

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

Community Group Study Questions
Desert View Bible Church

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

January 23 – January 29, 2012

Overview: We are in the midst of Sandy's series revisiting Project Reach; our church commitment to reaching our community for Christ. In prior weeks, Sandy talked about the why and how of Project Reach. This week the focus is "who". The answer to this question has a face and probably, you may even know the person's name. The "who" is not an abstraction or a generalization. Or does Sandy mean something else when he asks "who"?

General Question: Do you have a friend that you have known for a long time? We are talking about someone other than your spouse. This is somebody whom you know and who knows you, probably really well. Think back on how you two met. What were the circumstances? How did you two manage to become friends? What was involved in melding you two together? Tell us the story.

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. It is sometimes said that scripture gives the believer three central commandments or directions to focus upon as we go through life in Christ. What are these three? Where in scripture do they occur? Are these three more important than other directions that we see in scripture? See, for example, Hebrews 10:24-25. Explain your answers.

2. The key passage for this week is I John 3:11-13. Read the passage. Study each verse and come up with at least one observation from each verse. How do these observations help us understand whom we are to reach with the love of Christ? Explain.

3. Let's pause for a moment over verse 13 (I John 3:13). "Do not be surprised that the world hates you." What does this mean? Are we to take this verse literally? If so, what does that "hate" look like? Have you seen it in your own walk with the Lord? How do we respond when people who are not believers respond to us with "hate"? Explain.

Personal Application: This week, pray for Project Reach and for at least one person by name that you might reach with the good news of the love of God.

Optional Questions (do only as time permits):

4. Who is our neighbor? I mean, literally at Desert View, who is our neighbor? The people up the hill from the church? How does one identify one's neighbor? Are there individuals who are not our "neighbor" because they are too far away? As a group, make a list of people who are your neighbors. Maybe this becomes part of your prayer list, or maybe even we take some steps to show those people we care. Work on this in your group.