



## Life Group Study Notes

### "The One Hundred Yard Journey"

Dr. Rice Brooks - February 26, 2017

#### **Warm Up (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.**

- Are you part of a blended family? What's the composition of your family?
- Who are you closest to in your broader family (besides a spouse)?
- Is your family small or large? What do you like about its size?

#### **Word (10-15 minutes)**

**Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org).**

*The One Hundred Foot Journey* is a movie that addresses the cultural distance between two restaurants, one Parisian, the other Indian. (Note: *The distance between our old and new sanctuaries is about 100 yards; hence, today's sermon title*).

The restaurants were extremely different from one another in both style and cuisine. By blending the two, a new unique taste was born that went on to win prestigious awards and gain global fame. But this was achieved only by arduous effort and by overcoming numerous challenges and prior preferences.

Bethel has similarly sought to blend ethnic, cultural, and national backgrounds by centering on Jesus Christ and celebrating the salvation that he offers and brings to all people. Only when we all come together and commit to love one another and follow and serve the Lord Jesus Christ together will we become the dwelling place of God as he intends. Only then will we become the kind of hands and feet of Jesus that he desires to carry his message and mission to the nations.

In Mark 11:17 (ESV) Jesus said, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?" We are called to carry God's burden for the nations. Not only are we called to pray for the nations, but we are called to go to the nations. Some can actively go, yet all can help send others through their prayers and giving.

Not only are we called to blend ethnicities and nationalities, but also the generations. We need the older generation to care for the younger generation as spiritual fathers and mothers. Those with life and spiritual experience are called to disciple, equip, and empower those who are younger to go in their zeal with imparted knowledge and wisdom to advance God's kingdom throughout the world.

To produce a great, diverse church that is filled with disciples and is developing leaders and advancing the Gospel, there is a real need for a willingness to receive adjustments and correction. Without humility and a strong desire to grow and become better, we will never achieve what God wants to do in us and through us.

All of this is the heart and mission of Bethel, and all of this comes directly from the teachings of the Bible.

Next week our church will move the 100 yards to our new sanctuary. As we do, it is critical that we carry God's heart and mission with us. Our new facilities have value in the eyes of God as long as they are used to facilitate the advancement of his kingdom. Let us not merely celebrate and enjoy the blessings of a new building, but let us also celebrate our King and enjoy the riches of his goodness toward us as we seek to evangelize those separated from God. Let us be faithful to make disciples and develop leaders. Let us pray, give, and go to the nations.

**Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.**

- Why do you think there aren't more churches that are multi-ethnic, multi-national, and multi-generational?
- What are some of the challenges of building a great Christian church community that is multi-ethnic, multi-national, and multi-generational?
- How are you personally helping build a great Christian church community that is multi-ethnic, multi-national, and multi-generational? What else could (should) you do?

**Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for your church and for all the good he has brought about through your spiritual brothers and sisters.
- Ask God to show us how we can grow to become an even more diverse church, and how each of us can help bring it about.
- Ask God to add many people of different ethnicities and nationalities and ages to our church.