



Intentionally Praying for Others Introduction

VISION & KEY CONTENT

Vision

Our goal is to help our Growing Disciples make some of their first missionary invitations by creating and utilizing an organized way to pray for those in their lives.

Key Content

- Reflection on the Apostle Matthew's apparent habit of inviting his friends to spend time with Jesus
- Listing people to pray for to help the disciple think intentionally about their friendships and how they might invite them to spend time with Jesus.
- Accountability to making 1-3 invitations to Bible study (or otherwise) in the next two weeks



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DISCUSSION GUIDE

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples.

MATTHEW 9:9-11

Please read aloud: Matthew's life is forever changed by his decision to follow Jesus, and he is unable to keep it to himself. As a result, he appears to enthusiastically invite his friends to spend time with Jesus in his own home, regardless of their background. By facilitating this encounter, he extends the invitation of grace to them as well.

Discuss the following:

1. What type of friends did Matthew invite to spend time with Jesus?
2. How do you think Matthew felt inviting his friends to meet Jesus?
3. How do you feel about inviting your friends, as they are, to encounter Christ?

Please read aloud: One way to imitate Matthew's intentionality in inviting others to meet Jesus is by creating an organized visual tool that helps us build a habit of praying for and accompanying others. To do so in a simple way, write down lists of names that fit the following categories:

1. Those that do not have Jesus in their lives
2. Those that have Jesus in their life, but not as the center. Jesus is simply a part of their life like work, friends, relationships, school, or activities.
3. Those who already make Christ the center of their lives (these can support you in efforts to bring others to Christ and provide fellowship!)

Note to the leader: Take a couple of minutes with your growing disciple to first pray, then use the chart below to write in the names of friends, co-workers, classmates, teammates, and others who you want to know Christ more deeply.

Note to the leader: Use this chart throughout the time in Growing Discipleship to help your disciple pray for their friends and make invitations. End this activity by helping your growing disciple commit to 1-3 specific invitations they will attempt in the next two weeks (for example, invite to Bible Study, a ministry event, Mass, or a meal; even committing to having "deeper" conversations with friends on matters of faith is a huge step). Ask permission to hold them accountable to these invitations!