

COUNTER CULTURE

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

February 4, 2018

INSTRUCTIONS

- As we learn from Scripture how we should live in a world that rejects Christ, it will be helpful for every family to talk about how they can live for Christ in their specific situations.
 - How can you live for Christ at your workplace or school?
 - What does that mean to be a witness for Christ in your family and your extended family?
 - How should adults live for Christ in a world that rejects Christ?
 - How should youth or children live for Christ in a world that rejects Christ?
- Our goal is that every family will have a one-hour discussion each week about these issues during this six week sermon series.

Week #5: We Must Pray For Our Lost World

(Read Daniel 9:3-19)

Ice Breaker

- What is something in our world that needs change?
What solutions can you come up with?

Digging into the Word

- What was Daniel's solution as he considered the broken state of his people? (v. 3) How does your response compare when you hear news reports and stories testifying to the brokenness of our world today?
- In Verse 4, Daniel recalls God's covenant and character from Deuteronomy 7:9. Read this verse, how does this truth change the way we can respond to the lost world around us?
- Daniel continues by confessing the sin of his people in six different ways. (v. 5-6) If you were the one praying, what are some phrases that you would use to describe and confess the sin of our generation?
- Throughout Daniel's prayer we see a cycle of two types of confession: God's character and Israel's sin. Re-read through the rest of the prayer (v. 7-19) and take note or underline each characteristic that describes God. How would lives change if we experienced God in these ways?

Intersecting Scripture with Life

- What has kept you from praying intentionally for our lost world?
- What lies do you hear/believe about the effectiveness of praying for our lost world?
- How do you (individually and as a family) take the first step in participating in the transformation of our lost world through prayer?
- As a family begin your prayer journey by creating a specific list to use as you pray for our lost world. There are many options, consider: world leaders by name (both in the church and the world), specific sinful attitudes or actions as discussed above, and the truth of scripture that we need illuminated in our lives.

Tips or questions to help children engage in discussing this topic...

POPSICLE PRAYERS

Teaching our children to look beyond themselves to a world that is lost and dying without Jesus can be challenging. It takes encouragement and practice to teach them to see a world that needs Jesus. We can begin by teaching them to pray for others.

Try making Popsicle Prayers with your elementary or preschool child to help them get in the habit of looking beyond themselves and praying for others.

You will need: large craft sticks, markers, a container (for example: a mason jar, small flower pot, tin can or small bucket) and items to decorate the container with, such as stickers, scrapbook paper, construction paper, washi tape or paints etc.

Help your child decorate the container. It can be as fancy or as simple as they like. You may even want to include a few verses about prayer on the outside of the container. Some great verses to use are I John 5:14, Philippians 4:6-7, Jeremiah 29:12 or Matthew 5:44.

Once your container is decorated, take the large popsicle sticks and help them write things to pray for each one. Some suggestions are friends, family members, city and state officials, neighbors, missionaries, etc. Be sure to keep blank popsicle sticks handy for people who need to be added to the popsicle prayers.

Place the popsicle sticks in the container and set it in a special place where you can pray together as a family, such as the kitchen table or your child's nightstand. Let your child choose 1-2 popsicle sticks each night and pray for what is written on each one. Be sure to talk with your child about who you are praying for and how you can pray specifically for that person. Repeat this daily until the jar is empty, then refill the container and start over.

Tips or questions to help youth engage in discussing this topic...

- In Chapter 9, Daniel confesses the sin of Israel and asks for forgiveness for his country. What are some things that we as a country need to confess to God?
- If we confess our sin as a country, what actions should we take as individuals to help our country repent?
- We know that God is all knowing. He knows our thoughts and actions. Why then, do you think it is important for us to confess our sins to God, if he already knows we've sinned?