

# STUDY GUIDE

## WEEK 4: 10.29.2017 “REACH”

### [set up]

Take a minute for offer each person a chance to share one insight from last week’s UNLEASH message or Personal Study from week three. Are there any points of application that you put into practice?

Who was a special or specific person that God used to reach out to you when you didn’t know Christ?

### [digging deeper]

**Read Jonah 2:10-4:1.** Jonah has been freshly vomited out of the belly of the fish. His near-death experience caused him to now obey God’s command to give God’s message to Nineveh. After hearing the message, Nineveh repents of their sins by putting on sackcloth and fasting. Even the king of Nineveh repents.

This week we talked about reaching the lost. On a large Post-it note or piece of paper, make two columns. In the first column, list some of the most compelling reasons that we reach out to those who do not know Christ? In the second column, list some of the reasons that we are hesitant to sharing the gospel and reaching the lost.

The Bible is not about us or about the people in the story. It’s ultimately about God. He’s the main character. He’s the hero. His mission to reach the lost is the storyline. Think of Jonah chapters 1-3. What can we know about God, His heart, and how He works? List those out on the piece of paper.

We see that the people of Nineveh, upon hearing God’s message, repented immediately. Sometimes it takes people many encounters with the gospel to believe, but sometimes it only takes one! Did it take you many or a few times to hear the gospel before you believed? What does that mean for your efforts to share the gospel?

Why do you think the repentance of the Ninevites “displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry”? Does it feel like God is unjust when he forgives wicked people? How do we square God’s justice with His mercy and grace (3:10)?

**Read John 6:44.** Only God opens the heart for belief to take place. How does that bring relief to us as people called to be relational, risk-taking missionaries for the gospel of Jesus?

Yet, God does invite/call/commission us to go and reach the lost with the good news of Jesus

### Read the following verses:

**Matthew 28:19    Mark 16:15    Acts 1:8    Acts 13:47    Romans 10:14-15    Proverbs 11:30**

Summarize these verses in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize them in a word: \_\_\_\_\_

If that word captures God’s calling for us to reach others, on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) how would you rank yourself in obeying that call? \_\_\_\_\_

The heart behind UNLEASH is to reach our neighbors, the nations, and the next generation for Christ. UNLEASH is a plan to unleash our church to reach more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jonah was unwilling to go to Nineveh initially, but eventually he went and many came to faith. Have you been unwilling? It's never too late to repent and obey God's call.

**Neighbors** – Jesus said to love our neighbor (Mark 12:31) and be about our neighbor's good (Romans 15:2). If CVC has 900 households and each household is actively praying for, caring for, and sharing the gospel with their 8 immediate neighbors, that's a reach of 7,200 people! Even if 10% of those people respond to the gospel that's 720 new lives in Christ! Does your heart break for your neighbors? Are you an active LifeHouse? How can you individually, we as LifeGroups, and our church as a community collectively help reach the neighbors that surround us in Northeast Ohio? What are you willing to pray? What are you willing to do? How are you willing to give?

**Nations** – There are still over 6,900 distinct people groups that are unreached for Christ. [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/statistics](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/statistics) CVC can't reach them all, but we can make the effort to reach at least one in the next several years. The Bible calls the city of Nineveh "an exceedingly great city" based on their population. There are about 1.6 billion Muslims in the world (23% of world population) [1]. As CVC, we are praying for and going to Pearl Island, Indonesia, an island with over 3 million people known as the "Soli." That is an exceedingly great city. Should not our hearts break (4:10) for those people? What is your role in reaching the lost of Indonesia? Prayer? Financial support? Going?

**Next Generations** – Skittish and skeptical. Biblically illiterate. Increasingly unchurched and uninterested in church, the next generation is slowly (often it feels rapidly) drifting from Christian influences. But they are passionate. They are intuitive. They are tech-savvy and innovative. And they are hungry for meaning, purpose, and truth. God tells us to pass our faith in the Lord down to the next generation (Psalm 78:6, Psalm 145:4, 2 Timothy 1:5). We are to raise up disciples in the next generation. How are you personally invested if you have children or grandchildren? How are you investing in the next generation as a single person, a young adult, or even a teenager? Are you answering the call to build up and pass on a spiritual legacy of Jesus Christ? If so, how is it evident in how you pray, seek out young people, and give?

## [living it out]

In light of all that was shared about reaching the lost, what sacrifice are you willing to make in the following categories in order to better reach the lost?

Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Prayer \_\_\_\_\_  
Skills \_\_\_\_\_  
Learning \_\_\_\_\_  
Giving \_\_\_\_\_

Turn Matthew 9:37-38 into a prayer for sharing our faith, for UNLEASH and for each initiative within UNLEASH (Neighbors, Nations, Next Generation) and linger in prayer over these objectives as you close your time:

- Pray for your neighbors. In your LifeHouse zone, where do you sense the Lord is opening doors of spiritual conversation with an unbeliever? Is there a legitimate reason not to go ahead and share the gospel with them? If not, then do it this week and ask God to go before you and prepare their heart.
- Pray for the Nations, especially Pearl Island and our missionaries "T&K" who serve there among the Soli people
- Pray for the Next generation, especially those within your sphere of influence that God would give you the courage to share and them the heart to hear and believe.



Still uncomfortable sharing your faith? Review our 3 Circles training. It can be found at <http://www.cvconline.org/resources/3-circles/>

[1] <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/31/worlds-muslim-population-more-widespread-than-you-might-think/>