



BECOMING A **WORLD CHRISTIAN**

The Basics Series  Lesson 12

Becoming a World Christian

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For some reason the population growth of our world over the last 50+ years is on an explosive trajectory like never before in history. Why? What is God up to? If you ever had the desire to impact lots of people for Christ, you were born at just the right time! One definition of wisdom is “looking at life and the world from God’s perspective.” How do we do that? How can get out of our limited understanding and small thinking to really understand what is on the mind and heart of God? In this lesson you will seek to become a “World Christian” by studying key passages in God’s word, looking at God’s world and the current status of world evangelization, and finally discovering what aspect of God’s work he wants you to embrace. Finding your most strategic role in fulfilling the Great Commission not only allows you to invest your life in something that lasts forever, it gives you a great reason to wake up each morning!

God’s Word

A World Christian wants God’s word as their foundation, God’s purpose as their purpose, and to find their role in God’s plan for the world.

1. Read the following verses.

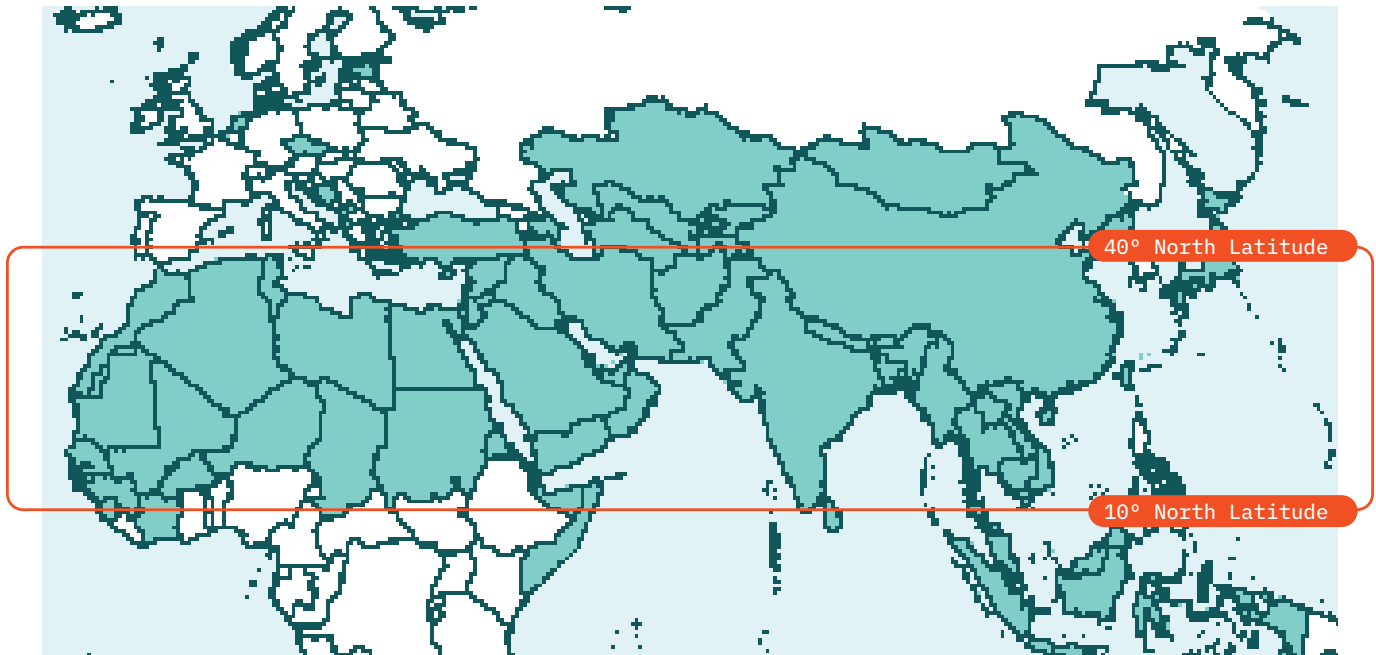
- Genesis 12:1–3
- Isaiah 49:6
- Matthew 24:14
- Psalm 67:1–2
- Matthew 28:19–20
- Revelation 7:9

2. After reading each of the verses, how would you describe God’s purposes on this earth?

God’s World

After a World Christian understands God’s purpose for the world, they want to know the current status of the world so they can pray specifically for God’s work and find their most strategic role.

The 10/40 Window



- The 10/40 Window is the rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia approximately between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude. One-third of the earth's total land area and nearly two-thirds of the world's people live in the 10/40 Window.
- 90% of the people living in the 10/40 Window are unevangelized. Many have never heard the gospel message and know no Christians. If those groups are to be evangelized, believers will need to leave their own culture, perhaps even learning a new language in order to communicate the gospel.
- 80% of the poorest people in the world live in this window (living on less than \$500 per year).
- 60% of international students come from this area of the world.
- 8% of the world's Christian missionaries work in the 10/40 window.
- Only 1¢ out of every \$100 given to missions goes to take the gospel to unreached people.

Major World Religions

An easy way to remember the 5 major world religions is the acronym THUMB:

Major world religions	Population	Where majority located
T ribal (Animism)	220 million	Africa/Southeast Asia
H indus	900 million	India
U nreligious (Aethism)	1.3 billion	China
M uslim	1.3 billion	Middle East/Indonesia/North Africa
B uddhist	375 million	Thailand/Nepal/Japan

Was any of this new information for you? The task seems overwhelming. What is the solution?

God's Work

In light of God's word and the needs in God's world, World Christians are engaging in God's work. They are involved in the Great Commission by practicing these five habits of a World Christian.

Goer	Sender	Prayer	Welcomer	Mobilizer
A person who goes to one of the unreached people groups	One who supports those who go through prayer, service, and finances	One who prays for the advancement of God's Kingdom in the world	One who works with internationals in one's own country	One who recruits others to embrace the World Christian movement



1. If you had to honestly evaluate your current understanding/application of 1) the biblical basis for missions, 2) the current status of world evangelization, and 3) the various habits/roles of being a World Christian, where would you place yourself on this 1 to 10 scale? Why do you put yourself there?
2. Where do you think God wants you on this scale? Why?
3. How will you get from where you are now to where God wants you? What is your plan?
4. What do you think will be some of the obstacles and sacrifices you may have to make to get there?

If you are sure God wants you there, and you are willing to make those sacrifices, I would be open to helping you. Here are some ideas on how we can get started:

- Go on a mission trip.
 - Go on a short term trip with Via. vianations.org
 - Mission Guide. missionguide.global
 - Perspectives Alumni Next Steps. perspectives.org/Alumni

- The World Christian Series of book studies
 - Explore the World Christian Lifestyle. vianations.org/explore
 - Welcoming the Nations Among Us. vianations.org/welcoming
 - Mobilizing the Body of Christ. vianations.org/mobilizing
- Operation World. operationworld.org
- Mission Frontiers. missionfrontiers.org
- Attend a Perspectives class near you. class.perspectives.org
- Work through The Traveling Team’s 12 Lessons on World Christian Living. thetravelingteam.org/articles/12-lessons
- Memorize scripture focused on God’s heart for the world. Start with Psalm 67:1–2 and Revelation 7:9.

A walk through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation

- Genesis 1:28
- Genesis 9:1
- Genesis 11:1–9
- Genesis 12:1–5
- Genesis 26:3–4
- Genesis 28:13–15
- Deuteronomy 4:5–6
- Joshua 2:9–11
- 1 Samuel 17:45–46
- 1 Kings 10:23–24
- Psalms 67:1–7
- Daniel 3:28–29
- Isaiah 49:6
- Malachi 1:11
- Matthew 24:14
- Luke 4:42–43
- Acts 1:8
- Romans 1:5
- Romans 15:20
- 1 John 2:2
- Revelation 5:9
- Revelation 7:9–10