

LIFE Group Leader Handout

September 24, 2017

Message Title: ESSENTIALS: Reach the World - "A Prayer Request from Jesus"

Pastor Bob Snider

Scripture: Matthew 9:35-38

35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

This is the third part of the Essentials Series: 1) Love God 2) Love Others 3) Reach the World. Reaching the World for Christ is the mission of the church!

Main Idea— Before God does a great work He calls his people to pray

This is a prayer request from Jesus: "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Does this seem strange? Why would the workers be told to beg the owner of the field to send out more workers into his harvest?

Laborers are needed; not experts, not famous or powerful people, just ordinary laborers!

Application—

- Do you ever feel like the harvest is NOT plentiful in the places you are in each week? Why?
- Have you had a bad experience trying to tell someone about Jesus? Describe what happened
- Do you ever feel unqualified to tell someone about Jesus? What do you think is lacking in you?
- How do you feel about Jesus asking you to Pray for God to send laborers? Can you do that? Will you?
- Could you be a laborer? Does that free you up knowing God wants laborers rather than "experts?"
- Have you ever prayed for something, then God enabled you to be the answer to that prayer? Tell the group about your experience.
- Are you beginning to "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest?" Has anything happened yet? Tell the group.

PREPARING YOURSELF TO LEAD

By Jennie Allen

Pray. Pray for yourself: pray that you would be led by the Spirit. Pray that you would lead with wisdom, compassion, discernment and urgency. Pray fervently and continuously. Pray for your members: that they would know they don't have to prove themselves, but that Jesus has proven everything; have hearts that are teachable and moldable; be transformed by God's Word and His Spirit.

Lean on God. Don't lead in your own power. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead every moment--your preparation, your facilitation, your follow up. Allow the Spirit freedom to work outside the boundaries of your plan and agenda. Depend on God for the results. Don't try to manufacture moments or experiences. Keep in mind your responsibility is to be obedient and faithful. The results are up to God. Lead out of the overflow. You can't pour out much truth from an empty pitcher. Spend time daily with the Savior. Let Him pour into you before you pour out to others.

Be vulnerable. There will be times when you will need to open up and share your life. This will help others feel safe to share. But don't feel like you have to share every detail. You don't. Share what is necessary, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Listen, but also lead. Allow members to share their struggles and do your best not to interrupt. However, you will need to guide the conversation. You will need to include all members in the discussion. You will need to steer the conversation back to the truth of God's Word.

Model trust. Don't be a "do as I say" leader. Be the example. Apply what you have learned and are learning through the study.

