

F AR SIGHTED

REACHING PEOPLE
WHO ARE FAR FROM GOD

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF OUTREACH
IN OUR CHURCHES AND BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Discussion Questions

These questions are designed to encourage discussion of the ideas found in *Farsighted*. These meetings could take place over coffee, during lunch, or in a living room. One approach would be to read a chapter a week and then meet to discuss the questions connected to the Chapter read.

Introduction

What would you guess to be the percentage of people who are members of your class or church who have not shared with someone about Jesus in the past six months? How does that compare to the percentage pointed to by the author?

Do you think believers see today's culture as more of a time to circle the wagons or an opportunity to reach people who are far from God? Explain.

Do you think we are more focused or less focused on reaching people today than we were ten or twenty years ago? Share the reasons for your response.

What responsibility do we have as a Bible study leader or church leader in setting the culture for your class and church?

Chapter 1

How can a person gauge his or her impact on an organization?

What are the implications of failing to prepare ourselves spiritually as leaders?

What makes a blind spot so difficult to detect? How can God use others to help us find our blind spots?

How have past tests shaped you? What tests might be anticipated when fostering an intentional culture for reaching people far from God?

Why are motives important when it comes to reaching people?

Of the preparation actions listed in chapter 1, which one is the most critical? Explain.

Chapter 2

How would you describe the prayer expressed in your group? What factors might a person use to evaluate the type of prayer emphasized by their group?

To what degree do you agree with the idea that what is talked about reveals what is important?

How do the terms and descriptions used to define people far from God impact a reaching culture?

On a scale of 0 to 10, how would you rate the sense of urgency felt in your group for reaching others? What factors contributed to your rating?

How can your group more clearly define who it is trying to reach?

How would you explain to your group the importance of groups that are ongoing and open?

How does oneness differ from agreement? If you had been the author, what other term may you have used to convey the ideas expressed about oneness?

How would you force rank the factors identified in chapter 2 as indicators of a reaching culture?

Chapter 3

What keeps your group from scheduling a time for reaching others? Which would be more effective for your group, scheduling a specific time for reaching others or keeping the calendar clear of other activities to eliminate potential conflicts? Explain.

How might your group use the resources provided the participants as a tool for reaching people far from God?

Chapter 3 (continued)

How can you use currently planned socials and events as tools for reaching people not involved in a Bible study group?

What action needs to be intentionally tracked to help your group be more reaching focused? How can that action be tracked?

How can you encourage people in your group to share their spiritual stories? How can you be more aware of opportunities to help them share?

What story needs to be told to encourage others to reach out?

What specific action can you take in the next four weeks to foster a reaching culture in your group?

Chapter 4

What other categories of objections would you add to we tried that and it did not work here?

What are the dangers of equating increased attendance with reaching people far from God? How can we put up safeguards that help a group remain focused on reaching people far from God?

How can the three strategies of prayer for new groups help an ongoing group remain open to reaching others?

How might the needs of the post-COVID world open the door to spiritual conversations and create a new need for believers to focus on contacting people far from God?

What other obstructions might we anticipate when fostering a reaching culture?

Challenge

How might Haggai's challenge to the people in Jerusalem resonate with us today?

How can the past or a memory of the past stand in the way of the future?

How can focusing on the future help believers be obedient in the present?