



LC STUDY GUIDE

Global Awareness Week

The Passage: Matthew 9:35-38

For Life Community usage the week of 11/3/14

Intro: The theme for this year's Global Awareness Week is "Jesus – Hope of the Nations." Ebola, gun-violence, ISIS, scandals, fallouts, and countless other tragedies potentially push us further and further into despair. Thus, given the intense news cycle that we've been processing, it feels that hope in Jesus is a message that needs to be shared with others and to be reclaimed by Christ-followers.

Spend some time sharing highlights and reflections from this year's Global Awareness Week and share what news or life events have been occupying your mind lately. Have you found any points of overlap between the hope needed and the present challenges?

Today's Big Idea: More workers are needed as the hope of Jesus is proclaimed in both word and deed.

Matthew 9:35-38 (NIV)

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. **36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

O – What features of these four verses jump out for you?

I – The section begins with Matthew explaining that Jesus went "on tour" doing the work of the Kingdom. We see both the practice of word and deed. Why are both elements so crucial in Jesus' ministry?

(Validates Jesus' deity, meets the needs of many people and proclaims a message of hope to all).

I – The crowds are described as harassed and helpless. They have been bullied and oppressed by their Roman occupiers and like all people, suffer from the universal tragedies of life. They need hope and Jesus meets them with compassion. Imagine you are a part of the scene. What thoughts, feelings, and words might you experience?

I – The concepts of sheep and shepherd shift to fields, harvest and workers. What do you think Jesus is illustrating in the changing metaphors?

(Jesus is informing us that Kingdom work is not a "one man show" and inviting us to take part in the work of redemption. The needs are many and He is calling for more workers to share the hope and serve the world.)

A – List the many ways that Christ-followers serve throughout our community and world in word and deed. What do you feel needs to be increased?

What changes can be encouraged? How can the Church be more efficient and how can we raise up more workers?

- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
- b. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
- c. Complement these questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- d. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- e. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- f. Application: Pace the study to conclude with "difference making" application.
- g. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching," rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.