

**HEARTBEAT** The heartbeat of this week's study is the call to reach the people God has placed around us. This week we want to consider our need to not only see the people God has placed around us, but to reach them as well. As we said last week, as Midland/Odessa fills with new people, we can curse the traffic, the wait times at restaurants, and an increased crime rate, or we can perceive this increase as an opportunity to reach people for Jesus. To do so we will have to be intentional and that is the heartbeat of this week's discussion.

### GETTING STARTED [15 MINUTES]

#### CHOOSE ONE OR BOTH

- Where did you grow up and in what places did you live before coming to or coming back to this area?
- What is your favorite restaurant in the Permian Basin?

### MID-CITIES DNA [10 MINUTES]

#### CHOOSE ONE

- Do you have a spiritual mentor and how has that relationship helped you grow in Christ?
- In what season of your life have you experienced the greatest spiritual growth and what prompted your growth in that season?

### EXPLORATION [20 MINUTES]

#### CHOOSE 2 OR 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- For you personally, what was the most significant part of Pastor Daniel's sermon this week?

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-20.

- These verses were essentially the parting words of Jesus to his followers. What priorities do these verses establish in the lives of those who would follow Jesus?
- Is there a difference between making disciples and church members? What do you think those differences might be?
- What is the place of the power of the Holy Spirit in making disciples? In what ways can spiritual gifts be exercised to produce faith and an openness to Jesus?
- How can we access that power?

- In your experience, does evangelism and discipleship typically happen accidentally or intentionally? What are some ways in which we can be intentional about reaching someone for Jesus?

## **APPLICATION** [25 MINUTES]

- In your opinion, what things hinder most believers from sharing the gospel with those God places in their lives?
- If we are serious about following Jesus, how can we overcome some of the things that keep us from reaching people?
- What tools, resources, or creative ideas have helped you share the gospel with others?
- How can we in this group help one another reach lost people that God is placing in our lives?

**GROUP CHALLENGE** If you want to overcome the fear of man, meet once a month and pray for God to put a place on your heart to go and then go (in pairs). Once there, ask God to highlight a person or couple for you. Start a conversation with him or her and see if you can discover a prayer need in that conversation. Ask if you can pray for them and then see where things go. Look for a natural opening to share the gospel or build a relationship.

## **MINISTRY TIME** [10 MINUTES]

Please, encourage the exercise of spiritual gifts during your ministry time. Choose one or two of these prayer topics for your ministry time or choose your own prayer format and topics. You may want to break your larger group up into smaller groups of two or three.

- Pray for God to give us a genuine burden for lost people.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to help us overcome our fear of man when it comes to reaching people.
- Pray for any individuals that group members are actively trying to reach now.
- Pray for any specific needs in your group.
- Pray for an increase in gifts of the Spirit when reaching lost people.