

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Watch & discuss the following video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvHC7hXNoV8>

Statics from above video:

- **World population**
 - 33% "Christian" (*World C*)
 - not all true believers in Christ
 - may be nominal
 - may self-identify as Christian because everyone else does
 - 38% have access to the gospel but have chosen not to follow Jesus (*World B*)
 - Bibles in their language
 - Churches nearby
 - Friends or coworkers potentially believers
 - Access to other Christian resources
 - 29% have never heard of Jesus (*World A*)
 - No access to the gospel
 - No Bibles
 - No churches
 - No believers nearby
- **Missionaries (Cross-Cultural Workers)**
 - 1 out of every 1,800 "Christians" (*from World C*) serves as a cross-cultural missionary
 - 72% serve in *World C* (where people already self-identify as Christians)
 - 25% serve in *World B* (where there is already some access to the gospel)
 - 3% serve in *World A* (where there is no access to the gospel)
- **Money**
 - \$42 trillion -- annual income of all Christians (*from World C*)
 - \$700 billion (2% of Christian income) -- given to *any* Christian cause

- \$45 billion (6.4% of all giving) -- given to missions
 - \$39 billion (87%) -- given to missions in *World C* (where people already self-identify as Christians)
 - \$5.4 billion (12%) -- given to missions in *World B* (where there is already some access to the gospel)
 - **\$450 million (1%)** -- given to missions in *World A* (where there is no access to the gospel)
 - Americans spend more each year on Halloween costumes for their pets
 - **0.06%** of all Christian giving going to missions in *World A*
 - **0.001%** of all Christian income going to missions in *World A*

Read the following questions about Cross-Cultural work and discuss the answers as a group.

1) What is our definition of “missions” at COBC?

- **Leaders Cheat:**
 - **Evangelism** – sharing the gospel with anyone anywhere.
 - **Missions** - doing the work of an evangelist but in a different culture.
 - Usually involves learning a language (often 2 languages) and learning a culture for the sake of the gospel. Missions usually happen in a culture that has no church in which people are doing evangelism, therefore they have no access to the gospel unless we (Christians from a different culture) go.
 - **Missionaries** – people who cross a cultural boundary for the sake of the gospel and are planting a church. They go to reach unreached people groups (UPGs).
 - Why might it be helpful to separate the terms “Evangelism” and “Missions” as two different things?

2) Why do we call our missionaries Cross-Cultural Workers?

- **Leaders cheat:**
 - **2 reasons:**

- **First** – Because so many pastors have preached that “we are all missionaries”, using the term “*Cross-Cultural Workers*” brings clarity to what we are saying as a church.
 - Men & women crossing a cultural boundary to share the gospel.
- **Second** – the words “**missions & missionary**” are dangerous words for most of our Cross-Cultural Workers.

3) What prejudices does the church face when it comes to cross-cultural work?

- James 2:1-4
- Leviticus 19:33-34 (compare to the greatest commandment)
- Luke 10:30-37

4) What do the following verses reveal about God’s heart for the nations?

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Matthew 24:14
- Isaiah 45:22-24
- Isaiah 49:6
- Isaiah 52:10
- Eph. 2:14-18

5) What is the role of the local church in cross-cultural work?

6) What is the difference between a Sending Church Vs. Supporting Church?

- **Leaders Cheat:**
 - “**Supporting**” a missionary
 - We give money & encouragement
 - “**Sending**” a missionary means we are sending someone we consider part of our church.
 - We are committing to be responsible for that missionary, for both the care and for making sure they are preaching and teaching the gospel with clarity and accuracy.

7) How can we encourage young people to take seriously God’s heart for the world?

8) What is the priority at COBC for Cross-Cultural Work & Workers (missions)?

- **Leaders Cheat:**
 - Reaching the unreached people groups (UPG's) of World A.
 - There are many great ministries working with Worlds C & B, but Country Oaks has made it our focus to reach the people considered "unreached" from World A.

9) What is considered an Unreached People Group (UPG)?

- **Leaders Cheat:**
 - The 29% of the world that has never heard of Jesus (World A)
 - No access to the gospel
 - No Bibles
 - No churches
 - No believers nearby

10) How can I personally be a good sender?

- Discuss as a group how you can be more involved in COBC's Cross-Cultural Work

Take time to pray for our Cross-Cultural Workers and their families:

- **J & L and their 2 boys**
 - J and L have spent over a year with us as a church so that we can get to know each other before sending them. They will be leaving for South Asia at the end of this month.
 - Pray for their travels.
 - Pray for their language learning.
 - Pray for cultural acquisition.
 - Pray for the business.
- **J & E and their 3 children**
 - J and E grew up in Tehachapi and went to Country Oaks and Bear Valley Church. They are working in South East Asia with a UPG in a city that they have code named "Jericho" for security reasons.
 - Pray for the health of their family and new baby.

- Pray for safe reentry into the country that they are ministering in.
- Pray for the people of “Jericho” as it has just endured a devastating natural disaster.

- **A & H and their 2 boys**

- A and H are cross-cultural workers in the Middle East. H grew up in Tehachapi and attended Country Oaks as a young lady. A is a seminary professor at a school in the Middle East.
 - Pray for their young family.
 - Pray for A as he is teaching in a second language. Pray that his teaching is clear and biblical.
 - Pray for all the refugees that they are ministering to in their city.