

OPEN IN PRAYER

REFLECT

Pastor Steve Sjogren in his book Conspiracy of Kindness writes:

“God is seeking to enter the heart of every person on this planet, but He faces a significant obstacle to his ‘conspiracy.’ The problem has never been the message; we have that straight, for the most part. Neither is God’s problem the lack of an audience; plenty of people need to hear good news. His problem is the reluctant army he calls the Church. God is looking for people who are willing to participate in acts of love and kindness to those outside of their present circle. He is looking for people who believe that a humble demonstration of love plants a seed of eternity in the hearts of others that will blossom into faith in Christ.”

The greatest gift you can give to people around you is introducing them to the God who created them, who loves them, and who has a purpose for their lives. Take a moment and reflect on who shared the love and hope of Jesus Christ with you.

SHARE YOUR STORY

(Have several persons in your group share how they came to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.)

STUDY GOD’S WORD: Read Colossians 3:12-17

Pay special attention to verse 17. How can you better use your “words” and “deeds” to lead others to Jesus?

- **WORDS OF LOVE:** *Who do you need to **speak** to this week about the love of Jesus? (What does Col. 3:12-17 teach us about what we need to say to others?)*
- **DEEDS OF LOVE:** *What do you need to **do** this week to show the love of Jesus? (What does Col. 3:12-17 teach us about how we should act towards others?)*

The **Institute For American Church Growth** asked over 10,000 people this question: "What was responsible for your coming to Christ and this church?" Their replies were:

- I had a special need: 3%
- I just walked in or visited: 4%
- I liked the minister: 6%
- I liked the classes or programs: 8%
- A friend or relative invited me: 79%

The obvious point of the survey is this: If churches are to grow, it will be through the efforts of individual members. Preachers, programs, classes may help, but in most cases they will only maintain the size of the congregation, but real growth comes through personal evangelism. Real growth comes from people who speak and act in the name of Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pray specifically that this week each member will reach out to people who are far from God. Pray specifically for friends and family who do not know the love and hope of Jesus Christ.