

F AR SIGHTED

REACHING PEOPLE
WHO ARE FAR FROM GOD

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

Support Ideas for Fostering a Culture of Outreach

These suggestions are designed to spark additional ideas for fostering a reaching culture in your church. These ideas would be in addition to conducting the *Farsighted* overview conference and organizing groups to read a chapter a week followed by meeting to respond to the discussion questions. These suggested actions are listed in alphabetical order.

Support Actions

Conduct a Ministry Area Review

Use the process identified in “Know Your Community” (Appendix, pp. 53-58, *Farsighted*) to better understand your ministry area and identify underserved people within that area. After defining underserved groups, assemble a team to develop a plan for reaching the identified group(s), being sure to include the starting of new ongoing Bible study groups designed specifically to reach that group.

Conduct a Who’s Your One Emphasis

Use the resources provided by the North American Mission Board of the SBC to conduct a Who’s Your One emphasis in your church (<https://www.whosyourone.com/>). Who’s Your One challenges people to identify one person they know who is far from God, to pray for them, and to look for opportunities to share Jesus with them.

Create a Church Scorecard

Guide the church to create a scorecard of lead measures that foster a reaching culture. Examples may be number of people with whom we engaged in a spiritual conversation, number of people for whom we prayed for by name who are far from God, number of non-believers involved in Bible study. Lead the group to review *Break Through: Creating a New Scorecard for Group Ministry Success* by Ken Braddy as they consider the creation of a scorecard.

Develop Personal Prayer Disciplines

Focus on your development as a person of prayer. Read books on prayer such as *The Battle Plan for Prayer* by Stephen and Alex Kendrick, *God Do You Hear Me* by Derwin Gray, and *Disciple's Prayer Life* by T.W. Hunt and Catherine Walker. If not already in place, schedule time to pray, protecting it from other activities.

Develop a Leader Training Plan

Using the process outlined in "Six Steps for Building a Training Plan" (Appendix, pp. 59-61, *Farsighted*), develop a training plan for the ongoing Bible study leaders in your church. Be sure to include training on outreach actions and evangelism, giving them priority in the plan.

Establish Goals for Each Group

Develop a one-page worksheet for Bible study groups to establish goals and action plans for the group. Train leaders on how to involve the group in creating these goals. Be sure to include reaching goals in the worksheet using questions that point to who they are trying to reach and actions to take to reach them.

Implement a Prayer Focus for Those Far from God

Incorporate ideas from *It Begins With Prayer* by Dwayne McCrary (free PDFs of this booklet can be secured at lifeway.com/trainingresources), giving attention to praying by name for those who are far from God. Lead your Bible study leaders to develop prayer lists within their groups as well.

Participate in a Personal Renewal Retreat

Schedule time to go on a personal renewal retreat, spending time in prayer and Bible reading. You may provide a time away for leaders within the church to do so as well. One possible resource to use in preparation for this retreat is *Return to Me* by Claude King (available at Lifeway.com).

Reaching Idea Think Tink

Lead the Bible study leaders to create a list of 99 reaching ideas. You may set up a Google doc that allows leaders to add ideas along the way. Encourage leaders to review the list and identify at least one idea to implement every three months.

Schedule Time for Reaching Others

Lead the church to set aside a weekly or monthly time designated for groups and individuals to focus on reaching out to people far from God. Protect this time, not allowing other activities to be scheduled on top of it.

Sermon Series

Preach a sermon series that supports a reaching culture. The focus may be on events in Acts, people brought to Jesus in the Gospels, doctrinal series on salvation using the statements in the BF&M 2000, or Paul's direction to Timothy in 1 and 2 Timothy.

Train Leaders and Others to Share Jesus

Plan, invite, and lead in a time of training for leaders and others in how to share Jesus with someone. Search Lifeway.com for tools that could be used (suggested search phrase "evangelism training") including *Tell Someone* by Greg Laurie and *Share Jesus Without Fear* by William Fay.