



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month:	Where Do We Go from Here?
Text for the Week:	Acts 17:16-34
Message for the Week:	"A Mission That Matters"
Theme for the Week:	We are God's witnesses of the gospel.

Week 27

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

When you see/hear the word "evangelism," what comes to your heart and mind?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read [Acts 17:16-34](#) out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What distresses you spiritually about the area in which you live? What specific needs do you see? What do you feel that God is calling you to do about them?

How does compassion for the lost shape or change your attitude about evangelism?

Which of the seven lessons (Attitude, Approach, Authenticity, Articulation, Apologetics, Assimilation, and Action) come most naturally to you? Which one is most challenging?

Why is evangelism difficult for Christians and the church today?

"Try It!"

One, One, One Prayer Challenge:

Select a person in your sphere of influence you believe God is calling you to build a relationship with to share your faith and commit to pray for that person for one minute every day at 1 p.m. You can set your phone alarm to go off every day at 1; and when it does, pray for that person to come to know Jesus and for God to use you in the process. If someone hears your phone go off, explain to them what you're doing. Pray too that you can engage the world with your Gospel antenna raised so opportunities for spiritual conversations with non-believers are often overlooked and missed.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer regarding the things God revealed and that you discerned in your time with God today.

Also, spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

A prayer for us this week based on Colossians 4:

God, we pray that we would devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. We also pray, God, that You may open a door for our message - that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which we believe. We pray that you would enable us to proclaim it clearly, as we should. Enable us to be wise in the way we act toward outsiders, making the most of every opportunity. Let our conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that we are ready and know how to answer everyone. Amen.

Missional Practice for the Month: Praying with Eyes Open

Normally when we pray, we close our eyes, shut off from the world and focus on what we are saying to God. Praying with eyes open is a missional practice because as we see what is going on around us, the Spirit will prompt us to pray for things that we would probably never have prayed for. We invite you during the month of May, on several different occasions, to go to a public place such as a park, café, school hallway, or shopping center and ask God to help you see what God sees. As God prompts you, pray about what you see. As we begin to pray with our eyes open when we drive to work, shop for groceries, walk the dog, watch our kids ball game, sit in your front yard, etc., God will connect us with the heartbeat of our neighborhood and community, revealing to us his work that we might join with him.