



Experiments In Moving Faith Beyond the Four Walls of a Building.

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Exercise 1: Immersion Stations

Prep Work Required: Approx. 30 minutes

Cost of Activity: Approx. \$5.00 or less

Length of Time: Min. 4 mins Max. 1 hr.

POSSIBLE MATERIALS

- Recent editions of your local newspaper
- Specific sections removed from your local phone book (Suggestions: child care facilities, churches, care homes, government offices, hospitals, non-profit organizations, parks, physicians, schools, senior citizen residences, etc.)
- Photos or video footage of your city and/or its residents
- Directories of local school staffs, fire department personnel, military members etc. printed from directories or websites
- Calendars of community events printed from local visitor's bureau or city website
- Any memorabilia that represents industries (automobile, for example) on which your community depends

SUMMARY

One of the major themes in Jesus' life was to "be where the people were." From being named Emmanuel (meaning 'God with us'), to being born to both sheep herders and foreign dignitaries; from recruiting disciples as he walked along the Sea of Galilee to riding a colt down crowd-lined streets at Passover, Jesus spent a significant part of his life immersed in public space.

While there are a few occasions when Jesus drew people to a stationary place where he was teaching (for example, a synagogue or hillside), the great majority of people who Jesus interacted with met him as he walked through communities.

Our goal is to follow the example of Jesus in becoming more immersed in our communities, more aware of the need present in them, and more intentional about responding to that need. As we begin this journey, we start simple. Without leaving the comfort of your building, we'll intentionally set aside some time to ask God to immerse our hearts in his desires for our community.

INSTRUCTIONS

① Create several table-based stations to display the images, information and memorabilia related to your surrounding community. These items will serve as inspiration to pray for various parts of your town or city.

To present the information in an appealing way, you might consider using tablecloths, framing certain information or showcasing it in folders.

② Mark off a specified amount of time during a gathering for people to visit the stations, gather some information about the city and return to their seats or another designated area to pray for your community.

You may want to arrange for music to be played gently in the background to help them ease into reflection smoothly.

③ Encourage your people to let their mind and God's spirit direct their thinking as they pray. They do not, for example, need to pray through a phonebook list A to Z, but as they are scanning their material, certain headlines or images may bring certain people, groups or issues to their mind that prompts prayer. For example, they may see a list of hospitals on a phonebook page and be reminded of the people, in real-time, who are hurting in a local hospital and of the local hospital staff trying to serve them.

④ Invite the people to take their resource home and use it as a reminder to pray throughout the week. Also suggest that in the future, when looking at a phonebook or newspaper, that these visuals can serve as a reminder to immerse themselves in community.

Optional: Open the floor, when appropriate, for people to share their thoughts and prayers. Or allow them to share back on an organizational website or social network.

Please note: The first exercise is purposefully designed to be comfortable and preparatory, so that in future activities, group members are ready to engage their community in deeper and more challenging ways.

Other churches/groups are welcome to participate. Please have them contact Sarah via the links below.

SHARE & SHOW SOME LOVE



We are developing a resource based on these activities. Please share back your experience to Sarah at [sarahraymond cunningham \(at\) gmail \(dot\) com](mailto:sarahraymond cunningham@gmail.com). Feel free to include pictures.



www.sarahcunningham.org



@sarahcunning



Books:
[*Dear Church* \(Zondervan '06\)](#)
[*Picking Dandelions* \(Zondervan '10\)](#)



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