

## REACHING YOUR CITY FOR CHRIST

Speak on how to pray strategically for the church to live out the vision to produce the harvest.

## STRATEGY FOR THE HARVEST

Ignite their passion for prayer:

## THE GREAT COMMISSION BEGAN WITH A CITY

The church in a city is like a puzzle.  
The picture is not complete with just one piece of the puzzle.

## ACTS 1:8

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 1:8 NASB

Acts 5:28 - 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have **filled Jerusalem** with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Acts 5:28 (This is the outcome of executing the strategy)

How many of you (don't raise your hands) have prayed for God to send laborers into the harvest?

Acts 26:18  
verses 16-18

Luke 8:39 -Man with demons cast out, naked before clothed and in his right mind after meeting Jesus. He sent him back to his home.

"Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the **whole city** what great things Jesus had done for him.

Acts 13:44 Paul and Silas preaching at Antioch and they're custom was to go to the synagogue on the sabbath and share the gospel. Paul testified the first time and was invited back.

On the next Sabbath almost the **whole city** came together to hear the word of God.

## Acts 19:29

So the **whole city** was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions.

Maybe you prayed that for someone you know personally or a loved one, but what about your city?

## WWJD – TO REACH YOUR CITY

1. Recognize that there is a harvest ready to be picked (once you recognize it then you develop a strategy on how to harvest it.

STRATEGY IS a plan of action designed to achieve an overall aim.

Luke 10:1-2 NKJV

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. <sup>2</sup> Then He said to them, "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray... the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Jesus had a strategy to proclaim the kingdom of God and it included reaching cities.

STRATEGY IS a plan of action or policy designed to achieve a major or overall aim.

## PRAYER IS THE KEY TO SUCCESSFULLY REACHING YOUR CITY

Mark 1:32-38

<sup>32</sup> At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> **And the whole city** was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup> Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

<sup>35</sup> Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to **a solitary place; and there He prayed.** <sup>36</sup> And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. <sup>37</sup> When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." <sup>38</sup> But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, **because for this purpose I have come forth.**

There's a progression of events that takes place from Luke 9, 10 and 11 that results in the Disciples asking Jesus a question.

contains the Lord's prayer and they asked Jesus: LORD - TEAH US HOW TO PRAY

and we see Paul in acts 17 was grieved when he saw that the city of Athens was given over to idols.

Luke 10:2 (NKJV) Send out laborers

<sup>2</sup>Then He said to them, "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Matthew 6: 5-5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen by men.** Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Luke 11:1- 14

### CREATING A CULTURE OF PRAYER

Jesus created a culture of prayer by modeling it

- Acts 1: 4 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- Acts 2: <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.



<sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 17: <sup>6</sup> Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

Henry Blackaby Experiencing God Daily June 30

If you are among people and are unmoved by their spiritual condition, God may develop your love for them so that you are prepared to minister to them as He desires. The next time you are in a crowd, listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying. You may discover that God has much on His heart for those people and that He is waiting for one of His disciples to respond to His prompting.

#### PRAYER BASICS

Matthew 6: 5-5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen by men.** Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, **go into your room**, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Prayer prepares the atmosphere or the soil for the preaching of the word.

(THIS IS A POINT BUT DOESN'T NEED TO BE ON THE SCREEN)

#### Luke 8:39

"Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the **whole city** what great things Jesus had done for him.

#### Acts 13:44

On the next Sabbath almost the **whole city** came together to hear the word of God.

#### Acts 19:29

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Acts 4:23, 29-31

<sup>23</sup> When they had been released, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said,..."

<sup>29</sup> And [n]ow, Lord, take note of their threats, and **grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,** <sup>30</sup> while You **extend Your hand to heal**, and **signs and wonders take place** through the name of Your holy [servant Jesus."

<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness."

Prayer prepares the atmosphere or the soil for the preaching of the word.

#### TEARING DOWN STRONGHOLDS (SLIDE) Doing Spiritual Reconnaissance

Acts 17

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, **his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.** 17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. 18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babblers want to say?"

Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," **because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.**

19 And they took him and brought him to the [h]Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." 21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." 33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.