

# *God's Mission for the City Leader's Guide*

*by Tom Eggold*

*From the Missional Bible Studies series  
of the Center for U.S. Missions*

Thanks for agreeing to serve as the leader of this study. The goal of this study is to sensitize Christians to today's challenge from the Lord: to bring the Gospel to the city. This Bible study will acquaint the class with the realities of urbanization, immigration, and economic and cultural interdependence. The bottom line: How can the Christian community effectively respond to the mission field of the city? Let's begin.

## **Getting Started**

This section is the "ice-breaker". Have the class share answers in groups of three or four and ask for one minute of response for the whole group. This is simply to get the class "focused".

## **Focus**

These facts speak for themselves. If you have any other information on urbanization, immigration, or interdependence that you can share personally—great!

The point is that the world scenery has changed so fast that the church finds itself in a reactive rather than a proactive position—and the institutional church would rather "circle the wagons" than seize the opportunity of the day which is to share the Gospel of Jesus with a world that will listen.

## **Digging Deeper**

Here are some thoughts on the Scripture texts listed:

Jeremiah 29:4-14—This whole text is a strategy for ministry in the city:

vs. 4—God has placed us in the city.

vs. 5—plan to stay there

vs. 6—raise families and participate in the community

vs. 7—pray for and seek the peace of the city. You too will be blessed.

vs. 8-9—have nothing to do with those who prey on the people in the city and with those who speak against the city

vs. 10—Our ultimate deliverance from "Babylon" is heaven through Jesus

vs. 11—God does have a plan for His people now and in the future. We live each day as part of the plan that He has for us in Jesus.

vs. 12-14—Seek the Lord always, even in the challenges and trials of the city.

Matthew 28:18-20—Go to all nations knowing that Jesus has all power and that His presence surrounds us. Go to baptize and teach those in the city.

Jonah 1-4 (selected verses)—a great conversion and a disappointed prophet. Jonah missed the joy of the city turning to God, repenting and believing.

Matthew 23:37-39—Jesus' heart for the people of the city of Jerusalem; and He weeps over the crime and unbelief in our cities. The heart of Jesus is bringing the Good News to the city.

Acts 13:1-3—The multicultural Antioch church commissions Paul and Barnabas to go and plant churches. That's the pattern for today.

Acts 17:22-34—Paul addresses the "scholars." He brings the Gospel to the "intelligensia" of his day, and tries to connect with them where they are--the "unknown god." He boldly shares the creative God and shares Jesus as they allowed him to.

Acts 11:19-30—Antioch is a model of the "sending church," deeply committed to mission work. Antioch also had a concern for the "brothers and sisters" in Jerusalem and made provisions to help this "mother church."

Acts 2 (selected verses)—The multicultural church in Jerusalem grew and focused her whole attention on sharing the Gospel message in whatever way possible.

The goal of looking at these Scripture texts is that the people would see a strong emphasis on the heart of God connected to the welfare and ministry of the church in the city.

## Reflection

Self-explanatory. Acquaint people with the *Ablaze!* movement of LCMS. Go to [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) and click on *Ablaze!* resources. The Center for U.S. Missions, at [www.centerforusmissions.org](http://www.centerforusmissions.org), under Resources, also has resources specifically for *Ablaze!*

## Putting what we have learned into practice

Keep the conversation focused on the questions. The real issue is "So what?"  
Make sure the class grapples with ways in which the congregation can bring the Gospel to the city.

May the Lord richly bless you, your class, and your congregation through this study!

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Accompanying Participant's Guide is available from the Center for U.S. Missions.  
See [www.centerforusmissions.org](http://www.centerforusmissions.org) — Resources — Bible studies