

EMBARK

4-WEEK STUDY

GOD'S WORD • GOD'S WORLD • GOD'S WORK



frontiersSM

WHAT IS EMBARK?

Embark is a 4-lesson study that helps you and your friends discover:

WEEK 1

GOD'S WORD

God's plan to bless all peoples

WEEK 2

GOD'S WORLD

How God has blessed all peoples and what remains to finish His work

WEEKS 3-4

GOD'S WORK

How you can join God to accomplish His plan for all peoples

In each lesson, you'll discover more about God's call for us to reach the nations, then you'll move toward responding and sharing, using your particular calling.

WHO EMBARK IS FOR

Embark is for every Jesus follower. You might not feel like God is calling you to go abroad, but this study will expand your perspective and show how you can be involved right where you are.

Come with an open mind and ears to hear what God wants you to hear. You might just be surprised at what God ignites in your heart.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This isn't a journey to take alone. Find 3-5 friends to *Embark* with you. We learn best in groups, and most of our life-changing decisions are made in community.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Your Bible
- A journal and a pen or pencil
- A willingness to learn and respond to God's call

KEY WORDS

Before you start each week's study session, take a look at the key words at the beginning of the chapter. Make sure everyone understands the terms being used.

INTRODUCTION

Read this section together as a group. Spend a few minutes sharing your thoughts about what you read. Do you agree? Disagree? Explain your thoughts.

DISCOVER

Look up each passage of Scripture and read them together.

DISCUSS

Answer the questions together in your group. You may need to draw out the more quiet members of the group. Allow everyone an opportunity to contribute. Here is a sample question and response:

.....
What does Matthew 28:18-20 teach us about God?
.....

(SAMPLE ANSWER)

These verses show me that God loves peoples of all nations and is drawing them to Himself through Jesus.



TAKE ACTION

It's time to respond to what you've read. Toward the end of each lesson, you'll consider questions to help you develop action steps that result from your discussion. Here are a few sample responses to the questions:

.....
In response to what you have learned, what will you do this week?
.....

(SAMPLE ANSWER)

Each day next week, I'll spend 10 minutes praying for unengaged people groups in Indonesia by praying through *Matthew 6:9-10*.

(SAMPLE ANSWER)

I'll teach my kids about God's heart for all peoples next Tuesday after dinner using *Matthew 28:18-20*.

.....
With whom will you share what you have learned?
.....

(SAMPLE ANSWER)

I will share with Tommy, Jared, and Sam.

.....
What and how will you share what you have learned?
.....

(SAMPLE ANSWER)

I will share about God's heart for all nations (*Matthew 28:18-20*) with my small group. I'll have the guys practice sharing in pairs what they have learned and ask them to identify two people outside of the group with whom they will share this scripture by our next meeting.

KEY WORDS

Nations: The New Testament uses the Greek word *ethne* to distinguish groups of people. These groups are connected by their ethnic, linguistic and religious heritage. The Bible uses the words *nations*, *peoples* or *Gentiles* as synonyms. It's important not to confuse *nations* with modern-day countries. *Nations* or *peoples* can be any coherent group from a small tribe to an empire.

Bless or blessing: When the Bible speaks of being blessed, it is referring to the privilege of knowing God, being a part of His kingdom, and making Him known to all nations.

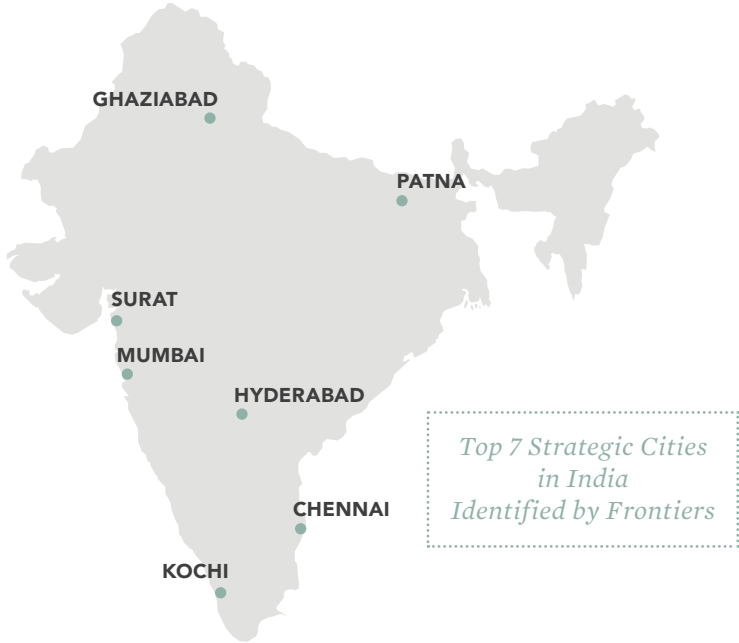
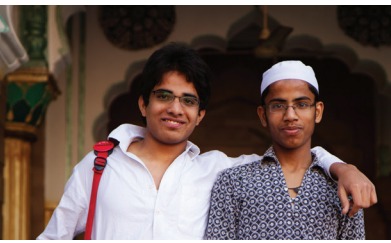
INTRODUCTION

The Bible is one big story of God's passion to be praised by worshipers from every tribe, tongue, nation, and people group. In *Let the Nations Be Glad*, John Piper writes:

“*God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose.*”

This global purpose is rooted in God's word. In this article “The Bible and World Evangelization,” John Stott put it this way:

“*Our mandate for world evangelization is the whole Bible. ... This global dimension of the Christian mission is irresistible. Individual Christians and local churches not committed to world evangelization are contradicting (either through blindness or through disobedience) an essential part of their God-given identity. The biblical mandate for world evangelization cannot be escaped.*”



STRATEGIC CITIES

Where is the Frontier?

Jesus called His followers (*disciples*) and their disciples to take His good news into all the nations. The church is to fulfill God's call to Abraham to be a blessing to all families of the earth (Genesis 12). For the first time, the majority of these families and people groups live in cities. In an urban context, families from many different people groups interact with one another, making large urban centers

very strategic locations for the Gospel. In India, we've identified 50 urban contexts where the good news is nearly non-existent. These cities offer the possibility of interacting with dozens to hundreds of unreached people groups every day. We want to seed this fertile soil with disciple-making teams. Those teams bring the good news to unreached people groups, who then take the Gospel back to their communities.

DISCOVER

Read and reflect on the following verses:

- Genesis 12:1–3
- Luke 2:27–32
- Galatians 3:8
- Malachi 1:11
- Luke 24:46–48
- Revelation 7:9–10

DISCUSS

What are the themes that you can pick out from these verses?

.....

What do these verses teach us about God?

.....

What do they teach us about His plan for the world?

.....

What do these verses teach us about our part in God's plan?

.....

If these verses are true, how should they change how we live?

.....

What other questions or observations do you have?

TAKE ACTION

In response to what you have learned, what will you do next week?

.....

With whom will you share what you have learned and how?

For additional resources visit: frontiersUSA.org/embark

KEY WORDS

People Group: Groups of people that have a shared ethnic, linguistic and religious heritage. The Bible uses the words *nations*, *peoples*, or *gentiles* when speaking of people groups.

Unreached People Group: A people group where there is no indigenous church large enough to effectively communicate the Gospel within the group. Typically defined as a place where less than 2% of the indigenous population are Jesus followers.

Unengaged People Group: A people group with no Jesus followers, churches, or anyone communicating the Gospel.

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is one big story of how God is drawing people groups throughout the world back to Himself through Jesus.

As God's people, we have a strategic role to play in seeing God's purpose realized. When we see that *1 in 4 people on the planet* are Muslim, we must at least consider being involved in making disciples of Muslim peoples. Muslims practice Islam, a monotheistic religion built around the teachings of the Qur'an and of the prophet Muhammad.

While many people believe Muslims are not interested in Jesus, exactly the opposite is true. The first discipleship movement (*the multiplication of at least 100 churches and 1000 baptized believers in less than 20 years*) among Muslims converting to Christ did not occur until the 19th century. In the 20th century, there were 10 more movements, and in the first 12 years of the 21st century, we have already seen more than 60 new movements of Muslim peoples to Jesus.

The majority of Muslims who have come to know Jesus throughout history have become believers within our lifetime. God is doing something miraculous in our day.



THE REALITY IS:

- There are **1.6 billion** Muslims on the planet.
- There are **2,228** Muslim people groups, of which **2,047** are unreached (fewer than 2% believing) and **1,108** are completely unengaged.
- There is only **one person** sharing the Gospel for every **100,000** Muslims.
- **90%** of foreign missionaries work among already reached people groups.
- Only **0.1%** of Christian financial giving goes to support work among the 38 most unengaged countries.

ARAB GULF

This region includes Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates.

The Arab Gulf enjoys large revenues from oil and gas, which result in higher per capita incomes than those of other neighboring nations. Except for Saudi Arabia, the Arab Gulf countries have small local populations. To meet labor demands, large numbers of temporary non-citizen economic migrants have been brought in from South Asia (mostly India) and Southeast Asia (the Philippines and Indonesia).

48,676,859
Population

\$29,800–\$102,100
Average Annual Income Per Capita

35,625,051
Muslim Population

32
Unengaged Muslim People Groups with Populations Greater Than 100,000

DISCOVER

Read and reflect on the following verses:

- Psalm 67
- Mark 13:10
- Matthew 24:14
- Revelation 5:9–10

DISCUSS

What do the above verses teach us about God?

.....

How do you reconcile God's will to be glorified with the statistics of unreached peoples?

.....

What can we learn about God's plan for the Muslim world?

.....

What do these statistics teach us about our part in God's plan?

.....

How could these verses change how we live?

.....

What other questions or concerns does this raise for you?

.....

What did you do because of last week's lesson? How did it go?

TAKE ACTION

In response to what you have learned, what will you do next week?

.....

With whom will you share what you have learned? How?

For additional resources visit: frontiersUSA.org/embark

KEY WORDS

Disciple: Someone who is learning the ways of Jesus and teaching others to do the same. Paul follows Jesus' example of discipleship (*Matthew 28:19*) by discipling Timothy and instructing him to do the same (*2 Timothy 2:2*).

Church: A gathering of Jesus followers, not defined by the education of its leaders, its size, or the specific roles played in the community, but defined by its ability to reflect the presence of Jesus (*Matthew 18:19–20; Romans 12*).

INTRODUCTION

Nowhere in the Bible are we told to go and plant churches. We are told to *go and make disciples* of Jesus.

Upon making disciples, we're to *baptize* them into a community of Christ followers. Disciple-making is a process of gathering together in community. It's this community of Jesus followers that's been the greatest agent for change the world has ever seen.

Jesus promised His disciples that it would be to their benefit for Him to go, "*greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father*" (*John 14:12*). We can go because He has already gone. We can change the world because He has changed us and created us into a community bearing His image, which is why we are called the body of Christ.

History bears out the logic of Jesus' words. The greatest societal transformations have come through the church. It was the church that saw the need to protect and care for orphans. It was the church that, witnessing human suffering, decided to create hospitals. It was the church that began the movement to abolish slavery. The list goes on.

Of course, there are many important and good ministries that serve hurting and oppressed communities all over the globe. In fact, there are so many compelling good works, it's sometimes difficult to know



which to choose. If we're seeking obedience to Christ's commands, we must prioritize making disciples and gathering them into communities. It stands to reason that making disciples and planting communities of Jesus followers is the greatest thing we can do to advance the Kingdom. Maybe this is why it's called the Great Commission.

RASHAIDA OF SUDAN

The Rashaida people group has a population of 170,000 in Sudan and a total global population of 219,500. They are part of the Arab/Sudan people cluster, and speak Gulf Arabic as their primary language. The Rashaida typically practice Islam. Their GSEC (*Global Scale of Evangelical Christianity*) status is 1, which means this people group is less than 2% evangelical. They have some evangelical resources available, but there has been no active disciple-making among them within the past two years.

Pray for laborers who will stay amongst the Rashaida until they have self-sustaining discipling movements in their midst and can, in turn, send out laborers. Ask God to prepare families for the good news of Jesus and His kingdom.

NORTHEAST AFRICA

This region is known mostly for its problems: famine, war, dysfunctional governments, failed states, rogue leaders, poor sanitation, poor water quality and supply, lack of infrastructure, food shortages, terrorism, refugees, internally displaced persons, and more. There are many problems, but also an equal number of opportunities that exist in this region to bring community transformation and hope.

This region includes Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Chad.

156,186,549

Population

75,237,066

Muslim Population

324

Unengaged Muslim People Groups



DISCOVER

Read and reflect on the following verses:

- Matthew 28:18–20
- 1 Corinthians 9:24–27
- John 14:11–15
- 2 Timothy 2:2

DISCUSS

What do the above verses teach us about God?

.....

What can we learn about God's plan for the Muslim world?

.....

How could these verses change how we see God?

.....

How could these verses change how we live?

.....

What other questions or concerns does this raise for you?

.....

What did you do because of last week's lesson? How did it go?

TAKE ACTION

In response to what you have learned, what will you do next week?

.....

With whom will you share what you have learned? How?

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KEY WORDS

Sender: A person involved in making disciples of all nations by discipling nationals and internationals through:

- Giving strategically and sacrificially
- Encouraging and caring for goers
- Praying for specific work God is doing in the world
- Mobilizing their friends to give, pray, go, and care

Goer: A person who is working to make disciples of all nations. In the Bible, there were goers who spent most of their time among people who had access to the Gospel, like the Apostle Peter. Others, like the Apostle Paul, spent most of their lives going to people groups who had little or no Christian witness. Both are needed today, but there is a shortage of goers to unreached peoples. We need goers! This is an urgent and strategic priority.

INTRODUCTION

The Great Commission calls both *Senders* and *Goers*. We're all called to send others to make disciples (*Senders*) and we are all called to make disciples ourselves (*Goers*). But we are not all called to live in a distant land working with a foreign people group. The question is: Where has God called you, and are you ready to be a disciple who makes disciples?

At Frontiers, we believe that the greatest need today exists among unengaged and unreached Muslim people groups. Historically, and to this day, they are the most underserved people in relation to the Gospel. Islam has been in existence for some 1,400 years, and very few of Muhammad's followers have come to know Jesus. In fact, if we were to add together all of those who've come to Jesus since Muhammad's time until 1950, it would be a very small number.

However, something dramatic has happened in the last 50 or so years. God seems to be doing something historically unique in our



day. Muslims are coming to Jesus in many communities. In fact, more Muslims have come into the Kingdom in our generation than in all of the preceding years combined. But there are still so few workers—less than one Kingdom worker for every 100,000 Muslims. That’s an impossible task for any one person. As disciples of Jesus, it’s our calling to go and to send where the Gospel is not being shared.

It is difficult to fathom that in the 2,000 years since Jesus walked the earth training His followers to bear His image to all the peoples of the world that we have not yet carried out His orders to the church. There are large swaths of the globe that are not filled with the knowledge of His Glory (*Habakkuk 2:14*). There are cities with tens of millions of people without a viable witness for Jesus. There are entire people groups who’ve still never heard. Will we stand by and allow this status quo to go unchallenged?

Let us commit to be the last generation to witness a world in which every people group has not had an opportunity to respond to the Gospel. In our day, when God is doing something without precedent, we have an opportunity to partner with Him to change the landscape of eternity.

INDONESIA

Indonesia is the fourth most populous country on the planet and is made of 13,466 islands. It has a shared identity defined by a national language, ethnic diversity, religious pluralism (within a Muslim majority), and a history of colonialism. Reading through this profile, you may find that God is drawing you toward the Muslim people of Southeast Asia. Ask God to prepare Indonesian Muslim families for the Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom!

253,609,643

Population

\$5,200

*Average Annual Income
Per Capita*

220,640,389

Muslim Population

77

*Unengaged Muslim People
Groups*

DISCOVER

Read and reflect on the following verses:

- Matthew 6:19–21
- Luke 18:1–8
- Philippians 4:10–20
- Mark 12:41–44
- Romans 10:13–15
- 3 John 1:5–8

DISCUSS

What do the above verses teach us about God?

.....

What can we learn about God's plan for the Muslim world?

.....

How could these verses change how we see God?

.....

How could these verses change how we live?

.....

What other questions or concerns does this raise for you?

.....

What did you do because of last week's lesson? How did it go?

TAKE ACTION

In response to what you have learned, what will you do next week?

.....

With whom will you share what you have learned? How?

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WHAT'S NEXT?

What will you do with what you know?

CONCLUSION

Over the last four weeks, you've been introduced to many new ideas and needs. Here are some questions it's time to confront head-on:

- What will you do with what you now know?
- How will the time you've invested in this study change your life?
- What is God asking of you?
- What steps, however small, is God directing you to take?

As Paul said to Timothy, "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Tim 2:2)

Will you be faithful with what God has entrusted to you? Will you teach others to do the same?

Consider gathering a new group of friends and walk them through this study, passing on what you have learned.

TAKE ACTION

List 3 things that had the greatest impact on you over the last 4 weeks.

.....

Do you sense that God might be asking you to do something with what you've learned?

.....

What steps do you need to take to act on what God is telling you?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROCESS MORE?

We are here for you.

Find our contact information on the next page.

CONTACT US

Whether it's an email, phone call, meeting, or even a tweet, we would love to hear how God is placing the Muslim people on your heart. We want to hear from you and help you discover uncharted frontiers.

FIND YOUR ROLE

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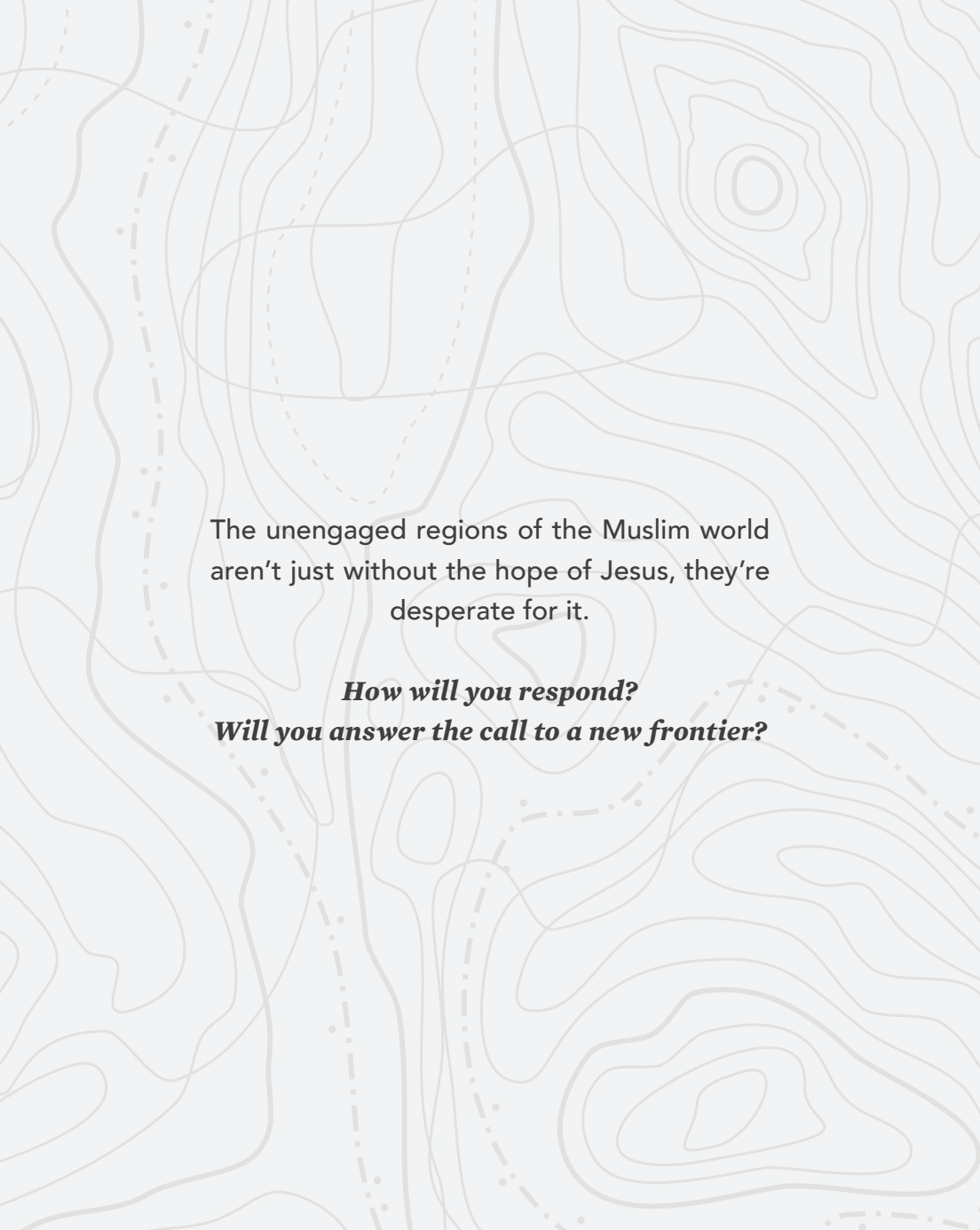
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The background of the page is a light gray topographic map with various contour lines, some solid and some dashed, creating a complex, abstract pattern. The lines represent elevation and terrain, with some areas showing concentric circles and others showing more irregular shapes.

The unengaged regions of the Muslim world
aren't just without the hope of Jesus, they're
desperate for it.

***How will you respond?
Will you answer the call to a new frontier?***

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