

PROJECT REACH: LET'S REACH ...HOW?

Community Group Study Questions
Desert View Bible Church

Unless we know who we are, the mission will fail. ~ Sandy Mason

January 16 – January 22, 2012

Overview: We are approaching our 10th anniversary as a church. One of the high points of the last two years has been a commitment to what we call Project Reach. Maybe you are a participant in Project Reach or maybe you have heard about it. It's more than a financial campaign or a new building (but we will be using that building to reach out to the families of our community and church). It represents a commitment to go beyond ourselves and reach our community for Christ. It's an expression of who we are. So this week we look at Project Reach and how it works. This is not an academic study but a call to action. Let's take a look. Let's reach....but, how?

General Question: Have you ever had to build something or try something that was a little (or a lot) out of your skill set or comfort zone? Maybe it was a construction project or maybe it was beginning something that seemed very difficult. What were the circumstances? How did it go? Explain.

Pray: Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to aid you in this study and that you might see Jesus more clearly as a result. He will provide for you.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is "Project Reach"? Why are we doing this? Hint: the Project Reach is featured on our web site (About Us or at Ministries/Community Groups) and on January 15th Sandy preached on "Why we are doing Project Reach". His teaching is on the web site too. So even if you missed Sunday, you can catch up on the why we are engaged in Project Reach. Talk about this. What is it and why are we doing it? Explain.

2. The key passage for this week is I John 4:7-21. Read the passage. It's all about the love of God and that God is love. Love is a major theme of John's inspired writings. What kind of love is being talked about here? And what is "perfect love" spoken of in verse 18? Do you think we understand this love that the passage describes? Can you give examples of this love from your life experience? Explain your answers.

3. Sandy has said that we need to reach out to our community with the love of God. What does that mean? What does the love of God look like to a non-believer? What other passages from the bible can you find to help us understand the love of God? Find at least three.

Personal Application: This week, pray for Project Reach and for at least one person you know whom you might reach with the love of God.

Optional Questions (do only as time permits):

4. "God is love" is a theological concept based on scripture. It is unique to the Christian faith. No other mainstream religion embraces a god who is love. Do some web research or reading on the attributes of god (or gods) in the Jewish faith, the Hindu faith, the Muslim faith, the Buddhist faith. OK, just pick one. What do you find about the extent of their god as a god of love? Explain.