| юм медіа | 10///25, 3: |
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| The Gospel for Every Person | |
| SESSION GOALS | |
| The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling, and doing. | |
| MAIN IDEA: Every person on the planet needs the good news of Jesus. Head Change: To know that billions of people haven't yet heard the gospel. Heart Change: To feel grateful that Jesus promised to be with us as we carry His message to the ends of the earth. Life Change: To respond to the Great Commission by sharing the gospel wherever God leads us. | |
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OPEN

What was your favorite fairytale, nursery rhyme, or bedtime story when you were a kid? Why did you love it?

Some of the stories we know and love are culturally specific or even unique to our own families or communities. There is one true story, however, which is universally relevant and applicable to every single human being ever created: the story of God folding Himself into a woman's womb, being born as a baby, living a sinless life, dying a sinner's death, being raised to life, and conquering death for all eternity. In the first session of the series, Kwasi Amoafo reminds us of the reality that many haven't yet heard the astonishing story of the gospel, and that we have every reason to make sharing that story our life's work.

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| <u>VIEW</u> | |
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| As you watch, write down how Kwasi answers | |
| these questions. | |
| What two instructions did Jesus give His | |
| disciples just before His ascension? | |
| Are any people, tribes, or nations immune | |
| to the gospel's saving power? | |
| What reason did the disciples have for | |
| stepping out of their comfort zone and | |
| telling others (even Gentiles) about Jesus? | |
| Why did Jesus' followers in Antioch stand | |
| out from the locals? | |
| Show SESSION #1: The Gospel for Every | |
| Person (18 minutes) | |
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| REVIEW | |
| Kwasi opens the session by drawing our attention to Acts 11:19–20, which depicts the | |
| scattered and persecuted believers traveling | |
| far and wide to share the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles. They knew the <i>reality</i> that | |
| the gospel is for every person. They | |
| understood the <i>reason</i> why everyone needs | |
| this good news. Their <i>response</i> was to tell | |
| others everything they knew about Jesus. Do | |
| you find it easier to talk about your faith | |
| with your own family members or with total | |
| strangers? Why? Do you think some people | |
| need the gospel more than others? When | |

you became a Christian, who was the first person you told?

The reality is that the good news Jesus came to bring is for everyone. After His resurrection and just before His ascension, Jesus gave His disciples two big instructions which we've come to call the Great Commission. Firstly, the disciples were to go into all the world and makes disciples, and secondly, they were to teach these new believers everything Jesus had taught them (Matthew 28:19–20). Did Jesus expect His disciples to accomplish this on their own? How do you know?

The Greek word translated *nations* in Matthew 28:19 refers to ethnic and language groups, not to nations states or countries. **Does this** change how you think about where and to whom you could be spreading the gospel? If so, why? Do you tend to think of certain countries or continents as somehow more in need of the gospel than others? Why, or why not?

The believers who began to preach the good news in Antioch evidently also understood that the gospel is for every person. Because of their faithful preaching, a great number of Gentiles turned to the Lord (Acts 11:21). How different would your life be if the person who first told you about Jesus had believed the gospel wasn't meant for people of your race, gender, language, or nationality? Share your experiences if you've been

involved in any of your church's community outreach programs, or if you've gone on a short-term mission to a different part of the world. Did you have the opportunity to lead someone to Christ?

Over the centuries—right up to today—the gospel of Jesus has reached countless people, but the reality is that it hasn't reached everyone. There are still billions of people in thousands of people groups who haven't heard the good news. Kwasi says, "Like the faithful Christians in Antioch, we too need to take seriously the reality that the gospel is for every person." Has God given you a heart for the salvation of a particular nation? If so, how did that nation first come to your attention? What's your next step? Is it possible that someone living on your street has only ever heard the name of Jesus used as a curse word? If so, how could you bring Him into conversation in such a way that it's clear He's a person, not an expletive?

The believers in Antioch stepped out of their comfort zones and shared the gospel with those outside their ethnic circles because they understood the *reason* the gospel is for everyone: without Christ, people are eternally separated from God. Describe how you became aware that you were spiritually lost apart from Jesus. How did He find you? What would it look like for you to step out of your comfort zone this week, for the sake of someone's eternal destiny? How would you

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| explain to a colleague at the office watercooler, or to one of your kids, that it | |
| was God's love that brought Jesus into the | |
| world and it's God's love that compels us to | |
| continue to take Jesus into the world? | |
| continue to take desas into the world. | |
| Kwasi explains that the believers in Antioch | |
| "could personally affirm that it is only as we | |
| place our faith in the finished work of Christ on | |
| the cross that we personalize the gospel to | |
| receive God's forgiveness of our sins, the | |
| indwelling of His Holy Spirit, God's eternal life, | |
| and our adoption into God's family to become | |
| His spiritual sons and daughters." Are you | |
| longing for someone close to you to believe | |
| this truth? Is someone praying with you and | |
| for you as you look for opportunities to | |
| communicate Christ to this person? | |
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| Aware of the eternity-altering reasons behind | |
| the Great Commission, the Antioch believers | |
| didn't just share the news of God's saving | |
| grace. They also taught the new converts | |
| everything they'd learned from Jesus. They | |
| planted a church and discipled others the way | |
| Jesus had discipled them (Acts 11:26). Who | |
| discipled you when you first became a | |
| Christian? Who are you discipling or | |
| mentoring in this season? | |
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| The believers' proactive response to the Great | |
| Commission in Antioch was remarkable: | |
| Antioch was a big, bustling, cosmopolitan | |
| Roman city, particularly liberal and licentious | |
| because of the nearby temple of Artemis, | |

which boasted a thousand prostitutes. It was in this godless social and cultural context that the church at Antioch thrived. The lives and lifestyles of Jesus' followers were so different from those of other citizens that, for the first time, they were called *Christians*—the people of Christ (Acts 11:26). If an unbeliever from your neighborhood came to your home for dinner, or hung out with your family or friends for a few days, would they think you're weird? Why, or why not? Do you think it's important that everyone you work, study, or socialize with knows you're a **Christian? Why, or why not?** Acts 11:27-30 tells us that the Antioch Christians were also a wonderful example of generosity, financially supporting the Judean church affected by famine. Kwasi says, "The strong Christian witness of the Antioch Christians demonstrated their spiritual redemption through the gospel and the ongoing work of transformation in their lives. By their works, and their words, no doubt, these Christians were responding to the fact that they too understood God's reality that the gospel is for every person." Talk about how you've been blessed this week by the works or the words of another Christian. Were you

Kwasi closes the session with the story of a terminally ill young woman who understood that the gospel was for her too. She responded to the wondrous truth of

able to pay it forward?

forgiveness and freedom by sharing the good news with anyone who would listen! Do you feel this same sense of joy and urgency when it comes to sharing the gospel? If not, take time to pray that God would remind you of all He's done for you and ignite your passion to see others saved.

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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Romans 10:14–15, 2 Corinthians 5:14–15, Galatians 3:28, and Colossians 3:11. Who falls outside of the lifechanging power of the gospel?

When Jesus spoke of His death and resurrection, and when He gave instructions to His disciples before His ascension, He used the imperative (command) tense. For example, in Luke 24:7, Jesus said, "'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." Why is it important for us, living our twenty-first century stories, to know that Jesus isn't offering us the option of going and making disciples of all nations? Discuss how the Great Commission is particularly countercultural, in this you-do-you cultural moment.

Peter writes, "The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent." (2 Peter 3:9) Does it seem to you as if God isn't working quickly enough to sort out the mess we've made of the world? When last did you thank God for His patience with you? Is there something you can do this week to fulfil God's desire for no one to be destroyed and for everyone to repent?

LAST WORD

What was true for the Antioch church we read about in the book of Acts is just as true for us today in our increasingly post-Christian world. Billions of people live in depravity and despair. But God! He has given us the only truly lifegiving message to deliver to a dying world. May we remember the remarkable reasons we have to share the gospel, and may we respond with energy and enthusiasm, knowing God is with us.

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read 1 Timothy 2:4 in a few different translations of the Bible. Memorize your favorite version of the verse and repeat it in your mind before every conversation or interaction, with every person you meet, every day this week.

Write: At the top of a page of your journal, write: *The gospel is for* — then write down the names or nations that come to mind. Write down the reasons why the people you've listed need the gospel. What is your response to this reality?

Pray: If you made the list above, put a reminder on your phone to pray for a different person or group of people, every day this week.