



How To Choose An Outreach Project For Your Group

Purpose:

To cultivate the compassion of Jesus in our hearts and bless others in his name (see Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:30-27). The Bible discussions we have together are meant to “thoroughly equip us for every good *work*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Outreach *demonstrates* the Gospel, giving us opportunities to *declare* the gospel.

Practical Steps:

1. **Pray** regularly as a group. This seems obvious, but as we seek Him together the Lord changes our hearts and provides avenues for compassionate service. In this way the commandment to serve others will not be burdensome (see 1 John 5:3).
2. **Live-Work-Play**. Who has God placed in your life where you live, work, and play? Develop a manageable list as a group, pray for them, build relationships with them (personally at first, then as a group), care for practical needs as you become aware of them, and initiate spiritual conversation as you have opportunity. This can be an ongoing emphasis of your group.
3. **Community Service Projects**. Here are some options for your group to explore, discuss, and pray about:
 - Partner with **CrossCity Missions** to serve at local outreach events. Check out <http://crosscitygps.com/> for upcoming opportunities.
 - Partner with **Serve Fresno**. You can research service opportunities by projects or by partner organizations; go to <http://servefresno.org/> for more details.
 - Serve schools and/or neighborhoods through **Every Neighborhood Partnership**; go to <http://everyneighborhood.org/volunteer/> for more details.
4. **Narrow your focus**. Try different approaches and ministries. Over time, look for the Lord to give you His compassion for meeting the needs of a particular group of people in a specific way. It may involve your whole group, just a few of you, or just you at first—until you are joined by others with a similar desire.

Plan: Three 10 week cycles each year

- Fall, Winter Spring
- Implement Prayer and Live-Work-Play on an on ongoing basis
- Include one SERVE experience in each cycle