



PRAY! PRAYING FOR A PERSON OF PEACE

Often, when we join God in what He is doing, there is a great harvest. While on the mission field, one of the ways to see where God is working is to find a Person of Peace. A Person of Peace is the doorway into the surrounding community.

As you go, one of the most important things to do is to pray for a "Person of Peace." Here's what that means: When Jesus sent his disciples out as missionaries, he told them to look for a "Person of Peace." He told them, "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' If a Person of Peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house" (Luke 10:5–7) Jesus simply tells his disciples what to do. He doesn't explain why. But when we look at examples from the rest of the

New Testament (examples like Zaccheus, Cornelius, Lydia, the Gadarene demoniac and the Samaritan woman at the well), the "Person of Peace" is someone God has prepared, in advance, to receive both the messenger and the message. This person opens the door to their own network of friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers.

A Person of Peace has three consistent characteristics:

Receptive

A Person of Peace is an unbeliever who has been prepared by the Holy Spirit. He always welcomes the messenger and is open to the Gospel.

When you find the spiritually hungry and prepared people, you have found “good soil” that He has prepared for an abundant harvest. Now you are on God’s agenda.

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Reputation

A Person of Peace is well-known in his community, whether for good or for bad. Some Biblical examples had good reputations, like Cornelius (Acts 10) Others were well-known for their bad reputations, like the woman at the well (John 4) and the Gadarene demoniac (Mark 5) Yet when each accepted Christ, their character was radically changed. God gained the glory for this transformation.

Influential

As the others watch the life transformation begin, they are drawn to the reason for the change. A Person of Peace is willing to introduce his or her circle of influence to Christ. They tell others about the great things Jesus has done for them.

A Biblical Example... Lydia

Lydia was a Gentile worshipper of God. She heard the truths spoken by Paul, and the Lord opened her heart. Not only did she believe, but as a woman of influence, she brought her whole household to believe. Then she opened her home to Paul and his team. (Acts 16:14-15)

A Modern Day “Lydia”

An e3 team in Slovenia met a woman who lived in the village where they were planting a new church. The team traveled for an hour each way to get to that village. This gracious woman invited the team to stay in her home. The next day she accepted Christ. She was a Muslim fortune-teller who read tea leaves and coffee grounds to predict the future. Through her circle of influence, 21 people received Christ. They started a house church in her home. After reading the story of Lydia in the Bible, this woman renamed

herself “Mama Lydia.” Finding a Person of Peace is the key to establishing the work in a particular area, as in the case of Mama Lydia. It has been found that when a new church is built along natural friendships and family lines, the “Body” grows more quickly and often makes a greater impact than groups that do not share the same natural relationships.

So, as you go into a new neighborhood, God has been there before you. You are looking for the “Person of Peace” that God has prepared. As you go, pray that the Lord will bring you to a Person of Peace to help start a new church. We'll talk more about what to do once you find these special people.