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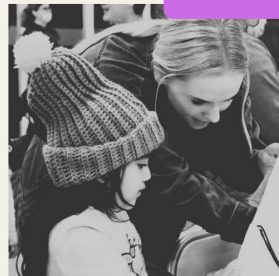
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REACHING THE CULTURE

GO!

ISRAEL, HAMAS AND HOW CHRISTIANS RESPOND IN TIMES OF WAR
ACTS 1:6-8

WEEK 6

There is only one nation that has Continuing covenantal promises from God That nation is Israel

Like everyone else, in the last few years, I have been burned by the fires of polarization raging in our society. A title from a recent article in Axios framed the scenario succinctly as it read, "Polarization Eats the Developed World." I would expand on that a bit more by saying, "Polarization Because of the Loss of Moral Clarity Eats the Developed World."

The world is indeed being eaten alive by a lack of moral clarity. This shouldn't come as a surprise, considering the Bible says that the end times cultural moment will be marked by societies that declare evil good and good evil. When describing end times, Paul notes that the conscience of many will be seared past feelings. While this reality has been plain for some time, the situation with Israel, Hamas, and the varying responses has laid it bare. Now, you might say, "What does a situation a world away have to do with me?" My answer to that question is – more than you think. The church is to be God's light in dark times. That means we need to be able to illuminate the darkness around us with the light of God's Word. And when it comes to Israel, it is vitally important that we do this.

(10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Pray that God would give you insight to see current events through the lens of Scripture. Bringing you an appreciation for Israel, a compassion for all people caught up in this volatile moment, and a burden to see lost souls in the Middle East drawn to the love of Christ.

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Read Acts 1:6-8 as a group. Make some observations concerning these verses. How do the words of Jesus establish your priorities when thinking about end times and events like the millennial Kingdom?
2. In Romans 11:26-29 Paul describes God's faithful fulfillment of His covenantal promises to Israel. Why should this be important to you as a Christian? How does God's faithfulness to Israel speak of His faithfulness to you? Think of verses that describe how God will finish what He started in your life. Share this encouragement with each other.
3. Read Isaiah 58 together. What does this chapter say about God's justice and His expectation that His people will keep His justice? Why does justice matter to God? What practical application can you make in your life?
4. Christ will be returning soon. How does the soon return of Jesus affect your life?

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **Revelation 1:7** "**Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.**"

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: Pray for the next 15-20 minutes as a Life Group. Ask God to guide you in this time of prayer, showing you how you can be a light in the midst of great darkness. Encourage one another to bring the gospel to Jews and Muslims in Las Vegas. Think creatively about how you can do this. Consider how you can reach out to Jewish people to demonstrate your support as antisemitism is on the rise.

(5 min) LIVE IT

Based on the study, be faithful to obey the words of Christ this week. Be an advocate for God's justice in your life. Be compassionate to those who are afflicted, exploited, and used. Be willing to be a voice for the voiceless.