

BE HOPEFUL



AN ACTION PLAN FOR A RADICAL NEW YEAR

BASED ON THE BOOK, *RADICAL*, BY DAVID PLATT

FOR SMALL GROUPS

- **Choose unreached people groups to pray about monthly through the year.**

There are more than 11,000 “people groups” in the world—groups that have a distinct ethnic, linguistic, or cultural identity. A people group is classified as “unreached” if less than two percent of its population is made up of evangelical Christians. What this means is that if you are a part of an “unreached people group,” the likelihood is that you will be born, you will live, and you will die without ever hearing the gospel.

Can you guess how many people groups are still unreached in 2011, more than 2,000 years after Jesus came to the world? Answer: more than 6,000! And these groups represent upwards of two billion people!

Your small group can play a role in reaching these people by praying for one unreached people group per month. Make your choices using a resource like Operation World or the Joshua Project and begin to pray intentionally for these people groups. Ask the Lord of the harvest to make his good news known among the nations in 2011.

- **Make every member of your group a Bible teacher.**

It’s easy and natural to approach your small group’s Bible studies as a process of getting. You’re *getting* knowledge about God, getting information you can use in your Christian life. That’s great as far as it goes. But what if you were to approach your Bible study times during this coming year with *giving* in mind? Now, that’s something much greater.

What I mean by this is that you can use your small-group Bible studies as a chance for every member to learn but to take what they have learned, and in turn, teach others. One member, for example, might re-teach what she is learning to her teenage son. Another member might be sharing what they are learning with a new believer at work.

Here are some ideas for what that might look like in your small group:

- Take turns leading the Bible study in your small-group time.
- When someone else is teaching, take notes.
- Summarize the key points to each other to make sure you understand the key concepts.
- Identify people you can share the teaching with.
- Report back to each other, and encourage and coach each other on how you’re sharing all that you are learning through God’s word.

Make the shift from learning for the sake of learning to learning for the sake of teaching. It will revolutionize your small-group Bible study in 2011.

- **Figure out how to make your group a “gospel investment club.”**

All around the country, small groups of dedicated people are getting together regularly. But they aren't studying the Bible or praying. They are meeting to learn how to make more money together. They are investment clubs.

How could you turn your small group into a “gospel investment club” in the new year? In other words, during 2011, how could you help each other to be more intentional and better stewards of the resources God has given us? Will you study a book like *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn? Will you pool your money to give to a partner ministry that your church is working with overseas? Could you invite a missionary to come and share who has given up everything for the sake of the gospel?

Together, your group has more ability than you might think to support God's global mission. Begin praying through how your small group can use your resources to be a part of what God is doing locally and globally for His name's sake.

- **Turn your small group into a missions team in 2011.**

Consider this: your small group could well be a short-term missions team in the making. You've already developed familiarity and concern for each other. You've spent time diving into scripture and spurring one another on to depend on Christ. You know the gifts each one has to offer. You have been sharing life together. Why not plan on going overseas together to serve and share the gospel together in another context?

Talk it over and pray about where God is leading your group to go. The short amount time that you spend in another context will dramatically affect the rest of your year together and how you do life and ministry together as a small group.

- **Plan for the multiplication of your small group in the new year.**

When we are living life together, studying and praying and serving, the natural outcome will be multiplication. As your small group is intentional in sharing and reaching out to others it will grow and multiply. As you grow, begin to pray that God will raise up leaders from within your group to start new small groups that will grow and multiply. This is Christ's strategy for spreading the gospel and it works! Be intentional this year and begin to think through what this may look like for your small group.

Here are some questions you may want to begin to pray through and consider:

Who could become the leader(s) of the new group, and how can we begin to prepare and support this person? Which members will be a part of the new group and which will stay with the original group? When and how is the best way to go about multiplying? Approach such questions with much prayer—and an expectation for how God will use you in a greater way than ever!

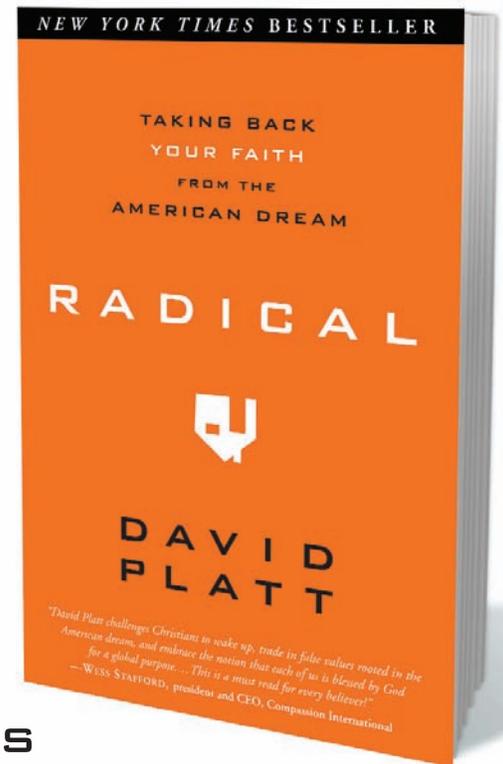
WHAT PART OF THE GOSPEL IS OPTIONAL?

WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?

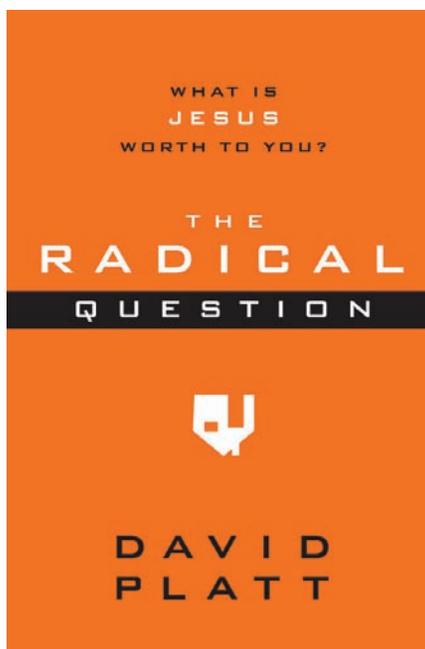
“David Platt challenges Christians to wake up, trade in false values rooted in the American Dream, and embrace the notion that each of us is blessed by God for a global purpose... This is a must-read for every believer!”

—WESS STAFFORD, President and CEO, Compassion International

Radical is a daring call for Christians to believe and obey the gospel according to Jesus—even if it flies in the face of success according to the American church. David Platt reveals what can happen when we exchange our convenient beliefs for authentic discipleship.



DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



The Radical Question

Take the first step into a life as a radical follower of Christ. In this companion booklet, David Platt reveals what can happen in the world when we exchange our convenient beliefs for authentic discipleship. **Available as a 10-pack.**

Find information, tools for individual application, church resources, and video at RadicalTheBook.com.

Radical: The Bible Study

Powerful truths to share with your church, Sunday school class, or small group.

- Eight Bible study lessons correspond to the eight book chapters of *Radical*
- Each lesson includes commentary, teaching plans, discussion questions, and more
- Designed to challenge believers to put the *Radical* concepts into practice

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