



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: The Lord Reigns

TEXT: Psalm 96

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: What is the definition of missions? Some see images of pith-helmeted, white-skinned people penetrating dark jungles of Africa or Asia. Others fear that it means a religious version of cultural imperialism. In Psalm 96 the psalmist introduces us to a different definition; he calls us to declare God's glory to all nations. The goal is neither conquest nor human-manipulated conversion. The goal of missions is to see God worshiped. The psalmist writes from a context in which diverse deities are worshiped, creating an environment that we call pluralism, in which no one should claim to have the "Truth". - Rather than contesting the other religions of that day, the psalmist is engulfed by thoughts about the greatness of God, the central motive for declaring God to the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. Imagine that in response to the question "What do you believe?" - you said. "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—who sent Jesus Christ as our Savior—alone is to be worshiped. - How do you think unbelievers or people who haven't heard of the gospel of Christ would respond?
2. What do you believe about absolute truth? What sets the God of the Bible apart from all other gods (vs. 4-6)? Discuss.
3. How does the psalmist portray God's character and works in this text? What would the actions described here look like in daily living?
4. How does God call us to respond to his holiness and majesty (vs. 4-10)? What does it mean to "proclaim His salvation day after day" (vs. 2)?
5. What do you think these verses told the people of the psalmist's time about their response to the pluralistic spirit of their age? What do these verses tell us regarding our response to the pluralistic spirit of our age that says, "Everyone is all right—there's no one right way to God"?
7. God is worshiped by more than just humanity. How does creation declare God's glory? What do verses 7-9 tell us about God's primary goal in missions?
8. What does the text tell us about God's judgment (vs 9-10, 13)? How does this affect our motivation or incentive to "declare His glory to the world"?

9. The text refers many times to all “the earth”, "the nations," "families of nations" and "the peoples." In what ways does God call you to cross cultural or ethnic boundaries so that you can "declare God's glory among the nations" right where you live? Can you honestly say that you are up to the task?