

Neighbors, Nations & Needs: What's My Part?
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, November 5th, 2023



Missions Sunday Focus:

Jesus called us to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:18-20). And the nations are increasingly being represented in our neighborhoods here in the U.S.—the "mission field" is at our doorstep! How is God inviting us to love our neighbors? Loving our neighbors will require our intentionality, and that can happen in many ways. We can be generous with our time, talents, and financial resources to meet physical and spiritual needs. Ultimately, we want people to know the transforming power of the gospel.

You're invited to join us on November 5 for our annual *Missions Sunday* as we consider how we can be on mission to our neighbors, develop cross-cultural friendships, and experience the blessing of short-term mission trips at home and abroad.

Guest Speaker: Sophie Thiesen

Sermon Title: Neighbors, Nations & Needs: What's My Part?

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-22, Luke 10:36-37, Galatians 5:13-14

Sermon Focus: Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (Jn 20:21).

What does it mean to be "sent" and to live according to God's mission? Could this simply mean being intentional in seeing and responding to the needs of neighbors?

We are called to love our neighbors and to live generously. It is Missions Sunday 2023 at Grantham Church. Listen as Sophie Thiesen (BIC US World Missions) shares stories of what this can look like, especially as we welcome the nations to our neighborhoods.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20 together. Sophie said that "relationships are highways for loving the lost, sharing the good news, and making disciples." While there is certainly a place for sharing the gospel with total strangers that you may never see again, it's most likely that conversions and disciple-making will happen through relationships that can be nurtured and deepened over time. Where have you seen this happen in your own life? Who are the people and where are the places where you have an opportunity to show and share Christ with others?
2. Sophie said that the first message (communicated in various ways) to our international neighbors should be: "Welcome. I see you. You belong here." What are some ways that we can express that to our international neighbors?
3. Why do you think we hesitate or never attempt to reach out to our international neighbors? How can we take steps towards them, possibly sacrificing our own ideals and comforts, rather than expecting them to conform in all ways to our culture and norms? Think together about what that might look like.
4. Grantham has recently partnered with *Ignite Church*, a Bhutanese and Nepali church plant. They meet in our building on Sunday afternoons. What are some ways that we can show our love to many of the refugees and immigrants that this congregation will reach? And how can you bless Pastor Royal, his family, and his church as they seek to grow and reach lost Bhutanese and Nepalis? Think about what you or your small group might commit to doing together.
5. Is there an international neighbor or friend that you can pray for on a regular basis? How can you be more intentional in establishing a relationship, listening and learning, and looking for ways to share your faith with that person or family? Please close in prayer together for your international friends and neighbors.