

# ENGAGE MISSIONALLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

## MOBILIZE THE BODY TO TRANSFORM THE COMMUNITY



### NEIGHBORING

Where we live is no accident. We are called to steward our lives well and investing in those who live next door to us is one of the most practical ways to love our community.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How are you encouraging your group to engage with your neighbors?
- Can you name your neighbors?
- Do you know ways to pray for your neighbors?
- Have you had spiritual conversations/shared your faith with your neighbors?
- Ask your group how you can pray for/encourage one another to take steps towards knowing and connecting with your neighbors better.

#### NEXT STEPS AND RESOURCES:

- Visit [watermark.org/neighborings](http://watermark.org/neighborings) to find messages, resources, and blogs to spur your group on in this area.
- As a group, pray through ways you can be creative in loving your neighbors that contextually makes sense for you. Ex: caring for your neighbor's kids, using your giftedness to serve those on your block, throwing an outdoor block party, inviting them into your home, making them meals, etc.

### WORK

Those employed outside the home spend most waking hours at work. Therefore, it is one of the primary opportunities to be "missionally engaged."

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Does your group believe that God cares about their work?
- Do you view work as one of the primary places God shapes us and wants us to shape others? How is that happening for members in your group?
- Does the way you work honor others and ultimately the Lord?
- How are you investing in your co-workers faithfully?
- When is the last time you had a meaningful conversation with someone at work?
- Are there ways you could serve the community through your work?

#### NEXT STEPS AND RESOURCES:

- Visit [watermark.org/work](http://watermark.org/work) to explore work resources and to stay up-to-date on ways to grow and be equipped for ministry in the workplace.

### CITY

Missional engagement doesn't end in our neighborhoods or at our workplace. As Christ followers, we are to pray and work for the peace of our city by both proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel.

### We corporately serve our city through several impact areas:

- Anti-Sex Trafficking – Ministry to current and former sex-industry survivors
- Community Development – Focused community strategies to tackle systemic challenges
- Health – Meeting health and wellness needs in the community through our urgent care clinics
- Life initiative/Family Restoration – Pro-life activities helping form and strengthen families
- Local International – Loving and serving the international people here in DFW
- Mentoring – Seeking life change through relationships
- Poverty Alleviation/Homelessness – Caring for those who are homeless and at risk
- Prisons – Ministry to current and former prisoners
- Schools – Partnering with schools and teachers to serve the community

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Has each member in your group identified their gifts/passions/talents and considered how those are being deployed to serve others?
- What are next steps you can take to begin serving in this area?
- Where do you feel stuck or potentially overwhelmed in engaging those around you? How can your community encourage you in that?

#### NEXT STEPS AND RESOURCES:

- Visit [watermark.org/city](http://watermark.org/city) to explore each of these impact areas more in-depth, learn about ministry partners, and to explore ways to get involved in each of these areas

## GLOBAL

The call to go and make disciples extends to the ends of the earth.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Has your group ever considered serving the international community right here in DFW?
- What are ways you can connect with the international community around you?
- Has your group ever considered taking an international trip together with Watermark?

#### NEXT STEPS AND RESOURCES:

- Visit [watermark.org/international](http://watermark.org/international) to learn more about engaging with international people locally or traveling overseas with Watermark

## PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

- A great “first-step” for groups is signing up for our monthly Straightforward Service email, at [tinyurl.com/stfwdserve](http://tinyurl.com/stfwdserve)
- Talk about each person’s place of service often. Make this a regular conversation, like spiritual growth or marriage health.
- Process with your group which one of the above categories you might want to learn more about/get involved in.
- Get to know each-other’s strengths and weaknesses to discern “fit” for areas of service.
- Encourage each other often- exhort each other in going deeper with service, not necessarily adding more to your plate, but being more present and engaged where you already are.
- Equip each other on current topics and ways to serve the community (talk about the why behind service).
  - Come once a month with a “current issue” or “cause” to learn about as a group
  - Go through “When Helping Hurts: The Small Group Experience” together as a group.
- Consider serving together...but contextualize it to your life-stage and group!
  - Ex: If you have young kids, consider how you all could take time as families to serve your neighborhood or host a dinner party for your co-workers and friends.
- For more information on all of this, you can watch a message on being “externally focused” at [watermark.org/messages/6423](http://watermark.org/messages/6423)