

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Tabitha mentioned that the word “nations” implies ethnic identity or a people group, not the way we think about nations in our culture as being about geopolitical boundaries.

- What are we as followers of Jesus to do among all the nations?
- What are the elements of becoming a disciple of Jesus according to this passage? How is the call to make disciples different from a call to assimilate others to a particular culture?

Read and compare with Matthew 22:36-40

Our various ethnic and cultural identities spring from the nature of God himself. Together they represent the fullness of who he is. So loving other cultures can help you understand and love God more fully. At the same time you are to love your neighbor as yourself.

- How does Jesus define who our neighbor is elsewhere in the Bible? (think about the parable of the Good Samaritan)
- How should loving yourself, including your ethnic and cultural identity, help you cross cultures to love others who are different than you?

Why can we find it difficult to analyze or understand ourselves? How might that affect your ability to understand others?

What is true about your family’s history? Think about ethnic heritage, migration to this country, how your families ethnic identity is different today than then, what cultural assimilation looked like for your family, and what citizenship means to your family today.

How might your background create barriers to being able to connect with others about the gospel? What could you do to break down some of those barriers?

Think about the people you are around most often. What might be some barriers of belief that would make it difficult for them to understand or embrace the message about Jesus?

What are some of the cultures that you are a part of?

- What are some cultural differences that have created angst between you and others in the past?
- What helped you to move beyond those differences and move toward each other?

Pray that God would help you understand your own ethnic, theological, and cultural identities so that you can love and appreciate people who are different from you and be able to cross that divide to introduce them to Jesus.

