



Blueprints: *Articulations* The Weekly HouseNet Bible Study

What About the Lost Souls of the Amazon Basin?

Intro: Whether they're in the Amazon Basin, the savannahs of Africa, or the wide expanses of China, the question of "What about those who have never heard the Gospel?" is one of great interest both to the believer and the non-believer. The claim that Christianity is exclusive and that Jesus is the only way presents a dilemma for many as they weigh God's justice and mercy against these claims. On the other hand, there are those who contend that if those who have never heard have an instant "pass" to the eternal then the good-news is bad news and the faithful should burn every Bible, close every church, and erase any memory of Jesus so that *everyone* would be welcomed into eternal life. Of course, the whole discussion would be mute if the church had been doing its job over the past couple of millennia! When you finish this study you should be able to articulate what you believe about those who have never heard.

What the Bible Teaches: Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

Can people be "saved" aside from Jesus?

1 John 5:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10; Matthew 18:12-14

What about those who've never heard about Jesus?

Romans 1:20-23; Romans 2:12-16; Romans 9:18

What is our responsibility as believers?

Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Romans 10:12-18

What I Believe: Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about those who have never heard the Gospel. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

“What about the lost souls of the Amazon Basin?”

Write your final response here: _____

Articulations: Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

Therefore: Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.