

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

Found People, Find People

Speaker: Dr. Eric Lopez (Guest Speaker) Date: March 3, 2025

Introduction:

In this powerful message, Dr. Eric Lopez explored the core value "Found People, Find People," highlighting how this principle is deeply rooted in God's heart, character, and purpose throughout Scripture. He demonstrated how sharing the gospel flows naturally from a transformed heart and is empowered by God's presence in our lives.

1. Found People, Find People Because It's God's Heart:

Dr. Lopez explained how God's desire for all people to know Him has been His consistent heart from the beginning of Scripture.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding that evangelism is God's heart (not just a duty) change your perspective on sharing your faith?
2. What stood out to you about God's covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, especially the phrase "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you"?
3. How have you experienced being "found" by God in your own life?

Supporting Verses:

Genesis 12:1-3 - "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'"

Exodus 19:5-6 - "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: God's covenant with Abraham established Israel's purpose as a blessing to all nations, not just as recipients of blessing.
- Theological Significance: God's redemptive plan has always included all peoples, with Israel serving as "a kingdom of

priests" to the world. • Application: We are called to see ourselves as blessed to be a blessing to others, continuing God's redemptive mission.

2. Found People, Find People Because God Has Changed Our Hearts:

Dr. Lopez described how covenant relationship with God transforms our hearts, changing how we see others and compelling us to share the good news.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has your heart changed since coming to know Christ? How does this change affect how you view others?
2. What does it mean to "regard no one from a worldly point of view" as described in 2 Corinthians 5:16?
3. In what ways have you experienced the transformation from "heart of stone" to "heart of flesh" that Ezekiel describes?

Supporting Verses:

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

Ezekiel 11:19-20 - "I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God."

Context and Reflection:

• Historical/Cultural Context: Ezekiel prophesied during the Babylonian exile, promising a future heart transformation for God's people. • Theological Significance: The New Covenant involves not just external obedience but internal transformation that changes our relationships with both God and others. • Application: As "new creations" with transformed hearts, sharing the gospel becomes a natural overflow of our new identity as Christ's ambassadors.

3. Found People, Find People Because It's God's Purpose:

Dr. Lopez emphasized that God not only gives us a purpose to reach others but also provides His presence and power to fulfill that purpose.

Discussion Questions:

1. What hesitations or fears do you have about fulfilling God's purpose to reach others with the gospel?
2. How does Jesus' promise "I am with you always" address these concerns?
3. In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit's power in sharing your faith with others?

Supporting Verses:

Matthew 28:18-20 - "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Context and Reflection:

• Historical/Cultural Context: Jesus gave the Great Commission to ordinary disciples, many of whom were still wrestling with doubt (Matthew 28:17). • Theological Significance: The mission to make disciples is empowered by Christ's authority and sustained by His presence. • Application: We can confidently share our faith knowing we have both Christ's presence and the Holy Spirit's power with us.

Conclusion:

Dr. Lopez's message reminded us that evangelism isn't just a task or program but flows naturally from understanding God's heart, experiencing His transformation in our lives, and embracing His purpose with His presence and power. The gospel narrative from Genesis to Revelation shows God's consistent desire to reach all people, and we have the privilege of participating in this mission as His transformed ambassadors.

Reflection Questions:

1. Who in your life needs to be "found" by God, and how might you play a role in that journey?
2. What specific aspect of your testimony (how God found you) might resonate with someone else?

3. How can you prepare yourself to be more effective as Christ's ambassador this week?
4. What barriers of fear or inadequacy might be preventing you from fully embracing the "Found People, Find People" value?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for finding us when we were lost and bringing us into relationship with you. We're grateful that you have transformed our hearts and given us both the purpose and power to share your love with others. Help us to see people as you see them and to be your ambassadors wherever we go. Give us courage to share the good news and wisdom to do so with love and grace. May we fulfill your heart's desire that all people would know you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

"Found People, Find People," East Hill Family Church, 03/03/2025. Delivered by Dr. Eric Lopez. Sermon Notes, East Hill Family Church. The Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV). Biblica, Inc., 2011.

Secondary Sources:

Coleman, Robert E. "The Master Plan of Evangelism." Revell, 2010. Pippert, Rebecca Manley. "Out of the Saltshaker and into the World." IVP Books, 2021. Wright, Christopher J. H. "The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative." IVP Academic, 2006.

Collaborative Contributions:

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LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to October 2024.