

WEEK 3: MAKING PLANS

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Our theme for this year's *Prosper the City* campaign is "Love Your Neighborhood". Your group will take three weeks to plan a service project on the fourth week so someone who lives in your neighborhood can experience Jesus.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Bibles
- Printed Discussion Guides
- T-Shirts
- Adhesive Easel Pad
- Markers

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for your group
- Read through the Discussion Guide
- Refreshments (optional)
- Clean meeting area
- Clean bathroom
- Crack front door

OPENING (5 MIN)

After a general welcome, say: Okay, friends, let's pray and then we'll get started.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer.

COUNTING THE COST (10-15 MIN)

After a prayer, say: Before we get into today's discussion, let's give Jesus an opportunity to speak on the matter.

CAN SOMEONE READ LUKE 14:28-33 ALOUD FOR US?

DO ANY OF YOU HAVE A PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF SIGNING UP FOR SOMETHING OR COMMITTING TO SOMETHING AND NOT REALIZING HOW COSTLY IT WOULD BE?

After the reading, say: In this teaching, Jesus stresses the importance of counting the cost before following him, but it can apply to our project as well. Today, we're going to make plans!

HOW DO THESE CONCEPTS INFLUENCE OUR PROSPER THE CITY PROJECT?

After a discussion, say: Thanks be to God that Jesus counted the cost to deliver us and still gave his life to save us. In response, we give our lives that others might know him.

DETAILS (15-20 MIN)

Partner off into four groups. I'm going to give you and your partner(s) an area of responsibility. You'll take five minutes to brainstorm and write down everything we need to organize or plan for that area of responsibility:

SCHEDULE

What's happening when for our project?

Is there a schedule for the day(s)?

INVITES

Who and how should we invite others (family, friends, city leaders) to be a part of this project?

SUPPLIES

What do we need to make this project happen?

JOBS

What are the roles for this event we need to assign?

Start a timer for 5 minutes and say, "Go!" Remember, your positive energy sets the tone for the rest of the room.

While the groups are talking, tear off 2 separate sheets from the easel pad. Draw a horizontal and vertical line to divide the sheets into quarters and write on the top of each section one area of responsibility, (SCHEDULE, INVITES, SUPPLIES, JOBS) respectively.

Once the timer rings say: I'm going to record the basics of your details on the easel pad. Afterwards we'll assign someone to be responsible for the idea.

WHAT DID YOU COME UP WITH IN YOUR GROUPS?**CAN THE REST OF THE TEAM THINK OF ANYTHING MISSING FROM THIS LIST?**

Write down any amendments or additions on the easel pad sheets.

ASSIGNMENTS (5 MIN)

LET'S ASSIGN THESE TASKS OUT! I'LL PUT AN INITIAL NEXT TO EACH TASK WE CAME UP WITH, EITHER FOR NOW, OR FOR THE DAY-OF.

Write down the initials of who's responsible next to each assignment.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE NEED TO TALK THROUGH BEFORE OUR EVENT?**CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: That's everything, friends. Next time we get together it will be for our project. We'll pray in just a minute but first, we have T-shirts!

Host, hand out T-shirts.

Let's close things out with prayer—

ARE THERE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS TODAY?

Host, ask the group if there's a volunteer to pray.