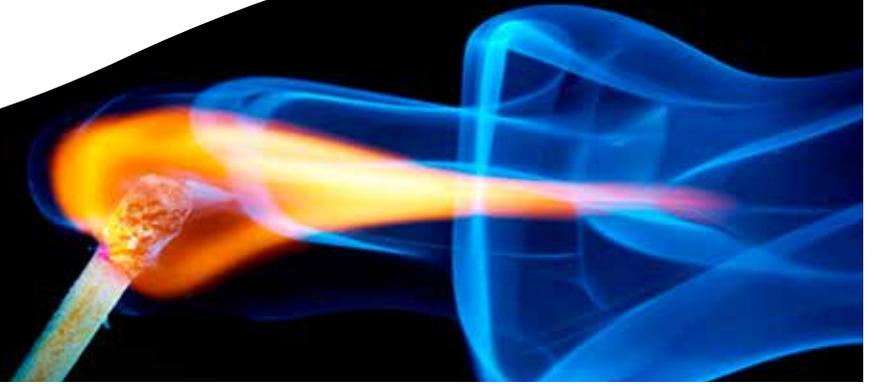




MDI



Resource meeting #4

How have you shared the love of Jesus with others this week?

Meeting time: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Participants: Anyone participating in a Missional Discipleship Group (MDG)

Purpose: To hear stories of transformation and to further resource participants.

Agenda

A. Listen: What is God doing in our Missional Discipleship Groups? —35 minutes

- Scripture reading
- Prayer
- Accountability

B. Resourcing: How have you shared the love of Jesus with others this week? —35 minutes

Background

- *"For true evangelical faith cannot lie dormant . . . it clothes the naked; it feeds the hungry; it comforts the sorrowful; it shelters the destitute; it aids and consoles the sad; it returns good for evil; it serves those that harm it; it prays for those that persecute it; it has become all things to all people."* —Menno Simons
- *"All disciples of Jesus are authorized agents of God's kingdom. As such, we can join God's mission anywhere, at any time, and in favor of anyone."* —Marvin Lorenzana
- *"A disciples of Jesus is an agent of the kingdom cleverly disguised as a lawyer, artist, banker, teacher, businessman, housewife, etc."* —Todd Hunter

The most important reason why Jesus is interested that you and I become his disciples (*mathetes*, or apprentice, in Greek) is not simply to make us better human beings; Jesus' purpose does not end with us! Rather, his goal is that you and I become agents of God's kingdom who *actively collaborate* in God's mission (*missio Dei*, in Latin) to reconcile all things to himself (including, of course, every human being on the planet). An effective disciple, then, actively becomes his hands, feet, mouth and heart to those around them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:18: "And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him."

1 Corinthians 3:5-9: "After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the good news. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building."

Three reasons why this question is important:

- 1. To focus on the mission:** Believers need to understand once and for all that the purpose of the Christian life is to multiply (planting, sowing, sharing) the good news of Jesus (which is Jesus himself!) in the hearts of others. This is what it means to give much fruit! (Read John 15:16.)
- 2. To stimulate for service:** To be a disciple of Jesus means having a willingness to serve others voluntarily and unconditionally. It has been wisely said that "a believer that is not good for service is not good AT ALL!"
- 3. To give glory to God:** It is a fact that our acts of kindness and mercy to those outside give glory to God. We are salt of the earth and light of the world, all with the purpose of increasing the glory that belongs to God alone. (Read Matthew 5:13.)

C. Prayer: Pray that we are empowered this week to share the love of Christ with others. —5 minutes