

Pray #1

A Church, and Men, Who Pray

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Part of Connect Group Questions

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1 Timothy 2:1-8

This week's teaching noted that we live in a world that is awash in confusion about so many things – truth, God, meaning of life, priorities, sexuality, relationships, self-image. “So many people look in the mirror and don't like what they see,” one social commentator notes.

The message people need – noted in the teaching – is the word of the Gospel. This study explores where people “are” with Jesus, and encourages us to recommit to serious prayer for others outside of the family of God.

GETTING STARTED

Begin with everyone having a blank sheet of 8 ½ X 11 paper and something to write with. Have them fold it in thirds from top-to-bottom so that when it unfolds there are 3 sections. Then, have them label each section with the following: LOVE IT, LIKE IT, HATE IT.

Next, pick a leader to call out the following words, and have each group member put each word in a category:

Dill pickles

country music

airplanes

American idol

Ford cars

tattoos

Barney

asparagus

Alarm clocks

pulp
football
figure skating
the opera
McDonalds
sushi
the color pink
Facebook
running
reading
Jesus

Discuss: For us, Jesus is definitely in the "LOVE IT" category. Where does He fit for your lost friends? Why do you think they feel the way they do about Jesus?

IN THE WORD

READ **Acts 17:16-34** as a group and note the various ways people responded to the message of Jesus.

What helps a person move from "hate it" to "like it" and from "like it" to "love it" when the IT is Jesus? What is your story? What moved you from "hate it" to "love it" with Jesus?

READ (again) **1 Timothy 2:1-7** together. What about this passage helps you (perhaps) recommit to praying for those who are lost around you? Can you list three people who really need to understand that Jesus is God's "mediator" for them to come to God?

MY LIFE - OUR MISSION

Today's teaching also asked, "Is God making your day?" **This Life Question** is one of our CCC tools to help us measure, personally, whether or not we are consistently participating in the mission God has given us to connect people to Jesus. Some of the "self-evaluation" questions that help unpack this question are as follows:

- I regularly read and study my Bible
- When the Bible exposes a changed needed, I respond to make things right

- I use the Bible as the guide for the way I think and act.
- I am usually in a listening posture with God
- I expect God to use me every day in sharing His love and gospel in some way
- I engage in a daily prayer time

Take some moments as a group together to do a quick self-eval. Then pray together about the things the Spirit has spoken to you as a group during your time.

i This exercise is adapted from Cadre Ministries 25 Small Group Ideas for Learning how to Fish for Men.