



# FOR For the World

#npfor

Week 3

3 of 4

February 17, 2019

**Bottom Line:** Why do we do what we do?

**Icebreaker:** Where's the farthest place you have traveled to? Favorite seat on an airplane? Car games you play when you travel? How do you pass the time on a long trip? Do you usually overpack or underpack? If you could travel anywhere you wanted next month for the whole month, where would you go?

**Key Verse:** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16

God loved Abraham and promised him, a nobody with nothing at the time, that He would bless him and make him a blessing to the world. God didn't want Israel to be like other nations—He loved them and wanted them to stand out from all other nations so He could bless Israel and then bless the world through them. Though there were many years of struggle, God kept His promise to Abraham. Why? Because He also loved the world!

Through the coming of Jesus, God would no longer dwell in temples made of hands. He would live within the hearts of men and women. As Jesus Christ lived in and through them, they would become salt and light to the world. It would happen through a new single command: "Love one another as I have loved you." He wasn't commanding them to feel something. He was commanding them to do something. He told them to love the world as He had loved them. It made the message irresistible. As great as the cross was, it was as practical as the last three years He had daily lived with them. He demonstrated His love for the Father and for them by the way He loved and lived daily. He called us His body and gave us a great commission—to reach the world with love.

What was true of Jesus must be true of His body. We want to resist the things that make Christianity resistible. We want to be known for the things we are FOR, not against. People were drawn to Jesus by the way He loved them; by the way He showed He was FOR them. That is now our responsibility. We have been chosen to represent Jesus to the world. There is no other more significant thing we can do for Him, for the world, or for our own fulfillment. Jesus is FOR the world, and we are too.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

"God has always been and always will be FOR every single person on the planet." What makes that hard to believe? Easy to believe? Why?

"Live for yourself and you'll only have yourself to show for yourself. Become a means to an end and your life takes on meaning. Funerals teach us this. Funerals remind us that the value of a life is always measured by how much of it was given away" (Andy Stanley). Discuss how you understand this.

Abraham was an unlikely candidate for greatness. Yet how God used him made him significant. How can you identify?

The Israelites lost their focus/fulfillment because they wanted to be just like everyone else. When we make choices to be like everyone else, we lose the ability for God to do something THROUGH us. Why?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

"World means all people who are not part of the church." Is that a new definition for you? Do you agree?

The new Ekklesia gathering in His name would have a new covenant—God was IN them. They would be salt and light in the world. As He lived through them, their purpose would be to fulfill His new command—to love others as He had loved them. This was their life-consuming new commission. It is ours too. How do you do it?

The commission Jesus gave to His first followers, and to us as well, is that we love everyone as He loves us. He broke it down into four groups: the county, the country, other cultures, the world. This was not sequentially, as in when we finish one we move on to the other, but simultaneously, as we do it all at the same time, as in a lifestyle. Discuss and apply.

"Most bad church experiences are the result of someone prioritizing a view over you." Discuss.

# NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Think globally.
- 2) Go on a short-term mission trip, locally, nationally, or internationally.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Why do we do what we do?

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Genesis 12:2-3

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 6:16

Wednesday: John 13:34

Thursday: John 13:35

Friday: Matthew 28:18-20

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*