.