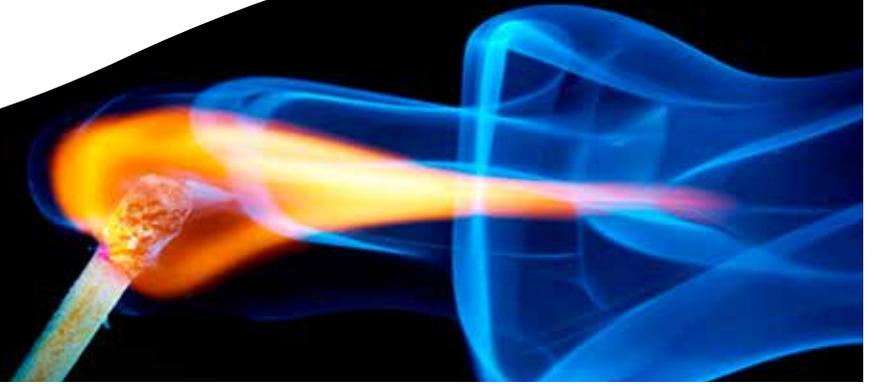




MDI



Resource meeting #7

Pray for the salvation of others!

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: Pray for the salvation of others! —35 minutes

Background

According to the Barna Research Group, only 55 percent of born-again Christians believe it is their responsibility to share their faith with others! Furthermore, according to Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, only 2 percent of Christians share their faith on a regular basis. Looking at these numbers, can you imagine what the percentage is of believers who regularly intercede in prayer on behalf of their relatives, friends and acquaintances who don't know Jesus? The answer to this question might not be too encouraging at all!

It is God's mission to reconcile everything and everyone to himself. Therefore, if we are disciples of Jesus who are willing to align our own mission in life with God's mission, we are also to become agents of reconciliation in the world. God is on a mission, but he has made it the task of the church to reach out to those who haven't found hope in Christ. A good starting point is intercessory prayer!

It was Charles Spurgeon who said, *"Remember that intercessory prayer is the sweetest prayer God ever hears ... There is nothing which intercessory prayer cannot do!"* There are many ways that we can show love to our neighbor; intercessory prayer (praying for the salvation of others) is a very powerful way!

Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Romans 10:14: "But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can

they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"

James 5:16: "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

Three reasons why intercessory prayer is important

1. Intercessory prayer helps us get in touch with God's saving love for others. For a few moments our personal agenda stops being at the center of our lives and allows us to feel what God feels for humankind.
2. When we pray for others, we are suddenly able to bring to mind and experience the pain of those who have no faith; those who have fallen away from God; the ones who are abandoned, the marginalized, and the forgotten of the world; those under the power of addictions or bound by depression, anxiety or bitterness; and those who are in prison, whether a material one made of concrete and iron or an invisible one made of emotional pain and spiritual darkness.
3. To pray for the salvation of others, in all its many dimensions, we become closer to the core of who Jesus is. He is the original intercessor, the High Priest who intercedes for all of us before the Father (see Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25).

C. Prayer: Pray that God will grant us his heart so that we can intercede for a suffering world around us.
—5 minutes