

COACHING TIPS:

Tip #2: Praying

BIBLE VERSES:

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:35-38



Intro: Remember, this is to help you to start thinking through what it means to have spiritual conversations with people you come into contact with. Going through this doesn't mean that you will, all of a sudden, have meaningful conversations that will turn into evangelism opportunities. But, this will help you to look at the world around you differently - to go deeper with people. And God-willing, if the opportunity presents itself, to be equipped and confident to have a deeper conversation with another.

These coaching tips are also about practicing as well. Don't just read the coaching tips and move on. Try to practice it in your everyday. Talk with your fellow GC brothers and sisters about what you've been struggling with or succeeding in. Encourage one another as you do life together.

**PRAYER HELPS
US NOTICE
WHERE GOD IS AT
WORK.**

"BEFORE WE CAN TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD, WE NEED TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE."

-Rick Richardson

After you notice another, what happens next? Where do you go from there?

In the book *Practicing the 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations*, the authors talk about praying for whoever you noticed. And there's an important reason why you start with prayer - as you pray for someone, it opens your eyes to see where God is at work. And once you start praying for someone, God begins to change your heart toward that person. Also, the prayer helps deepen the way we observe those around us.

However, just initially praying for someone you noticed isn't the only type of praying we are to do. Prayer also helps us as we share about God with others. Changing the heart is a very difficult thing to do. And prayer helps us to realize that God is the only one who can change hearts and lives. Even if we are gifted to speak and defend the faith well, we are not the Savior. Only Jesus is. And so, prayer is coming into dependence upon Jesus as the only One who saves.

As one author put it, even though a hammer can't dent the soil, the gentle rain will loosen it. So, prayer is like the gentle rain that loosens the rock hard clod of soil. Therefore, as author Rick Richardson writes, prayer is this: "before we can talk to people about God, we need to talk to God about people."

Praying for others means that you are willing to lift them up to God. Through prayer, we are submitting to God's will - to see how God is working or can work in others' lives and you are willing to be a part of that. Some examples of prayers could be as simple as "Father, give my neighbor your peace today." Or, "God, give the grocery checker an extra boost of energy today and may he have the joy of knowing you."

Here's the important thing for all of us to remember: when we pray specifically and personally for another, our prayers become purposeful - our interest and investment in another's life grows and we become more compassionate towards them.

So, here are three questions you can ask God in prayer:

1. God, where are you at work?
2. God, what does this person need right now?
3. How can I invite this person to experience Jesus in a fresh way?

PRACTICE: DEVELOPING HEALTHY SPIRITUAL RHYTHMS

1. Try praying for people you notice while shopping or while taking a walk. What was that like? Jot down your observations.
2. Spend at least a few minutes per day asking God the above 3 questions in prayer about someone you've noticed.
3. Share during Schedule C with your GC about the people you prayed for. Share what you observed about yourself - were you able to pray for someone? Not able?