

# THE MISSION NEXT DOOR

## UPG Study Week Four:

### *Next Step: The Church Sent*

#### Introduction

In the previous weeks of this study, we have discovered there are over 7,000 unreached people groups in the world. We have seen God's desire for those who are unreached to hear and respond to the Gospel. We have also discovered that over 180 unreached people groups are in North America and most of these unreached people groups live in urban centers. The question we now need to consider is what will we do in response to this knowledge? A mentor once told me, "Once we know and we see, we are accountable."

This study is to challenge you with three calls to action:

1. What is the biblical responsibility in reaching unreached people groups?
  2. How can I be a part of engaging unreached people groups in global gateway cities?
  1. How can I discover and engage unreached people groups where I live?
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## 1. A Biblical Response: The Harvest is Plentiful

Key verse: **Luke 10:1-3**

### **Biblical Foundation:**

#### *Luke 10:1 - Sent People*

Jesus had just explained to his followers the reality of following him at the end of Luke 9. In response to the declaration, "I will follow you wherever you go" Jesus gives a clear picture of what that means. To put it simply, following Jesus and being on his mission requires focused commitment and obedience. It is in this context Jesus appoints and sends out a group of believers on his mission. The appointed ones were sent on a mission given by God to proclaim the Kingdom of God. In this moment, Jesus shows us the incredible responsibility we have to be sent. To follow Jesus means we follow his mission, being sent out as "lambs in the midst of wolves."

## Luke 10:2-3 – The harvest field

Why is Jesus sending out these followers into, what appears to be an extremely difficult, mission field? He answers that question before he sends them. “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” As we discovered in the previous weeks, this is still true today. The Lausanne Movement estimates that only 1.7% of Christian giving goes to reaching the unreached. Only 3% of missionaries go to the unreached. Yet, we are seeing an openness to the Gospel as unreached people are coming to urban centers here in North America. The words of Jesus ring true today as they did when he spoke to them as recorded in Luke 10, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” Below is a glimpse of the harvest field in some of the largest and most influential cities in North America.

### Unreached People Groups in North American Urban Centers:

- More than 4 million people from unreached people groups live in the New York Metropolitan Area.
- Houston is home to 10 significantly unreached people groups from Central Asia, the Middle East and South Asia.
- Over 170 different nationalities live in the greater Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area many from unreached people groups.
- There are at least 32 unreached people groups living in the Greater Toronto Metropolitan Area.

### Questions to consider:

- What is in abundance or “plentiful” according to Jesus in Luke 10:2? What is in short supply or “few”?
  - *“The harvest is plentiful”*
  - *“But the workers are few”*
- What are the two responses Jesus gives to the reality of an abundant harvest and few laborers?
  - *Response #1 – “Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*
  - *Response #2 – He appointed and sent his followers into the harvest. “Go on your way”*
- What should our response be as appointed followers of Jesus to the current reality of an abundant harvest and few laborers going to the unreached?
  - *Pray earnestly for laborers and to be sent!*

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## 2. Urban Centers in North America: How can I be sent?

Global Gates and other unreached people group reaching networks have strategically placed missionaries in cities across North America. These cities have populations of over 5,000 of that unreached people group. While our mission catalysts are focused and committed, the task of

reaching these people groups is much larger than one missionary or one network can accomplish. The reality is as Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few.” This is where you can come in. Are you ready to be a part of this great mission of God? Are you ready to be sent?

The following are four ways you can increase the laborers in the harvest field:

1. **Virtual Prayer Walk** – As Jesus commanded his earliest followers to pray earnestly for the Lord of the Harvest, we too can pray the same. UPG North America is a collaborative online tool that will help you as you pray. You can click this link for a sample virtual prayer walk. It will take you to the location, give you specific prayer points and open your eyes to the places where a particular people group lives and works.  
[Sample Virtual Prayer Walk](#)
2. **Short-term Mission Trip** – Jesus appointed his followers and sent them out two by two. You and your church can be sent into the harvest field with one of our missionaries. Teams will go to the city where the unreached people groups live. The trip will consist of training in how to effectively reach people with the Gospel and then go out and share the good news with them. You will be appointed and sent! Below is a video testimony of a pastor who took his student ministry on a short-term mission trip.
3. **Support** – In addition to praying in person or virtually, going on a short-term trip, you can also be a part of reaching the ends of the earth by being a supporter. Global Gates missionaries raise their own support. This means, our missionaries rely on the generosity of other believers to continue their work on the field. This can be a challenge to all missionaries, but it is especially challenging to our non-western, near culture missionaries. Because our non-Western missionaries often come from the people groups they serve, they don’t have wide support networks. This is a strategic way for you to help take the gospel to an “ends of the earth” people group through someone from their own community. Below is a video of one of our missionaries who represent what God is doing through their work.

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## Videos: Sifting Weeks & Non-Western Missionaries

[Click here](#) to watch the Sifting Week video, or access it on the “Week Four” webpage.

[Click here](#) to watch the Missionary video, or access it on the “Week Four” webpage.

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### Questions to consider:

- What did you hear in the videos that you can celebrate what God is doing among the unreached?
- What did you learn in this video that is new to your understanding of missions to the unreached?

- How do you think being a missionary from an unreached people group helps in this mission to the unreached?
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### 3. Discover, pray for and reach my mission field.

When Paul walked into Athens, he saw the reality of multiple people groups, multiple gods being worshipped and the urgent need of the Gospel. Paul was seeing the world around him as a Great Commission opportunity. While unreached people are on the move to major North American cities, they are also on the move near each of us. The numbers may be smaller, but the urgent need of the Gospel is no less urgent. Our response to the reality of unreached people groups can start right where we live. Are you ready to discover, pray for and reach the unreached people groups near you? If so, Global Gates stands ready to help. The following are tools available to you and your church to begin reaching those around you from unreached people groups:

1. **Discover** – The Global Gates Network research team can help you discover what unreached people groups are in your area. This will give you a starting point to begin to discover the people God is bringing near you and your church who may have never heard the Gospel.
2. **Pray** – As you discover what unreached people groups are in your area or in your region, this opens an opportunity for you to begin praying for these people groups. Appendix A (Prayer Walk and World Religion Guide) will help you prepare to prayer walk the locations where the unreached people groups are located. Prayer walking helps you begin to have a heart for the people group, provide on the ground research and lay the foundation for a strategy to reach people.
3. **Reach** – Reaching an unreached people group may seem overwhelming. The fact is that many people groups are unreached for a reason. However, we believe all people need to have access to the Gospel and that God’s plan for this is the church. Global Gates has missionary catalysts who can help train people who are committed to being a part of reaching the unreached. We can provide resources, training and coaching to help your church in God’s mission.

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### 4. Next Step: What can I do right now?

We are grateful you have completed this study and 30-day prayer focuses on unreached people groups. We are now praying your church will take the next step. You are not in this alone and Global Gates wants to partner with you. We want to encourage you to do the following next steps:

1. Commit to pray for the unreached people God is bringing to global gateway cities here in North America.
2. Pray as a group that you would be willing to commit to going on a short-term trip, supporting a missionary, discovering and reaching the unreached people groups in your region or all the above.
3. Complete this [NEXT STEP](#) form to begin this journey as a church to join us in reaching the ends of the earth through global gateway cities.