

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: What About Bob?
Message Title: Pray for Bob
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: October 22, 2017

UP NEXT

- **THE HALLOWEEN BASH - Next Saturday, October 28th** from 3:00pm-5:00pm at Reality Church. See you all there.
- **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** - Our church is a collection site for OCC boxes in our area...and we've got two ways that you can get involved! One is by filling a shoebox and dropping it off on November 12th. The second way to get involved is to sign up as a volunteer to help collect the donations, count and pack them. You can volunteer on the *Events Tab* at **reality.church**.

MAIN IDEA

Prayer kills Prejudice

INTRODUCTION

- Last week we started learning about *BOB* (the people close to you who do not *Believe* the same things that you do about God or they don't feel like they would *Belong* when they think about attending church). We all have many Bob's around us. At work, at school, in our neighborhood, on our street, at the grocery store, and for many, even in our own homes.

DISCUSSION

- Let's look at a chart created by Thom Rainer in his book '*The Unchurched Next Door*' which breaks down the unchurched people in America by their attitude toward the church.

CATEGORY	ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHURCH	% of AMERICANS
U5	Antagonistic - " <i>Religion is okay for the weak-minded</i> "	5%
U4	Resistant - " <i>Just what is Truth?</i> "	21%
U3	Neutral - " <i>Church is just not my thing</i> "	36%
U2	Friendly - " <i>Jesus is just alright with me</i> "	27%
U1	Very Friendly - " <i>What must I do to be saved</i> "	11%

- Based on this scale, where would you put the people around you? Your neighbors, your boss, your hairdresser, your family, etc. (are they mainly U4s, or U3s, etc.?)
- Now that you've all done a fantastic job of categorizing the people you know (which can be helpful), it is important to realize that is not our goal as Christians to categorize people and their attitude toward the church. Simply put, our responsibility is to share with others what God has done for us and what Jesus can do for them.
 - It's not even really our job to move someone from a U5 to a U4. We are to simply Love God and Love Others well.

- Have someone read the following [\(Colossians 4:3-6\)](#)
- Paul, who wrote this letter, is encouraging the Colossians to remain steadfast in prayer. What might it look like for us to live a lifestyle of constant prayer?
- Why does Paul encourage the readers to add to their prayers, thanksgiving? What is the danger to practicing continuous prayer with no thanksgiving?
- In Verse 3, Paul asks for prayer for “us” (presumably Paul and Timothy). The prayer is that God would open a door for the word. Quite literally, Paul wanted a door opened because he was in prison during the writing of this letter (see 4:3, 4:10 & 4:18).
 - While we are not imprisoned for our faith, what would praying for an ‘open door’ to share the gospel of Jesus look like for us today?
 - If the term ‘mystery of Christ’ is bothering you, check out [Colossians 1:26-27](#).
- According to verse 5, what does it mean to ‘walk in wisdom’? This could mean that we are careful not to live in such a way that would make it difficult for us to share the gospel. It could also mean that we should be alert and ready for the opportunities God sends our way. However, it could also simply mean we should just be honest, hard-working, quality people who don’t give Jesus a bad name.
 - It’s been said that God’s written a love letter on our hearts and we publish it every day by the way we live towards others.
- How should we have grace in our speech? Can you fake this? Or must it reside in your heart?
- Why should our speech be ‘seasoned with salt’? There are many theological answers to this verse but I’m reminded of a place called Luby’s down South. It’s a cafeteria style place favorited by senior citizens. Because of this their food (while very good) was always a little bland. They let the patrons season their own food to their own taste, their own interpretation. I think what Paul was saying is “Don’t be like Luby’s. Don’t put a bland message out there that is left open for others’ interpretation. Rather season your message yourself so that it tastes great and then when you share it, others will appreciate it all the more.”
- Here is a simple prayer you can pray for the BOBs in your life. **“Lord, open a door for me, open their heart to hear, and open my mouth to speak.”**
- Here are some deeper prayers to pray for the BOBs in your life:
 - Pray that you could find common ground with your neighbors.
 - Pray that you could build a genuine and authentic relationship with them.
 - Pray that you would be part of God’s work in bringing them to Christ.
 - Pray that if they don’t have a church, that they would become part of Reality Church.
 - Pray that you would get an opportunity to invite them to our church. *(If they have little kids, The Bash is perfect!)*
 - Pray that God would draw them to Jesus if that hasn’t happened yet.

APPLY IT

- **See Bob** *(notice people)*
- **Pray for Bob** *(there are no longer “those people”)*