



Bearing Witness

Starting Practice

Bearing witness is proclaiming the reality of the kingdom of God by reflecting the truth and love of Christ in both word and deed.

Peer Connections: Practice being more present in your local community and, once a day, pray for three people around you who do not know Jesus.

1. Be Present

Learn the names of three people you regularly intersect with in your local community who don't know Jesus (i.e. your place of work, sports teams, gym, neighbors). If you aren't involved in your local community outside of church, consider how you can be more present and available in your local community (taking classes at a community center, joining a gym, attending free library events, joining a sports team, finding and joining an interest/meetup group).

2. Pray

Pray for those three people by name daily. Pray for them to know and experience God's love. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain attentive and available to them, and to grow within you a heart of curiosity and care.

Community and Poverty: Commit to learning about and praying about poverty in your local community.

1. Learn

Spend some time researching San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, and identify poverty pockets close to you. You may find it helpful to look at specific demographic data on poverty and wealth in the Bay Area, such as the data compiled by CAP-SV (Coalition Alleviating Poverty in Silicon Valley) in ArcGIS StoryMaps. As you look at the data, begin to make observations, and take note of what surprises you.

2. Pray

Ask the Lord to give you His eyes and His heart for your community. Pray for people in poverty in your area, and for opportunities to build intentional relationships with them. Consider going on a prayer walk, perhaps even inviting someone else to join you, through a poverty pocket or neighborhood that is close to you. As you walk through the neighborhood, take some time to just observe and pray. Pray for homes (families), schools, businesses as you walk by them.



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Stretch Practice

Bearing witness is proclaiming the reality of the kingdom of God by reflecting the truth and love of Christ in both word and deed.

Peer Connections: Take time, once a month, to more intentionally get to know someone you regularly intersect with who may not know Jesus (i.e. a neighbor, coworker, teammate, friend).

Share Life Together - Pray for and pursue opportunities to get to know this person better. Practice bearing witness in love, word, and deed through table-welcome - invite them out to coffee or over for a meal. Ask them about and make plans to explore one of their hobbies, interests or activities with them. Plan a get together (i.e. dinner, game night, craft night, happy hour) where you intentionally bear witness in community by inviting a mixture of friends from church and friends who don't know Jesus.

1. Practice Curiosity - Seek to maintain a posture of genuine curiosity - paying attention, listening well, and asking good questions. Begin by simply asking the about the things you observe and learn as you spend time with them. Remember, it's less about saying the "right" thing or asking the "right" question, and more about getting to know the person in front of you! Be open, too, to opportunities to share some of your own story, and in doing so, bear witness to the reality of the kingdom of God.

Consider using phrases that express curiosity, like: "I'm wondering..." "I couldn't help noticing..." "Tell me a little bit about..." "Can I ask you about..." Consider, also, asking questions that might lead to deeper conversation: What things are currently bringing you joy? What challenges or struggles are you currently facing? Who is someone that has had a big influence on your life? What is one thing you dream or wonder about?

Community and Poverty: Commit to regularly serving (weekly, monthly, etc.) with a non-profit organization that is working to alleviate poverty in your local community as a way of bearing witness to the kingdom of God in love and deed.

1. Prayerfully Engage - Take some time to research some of the non-profits in your neighborhood or city that are helping to alleviate poverty. Pick a non-profit that is close to you or that aligns with your unique skills/interests and sign up for a volunteer event or call/email to ask what kind of support they need. If you are not sure where to start, consider exploring some of the CPC local outreach opportunities (cpc.org/missions).

2. Be Present - As you serve, be attentive and available to the work of the Holy Spirit. Pray for curiosity, humility, sensitivity, and compassion toward others. Focus on building relationships with those you are serving, as well as those you are serving alongside.