

LIFE Group Leader Handout

January 28, 2018

Boldly Going

Pastor Mike O'Connor

Scripture--Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Main Idea--Christ's Followers Spread the Gospel

Spread the Gospel

- It is always the plan.
- It's not just the pros.
- God is in this.

The BLESS strategy--five missional practices for today--

- **B- Begin with Prayer.** Ask, "God, how do You want me to bless the people in the places You've sent me to? Increase my boldness as Your ambassador to my world."
- **L- Listen with Care.** Don't talk, but listen to people, their struggles, their pains, their dreams and hopes.
- **E- Eat Together.** It's not quick. You have to have a meal with people or a cup of coffee. It builds relationships.
- **S- Serve with Love.** If you listen to people and you eat with people then you'll know how to serve them.
- **S- Share Your Story.** When the time is right, now we talk and we share the story of how Jesus changed our life. Leave something printed with them.

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:2-3

Application--

- What parts of this message increased your understanding of the heart of God and the plan of God?
- What part of the BLESS strategy was most enticing for you? Which do you think is most challenging?
- Who has God put on your heart to BLESS?

Since we have such a hope, we are very bold... 2 Corinthians 3:12

REVIVING YOUR SMALL GROUP

By Angela Dion

If your small group has lost some of its excitement, spice it up by implementing one or more of these ideas:

Problem: Meeting with the same people has stifled the group's development. We all know each other very well and are too comfortable with each other. We are not being challenged by each other.

Solution: Add variety with new faces. Challenge every group member to invite a friend to a potluck. Or join with another group occasionally. Invite a guest speaker--maybe a missionary or one of the pastors.

Problem: Our group begins and/or ends by asking for prayer requests. Our "prayer time" has developed into "advice and discussion time". We spend 5 minutes praying after 30 minutes of requests.

Solution: Have each group member pray their own request; then there will be no need for discussing requests. Or have each member write their request on an index card, then pass the cards around. Each person prays for the request on the card they get.

Problem: The Bible has become mundane to our group; we're not excited by it like before.

Solution: A new method of study might help. Try acting out the section of Scripture you're reading. Or have each group member write their own paraphrase of the Scripture you're studying.

Problem: Our group has become a social club. We spend more time catching up on current events, playing games or eating. We want to make the meeting more of a time to meet with God.

Solution: Have communion in the middle of the study. Spend some or all of your time worshipping. Have a "listening" session where the group is silent before God.

Problem: Group members feel homework assignments are a chore. They often don't complete the assignments, and I don't want to make them feel like they have to. I want them to grow spiritually, apart from homework.

Solution: Encourage each group member to apply the lesson to their daily lives, getting specific feedback at the next meeting. Partner members to contact each other between meetings for accountability and encouragement.