

# *God's Plan*

## TEACHING NOTES

### God has a plan for the world

Fill the earth (Genesis 1:28, Genesis 9:1)

Nations created (Genesis 11:7-8)

Missionary nation established (Genesis 26:4)

Missional themes of the Bible (Joshua 2:9-10, Mark 16:15, 2 Peter 3:9)

**KEY VERSES**  
Ephesians 3:17, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

**KEY THEMES**  
God has a plan  
Know God and make Him known

**God has a plan for the Church**

Evangelism (Matthew 28:18-19)

WCC's Vision: People, equipped and led by the Holy Spirit, reaching their world for Jesus Christ.

Discipleship (Ephesians 4:11-13)

**God has a plan for you**

Know Him and make Him known (Ephesians 3:17-21, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

**Lesson Objective:**

*To understand that God's plan is eternal and is for the whole world, the Church, and each individual believer. This plan is centered on the story of redemption and reconciliation. God's plan is that everyone everywhere know Him, first as Savior, then as Lord.*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Why do this?**

In order to grow spiritually, it is important for you to apply God's truth to your life and spend time alone with God. This personal study will take about 20 minutes. Try to make room in your weekly schedule for this time with God and His Word.

**Prepare your heart and mind**

Before you start, quiet your heart and mind. Ask God to help you focus on what He wants to communicate to you.

**God has a plan**

Through this session's teaching we've learned that God has a plan for us to know Him and make Him known. God wants to work in our lives to grow our faith. He wants us to join Him in the work He is doing in the lives of the people around us and in the whole world.

Now let's look at what the first Church looked like as described in the New Testament.

**Know God and His love**

Think about a time when you've felt loved. This love could have been from a parent, spouse, or friend. How did it feel to be loved? How did you know that they loved you?

When have you felt loved by God? How do you know that He loves you?

What are some ways that God's love differs from the love we receive from other people?

Sometimes the love others give is dependent on what we can offer them. Sometimes we struggle to receive love from others when we don't feel like we've done anything to deserve it. Human love is often conditional. But God's love is unconditional. To begin to understand this unconditional love, let's look at Ephesians 3:14-21.

*When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. – Ephesians 3:14-21*

God's unconditional love is so much stronger and more complex than any love you could ever experience from another person. There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more and there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less. God wants you to experience His great love. He wants you to trust Him in all circumstances. When you do that, you will see that Christ is with you – guiding and growing you. And through experiencing His love, you will grow in your understanding of who God is and what He's done for you and the whole world.

### **Make God known**

Think about a time you've been so excited about your relationship with someone that you couldn't help but tell everyone around you about them. You had experienced something so wonderful and exciting that you just had to share it with others.

Your relationship with Jesus should be that way. Your experience with Christ's love should be that sort of motivation. As you grow in your relationship and knowledge of God, you will also start to grow in your desire to make Him known. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 describes this process.

*And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. – 2 Corinthians 5:18-21*

God is calling you to be His ambassador (an authorized messenger or representative). He has given you the task of sharing Christ with those around you – the task of reconciling (restoring to right relationship, reuniting) people to Himself.

Before this session of *Starting Point* did you know that this was part of God's plan for you? How does this instruction to be God's ambassador make you feel?

What are a few steps you could take to begin to make God known?

Consider sharing this plan with another *Starting Point* participant. By doing so you can ask them to help keep you accountable and encourage you as you seek to grow in knowing God and making Him known.

### **Prayer time**

Spend some time in prayer. Thank God for what He taught you during your time in *Starting Point*. Thank God for His plan for you – that you would know Him and make Him known. Ask God to make you aware of the opportunities He's given you to share His love and your experience with Him with the world around you. Pray that He would give you the courage to respond to those opportunities.

