



SMALL GROUPS MISSIONSFEST

WASH AND BE CLEAN

Hebrews 10: 19-25, vv. 22-24 (ESV)

"...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works..."

Last Fall during Missions Week, we had the opportunity to read the Parable of the Fishless Fishermen by John M. Drescher. We were challenged not to think that our holiness and spirituality hinged on how spiritually fat we were, but if we were actually putting into practice all that we have the blessed opportunity to learn.

"Week after week, month after month, and year after year those who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen. Yet... they did not fish."

Did you know that the Western Suburbs of Chicago, specifically Aurora and Wheaton, are considered the second largest resettlement area in the nation? With deep-rooted traditions and religion, people from all over the world are literally in our yards, or backyards! We are seeing that "God is bringing the least-reached to us! More immigrants live in the United States today than ever before; as of 2013, over 41.3 million immigrants were living in the country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And, many of these immigrants have never heard the gospel.¹" As we prepare to interface with a growing population of not just Muslims but every religion, we want you to have some practical tools for getting started in becoming a successful fisherman.

Be bold in sharing with others what it truly means to wash and be clean through the cleansing sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, bridging the gap of eternal life and death that we might know Him.

¹ www.cristar.org/evangelism

6 PRACTICAL TIPS for meeting and reaching out to the least-reached in your neighborhood, workplace or greater community.

Adapted from Cristar.org

- 1 Pray, pray, PRAY! Ask the Lord to guide you to the least-reached individuals and families in your neighborhood. And, ask Him to provide opportunities to interact with those who are open to developing meaningful relationships, and to use you to share the gospel with them.
- 2 Make the most of every opportunity. Keep your eyes and heart open. Sporting events, school functions, the gym, grocery stores, hospitals and doctors' offices, ethnic restaurants, coffee shops and gas stations are just a few of the places where you might encounter least-reached people. Don't be afraid to start a conversation!
- 3 Look into English classes. Many least-reached people in the West are seeking to learn English, which makes English as a second language classes great places to connect with them. Contact World Relief local community colleges or adult education centers to learn how you could assist in teaching or tutoring English, or simply serve as a conversation partner.
- 4 Practice hospitality. Hospitality is of extremely high value in most cultures, and when you show it, you open doors to build relationships through which you can share the gospel. Welcome your least-reached friends into your home, and be willing to accept offers of hospitality in return.
- 5 Build genuine friendships. Relationships require spending time together! Seek ways to be involved in the lives of your least-reached friends, and invite them to be a part of yours. For example, offer a ride if they need one and ask them to join you and your family the next time you go to a sporting event or on a picnic.
- 6 Involve your children. Children catch your attitude and your heart. Encourage them to befriend children from other countries in their school and in your neighborhood. By reaching out to them, your kids can touch an entire families, and open doors for you to do the same.

TAKE TIME TO INTERACT WITH YOUR MISSIONARY

Whether near or far, our missionaries are making the name of Jesus Great among the nations.

Questions for guidance:

1. Update us on your current ministry.
2. What would you say has been one of the more encouraging interactions or experiences you've had recently?
3. Why did you decide to give your life to full time missions?
4. What advice would you give a fellow believer regarding serving in missions right where they are?
5. What are two ways that we can pray for you?

* Please feel free to come up with more questions outside of these!