

REACHING NATIONS Revelation 5:9

CELEBRATE

1. Throughout the Scriptures God's heart for the nations, His heart for all-peoples, is really pronounced. What experiences, either comfortable or not, have you had with people from other cultures, ethnicities, or nations?

CONNECT

2. Carefully read through Ephesians 2:13-22 and Revelation 5:9. To what do the references to blood refer, and what might be the implications of this reference for the kind of cultural and ethnic harmony or oneness spoken of in these passages?
3. First Peter 2:9-10 reminds us we are to "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called" us. How should we respond as gospel-ambassadors to society's tensions around ethnic and cultural reconciliation?

4. How do different ethnicities and cultures think about and practice Christianity? What have you experienced?

5. How does ethnic or cultural discrimination shape your own religious or spiritual convictions?
6. Read Psalm 96:3 and Matthew 28:19-20. In what way does God's passion for the nations—all-peoples—resonate with you? What might keep you from sharing that passion? What do you need to do with this passion?

CONTRIBUTE

7. To what extent are you willing to experience rejection, as did Jesus (see, for instance, Luke 9:51-56), because of your own ethnic or cultural heritage or your intentional movement toward reconciliation with others?
8. Read Isaiah 58:6-12. What do you learn from this passage about taking the Good News to heal our fellow human beings? What role does God play here? What is your role?