

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, April 28, 2024

**Praying for New Life
A Study of Romans 9:1-3; 10:1**

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Sometimes we need extra motivation to do things, even if we know those things may be “good for us.” Make a list of such things (Example: eating healthy). Explain what people do to motivate themselves to do the right things.

Today we will look at praying for new life. This is part of our series called “Catalyst: Impacting Others Through Prayer.” We’re learning how to pray for others by studying the prayers of Paul. Read Romans 9:1-3 and 10:1.

We probably know we should pray for the lost and talk with them about Christ. But we may need some extra motivation to do it. Let’s look at four motivators and four actions.

Four Motivators

Let’s think of four things that will motivate us to pray for the lost.

First: Think of God’s love for you

Paul describes his heartbreak for the lost in Romans 9-10. It comes right after one of the most joyful descriptions of Christian blessings in Romans 8. When you think of how God loves you, it can motivate you to pray for the lost. What Christian blessings do you have that you wish your lost friends had? List at least 5 before continuing, and explain *why* you think these blessings would benefit your lost friends.

Second: Think of God’s love for others

Read Matthew 9:36-38 and answer these questions: (1) What kind of “harvest” was Jesus thinking about? (2) In verse 36, what motivated him to want workers for this harvest? (3) Why would thinking about **God’s** love for the lost make us more likely to pray and witness than **our** love for the lost?

Third: Think of the human condition

Read Ephesians 2:4-5 and answer the following questions: (1) According to these verses, how serious is the human condition before salvation: running a fever, on life support, or in the morgue? (2) Who suffers this human condition: someone who sleeps around, or someone who is kind to the homeless, or someone who does religious activities, or all of the above?

Fourth: Think of the divine character

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4 and answer the following questions: (1) Paul commands we pray for “all people” in verses 1-2, and then he explains why in verses 3-4. Why does Paul say we should pray for the lost? (2) When you’re praying for what God already wants, how does that make it easier to pray?

Four Actions

The four motivators should lead to four actions.

First: Ask God to open your eyes

Read John 4:35 and answer the following questions: (1) What kind of “harvest” was Jesus thinking of? (2) Jesus commands you to open your eyes to this harvest. Make a list of things that make us unable/unwilling to see that people around us need Jesus.

Second: Ask God to open their eyes

Read Romans 10:1. Now replace “the Israelites” with the name of a lost friend or family member and read the verse again. Ask the group to help you pray for this friend or family member to commit to Christ. (If you need motivation to lift up this prayer, review the “Four Motivators” above.)

Third: Ask God to help you do your part

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 and answer the following questions: (1) What is an ambassador? (2) If Christians are Christ's ambassadors, what's our job? (3) What is keeping you from being an ambassador to your lost friends and family, and how can you improve?

Fourth: Ask God to scale up this process

In the business world, a start-up company looks for ways to scale up. This means they look for ways of getting more people on board (customers, investors, employees, etc.) As we begin working as Christ's ambassadors, we will also ask God to "scale up" this process. In other words, we will pray for ***other Christians*** to serve as Christ's ambassadors, too. (1) If we started praying this for this Bible study group in our church, what changes could we see? (2) Why would this be an important thing to pray for our church's leaders? (3) There are ministries and missions organizations that work hard to be Christ's ambassadors here and around the world. In what ways could we pray for them?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests