

Life Group Leader Guide
God's Heart for the Nations
October 12, 2025

Guest Speaker: Edwin Fillies

- Born in 1967 and raised in South Africa as the youngest of ten children.
- Oversees Nations 2 Nations, an initiative dedicated to resourcing and mobilizing marginalized indigenous peoples.
- Serves as one of the Global Elders of YWAM International.
- His ministry journey has taken him to nearly 100 nations.

Scripture Reading: Take turns reading these passages aloud.

Genesis 12:1–3

John 3:16–17

Matthew 28:18–20

Revelation 7:9–12

The Power of the Gospel to Change Nations

Edwin reminded us that by the year 2000, Africa had become the continent with the largest number of Christians—despite projections in the late 1800s that it would become predominantly Muslim.

Missions changed the course of history.

- What trends do you see in your nation, community, or family that you long to see changed by the Gospel?
- What might it take for your community to align with God's will as revealed in His Word? (share both large-scale visions and small personal steps.)

God's Heart for the Nations

- When you hear the phrase “God's heart for the nations,” what comes to mind?

- From Genesis to Revelation, what picture do we see of God’s desire for all peoples?
- What responsibility does the Church have to express God’s heart to the nations?
- What part do you personally play in that mission?
(Invite honest reflection here—some may see their role as prayer, generosity, local outreach, or going.)

Motivated by Love

Edwin said that our primary motivation for sharing the Gospel must always be love.

That love includes hospitality—a biblical concept that goes deeper than being friendly.

Hospitality in Greek is philoxenia:

- Philo = love
- Xenia = stranger or foreigner

Contrast that with xenophobia (fear of the stranger).

- How can we show philoxenia, (hospitality)—love for the stranger—within our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces?
- How does biblical hospitality contrast with the fear and suspicion often found in our culture?
- What practical acts of love could you or your group do to welcome “the strangers” God has brought to our community?

(If helpful, discuss local refugee groups, immigrants, or marginalized neighbors.)

The Nations in Heaven

Revelation 7:9–12

- How are the nations portrayed in heaven?
- What does this scene reveal about God’s ultimate plan for humanity?
- How will the nations get there? What is our role in that?
(Encourage people to connect the Great Commission with this vision of eternal worship.)

Growing God's Heart in Us

Sometimes we struggle to love those who are different from us.

- If we find it hard to love strangers or foreigners, what steps can we take to receive more of God's heart for them?
- How can prayer, Scripture, or exposure to different cultures help us grow in compassion?

(Consider closing the discussion by praying together for specific people or groups God brings to mind.)

Closing Thought

From Genesis to Revelation, God's story has always been about blessing all nations.

The call to "go and make disciples of all nations" is not just for a few—it's the heartbeat of the Kingdom.

May we open our hearts to love the stranger, speak hope to our community, and join in God's global mission.