A BIBLICAL BASIS FOR MISSIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PS 67:1-7; GEN. 12:1-4; MATT. 28:19-20

1	In Psalm 67, there is a prayer that God's "face would shine upon us." Now obviously God doesn't have a face that glows, because God is spirit (this is an anthropomorphism). But the imagery here alludes to the countenance of a king. If the king's face shined upon you, it meant that he was favorable to you. If the kings face was turned against you, it meant you were in danger of judgment.
	Take a look at Psalm 34:16 and 1 Peter 3:12 which talk about the face of God. Now, putting these passages together, why would God's face be turned one way or another?
	if God's face is against you, what does that feel like? What happens when God's face is toward you?
2	The psalmist is begging for God to do something in (Psalm 67:2). How does his prayer sound like the prosperity gospel message that is very popular today?
	A great way to approach questions in the Bible like the one raised above is to "keep reading." How does his prayer develop and ultimately sound very different from that message? What is the motivation for the psalmist's plea for prosperity?
	♥ What are some of the evidences of prosperity in your life? What do you think might be God's purpose in blessing you?
3	God wants all the peoples of the earth to worship him (not just some). When we look around us, we find that many people aren't worshipers of the true and living God yet. Our hearts should be moved with compassion for those who aren't worshipers of our good God. What does a heart of compassion for the lost look like practically? (2 Cor. 5:14-16, Matthew 9:35-38, Luke 15:4)

	What are some of the loving motivations behind a heart of compassion for the lost? (Think of both thei	r state eternally and temporally).
	When it comes to missional living, what would holy discontentment look like in real life? How can you reco-workers and neighbors don't know and fear God yet?	respond to the fact that many of your
4	When God spoke to Abram in Genesis 12:1-4, He was clear about what Abram was supposed to leave, Abram was supposed to go. Why do you think God didn't tell Abram up front where he would be going?	but God was a bit vague about where
	♥ In what ways is this very first experience between God and Abram representative of everyone's experie	ence with God throughout history?
	♥ How has Abraham's experience of following God been your experience?	
5	After Jesus arose from the dead, He gave the "Great Commission" to His disciples multiple times and in various ways. Compare and contrast the different ways that the Great Commission was communicated in the four Gospel accounts and in the book of Acts (Matt. 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-16, Luke 24:45-49, John 20:19-23, and Acts 1:8). How are they the same? How are they different? What additional emphases do you see in each of the passages that are basic truths of the Gospel message?	PRAYER REQUESTS
	The focus of the Great Commission is to go and make disciples. What is a disciple? What should mark a true disciple of Jesus Christ? (Luke 6:40, 14:25-33; John 13:34-35, 14:15; Matt. 28:20a)	
	Authors Colin Marshall and Tony Payne wrote: "To become a learner requires a repudiation – a radical unlearning – of our former rebellious way of life. It means being forgiven for the offense that our life has been before God and submitting ourselves to a divine Teacher who speaks the very words of the Father." In what ways does this quote challenge you?	