

## WEEK #4 – BULLETIN INSERT

### ***Mission – Where You Live***

1. Get outside the spiritual suburbs.
2. Remind yourself how attractive Jesus is.
3. Be intentional with the Gospel.
4. Rekindle your spiritual fire.

Your Story

Revealing key ways  
that we can partner  
with God in order to  
live an epic life

### GENERAL GROUP LEADERSHIP TIPS

- ***If this is your first group meeting***, refer to the first two weeks' material which includes some additional ideas.
- *If you have someone in the group that is dominating or draining energy from the group, look at the ideas for dealing with the diverse people in your group on pages 4 & 5 of the [Group Leader Video Training Notes](#) found at MCC's website under: RESOURCES>COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS*
- ***Before the group scatters, eats, etc., please discuss the mission/outreach idea to your group this week. I've attached some sample ways of reaching out in and through MCC.***

**LEADERSHIP TIP:** Remember that you are always welcome to rearrange the meeting elements (i.e. adults may wait until the end of the night for snacks and fellowship, etc.) Do what is going to work best for YOUR group.

### WELCOME/SNACKS 20 minutes

### OPEN (Ice Breakers) 10-15 minutes

**LEADERSHIP TIP:** Ice Breakers are important because they are EASY to respond to for EVERYONE – allowing each person to hear his/her voice in the room, thus leveling the room for everyone.

#### Choose ONE From:

1. Briefly tell the group about a time that you walked into a room, or opened the refrigerator door, etc. and could not recall why you did so (or what you were looking for). (Connects to idea of losing one's purpose.)
2. What is your most common way of dodging issues of Christian discipleship like telling others about the Good News of Jesus? (Examples: claiming I don't understand; saying I don't have time; thinking that others are better at it; just ignoring it; etc.)
3. On Sunday, Pastor Matt shared some of his father-in-law's "Story enhancing phrases." Do you have any such phrases to share with your group? (Example: "She fell for that joke like an egg from a tall chicken!")

### INTERACTION OVER SUNDAY'S TOPIC/MESSAGE 35 minutes

#### LEADERSHIP TIPS:

- Not everyone has to answer every question. Allow some to share. Move on to the next question.
- Quickly review Sunday's bulletin insert with the group as needed.
- Monitor your time.

Choose from among these questions as desired:

1. **Do you agree that most Christians do not regularly share the good news of Jesus with others? If yes, why do you suppose this is the case?** (Examples: Fear of persecution, fear of personal rejection, fear of “not knowing all the answers,” being ashamed to be known as a “Christian”, feeling hypocritical because of inconsistencies in our lives, etc.)

*(If you're really bold, you can ask this question, too.)*

**When was the last time you personally told someone about Jesus?**

2. **Would you say that you typically “play it safe” by not living and speaking in ways that obviously reveal Jesus to others at home, work, in school, in the community?**

**What are the advantages of “playing it safe” by not regularly sharing our faith in Christ with others? What are some potential disadvantages of “playing it safe”?**

3. **Ask a volunteer to read aloud Jesus’ prayer for all of His followers in John 17:15-18:**

*John 17:15-18*

*15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*

**How might Jesus respond to the “play it safe” approach?**

4. **Ask a volunteer to read aloud Titus 2:10:**

*Titus 2:10*

*Guide slaves (employees) to “...not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.”*

**What are some ways that Christians can make the teaching about our Savior “attractive”?** (Example: Being the best employee, student, friend, spouse that one can be; live with integrity; etc.)

**How might we unintentionally make it *unattractive*?** (Example: Being weird, setting a poor example, being easily offended, overspiritualizing everything; etc.)

5. **Pastor Matt told of going to his friend’s house for the purpose of telling him about Christ. He said that although his presentation was flawed, his friend accepted Christ. With whom is God encouraging you to share Christ among your family, friends, coworkers or neighbors?**

**What has prevented you from doing so already?** (For many it’s fear of making the relationship awkward, which explains why it’s generally easier to share Christ with a stranger than with a friend.)

6. **If none of tonight’s dialog has sparked a desire to live “on mission” for Christ, is it possible that you have lost some spiritual fervor that you once had? Or perhaps you’ve forgotten that this is God’s desire for you?**

*(Give folks time to reflect and to respond. For those who have lost spiritual fervor, this would be a great time to move into prayer/ministry.)*

**Invite someone to read the following verses and the group for the purpose of identifying one of the common purposes of the Holy Spirit found in these passages: Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31).**

Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly

*(The Holy Spirit rekindles our spiritual fire and will give us boldness to speak out for Christ; as well as the ability to recall what Jesus taught – see John 14:26.)*

## **GROUP RESPONSE AND PRAYER 10-15 minutes**

### **GENERAL GROUP LEADERSHIP TIPS**

- *Remind the group that this is a time for prayer & ministry; not advice-giving.*

**Choose any of the following.**

#### **1. Where is the Holy Spirit speaking to me about investing my time for the sake of unbelievers?**

**Will I do it?**

*(Example: Engaging more in my neighborhood; joining a community club of some kind; etc.)*

#### **2. Who among our group tonight needs prayer for boldness to live and to speak up for Christ?**

*(Give time for people to respond. Invite anyone who responds to pray aloud for himself or herself, asking God for this boldness. Then invite one or two others to agree with him/her in prayer.)*

*(Someone could also pray Paul's entreaty over them from Colossians 4:3 "that God may open a door for (group member's name) message, so that he/she may proclaim the mystery of Christ" to others.)*

#### **3. Share with the group who you believe God is calling you to share Christ with in the coming days. Record these names and consider partnering with someone else from the group to pray for you in this endeavor and to hold you accountable for following through.**

## **GROUP MISSION MOMENT 5 minutes**

*Say something like: "Let's talk about a way that we can be intentional as a group to serve someone outside of our group. Let's decide on a mission to do together."*

- Take time to look over and to discuss with your group the SAMPLE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES page (attached to the email and included on Page 4).
- *Elicit additional ideas about some ways the group could work together to serve someone else, meet a family's need, etc. Feel free to contact me for ideas, as well.*
- *Make a decision about what the group will do. (Don't put it up for a vote – which creates winners and losers. Strive for a consensus and then just go for it.)*
- *Please inform me as soon as possible of the group's plans to reach out and serve others.*
- *It would be best if the group could plan to carry out this mission in the near future (i.e. during the series), but this is not essential, so long as the group plans to continue meeting together.*

## SAMPLE MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS (2017)

1. Feed the homeless in Downtown RVA on a Saturday ..... Beth Heath [beth.heath22@gmail.com](mailto:beth.heath22@gmail.com) or Wes Monger (804)920-1726 [w\\_m\\_001@yahoo.com](mailto:w_m_001@yahoo.com)
2. Putting together goodie bags and toiletry bags any time of the year – donating them to a shelter or distributing them as desired.
3. Donating canned food items and nonperishables to MCC's food pantry (especially tuna & peanut butter) ..... Richard Wilson [rafuel@comcast.net](mailto:rafuel@comcast.net)
4. Host a harvest festival / block party in a group member's neighborhood on Halloween
5. Volunteer as helpers on Wednesday nights for children's ministries..... Amy Adams [aadams@mccag.org](mailto:aadams@mccag.org)
6. Volunteer one Sunday a month at 11AM in God's Song (a ministry at MCC for special needs children) ..... Susan Kuuskar [skuuskar@mccag.org](mailto:skuuskar@mccag.org)
7. Visit a local nursing home together
8. Visit some of MCC's shut-ins (list available upon email request)..... Carolyn Clark [cclark@mccag.org](mailto:cclark@mccag.org)
9. Prepare some care packages for college dorms
10. Consider serving an individual or family in need that is connected to someone in your group.
11. Feeding the homeless downtown every Sunday morning from 8:15-9:00 am ..... Sandra Bowling [sbowling@mccag.org](mailto:sbowling@mccag.org)
12. Take brownies/cookies to local police stations, fire houses, businesses
13. 2nd and 5th Saturdays handing out bags to the homeless ..... Sandra Bowling [sbowling@mccag.org](mailto:sbowling@mccag.org)
14. 4th Saturdays cooking/serving the homeless downtown ..... Sandra Bowling [sbowling@mccag.org](mailto:sbowling@mccag.org)
15. Thanksgiving Day – Volunteer to serve good at a local shelter/ministry
16. Volunteer to help the Northside Outreach Center (NOC)..... Butch Johnson, 366-1502
17. Help with NOC Christmas Store (early December) by donating toys or volunteering ..... Butch Johnson, 366-1502
18. Do a service project for an elderly person
19. Help out at the Richmond Pregnancy Resource Center ..... (804) 673-2020
20. 5th Saturdays feeding homeless Veterans ..... Misti Birns [texasgrliva60@gmail.com](mailto:texasgrliva60@gmail.com)
21. Group commits to serve together as Ushers one Sunday each month ..... Pastor Dwayne [dmoore@mccag.org](mailto:dmoore@mccag.org)
22. Bless some of 'our own' missionary families through mCare (Missionary Care Ministry) ..... David & Kim Hoyt [mcare@mccag.org](mailto:mcare@mccag.org)
23. Christmas – Prepare goodie bags for homeless people
24. Collect new toys and stuffed animals for New York and the NOC (Nov – Dec) ..... Sandra Bowling [sbowling@mccag.org](mailto:sbowling@mccag.org)