



**ENABLING
RURAL CHURCHES
IN GOD'S MISSION**

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Regional Hub – Session 1

Coming Together

Grab a drink and some cake and say hello.

Intro & Rural Missions update

Welcome to your first Regional Hub session as part of the Rural Missions Network. At Rural Missions, our 'vision' is to see Christians sharing God's love in their rural communities. They will be people engaged with and in their local area, and with a heart to serve the wider community. Their mission will be to show God's love for all and to share the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ.

You are all here today because you have a desire and heart to see your communities transformed by the love of Jesus and this is a space to explore what that looks like together, with others from your local context.

During our time together today, we will aim to get to know each other, to share our hopes for the communities that we are a part of, the challenges we face as we engage with our community and what opportunities we have to start engaging with those who don't yet know Jesus.

This is a space where you can share your experiences of mission in your local context, a space where you can learn from others and inspire and support one another.

Devotion

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.” Romans 10:1

Take a moment to answer two questions in your head. One, what do you want most for others? Two, what do you pray for others?

The apostle Paul provides his answers to these questions. His heart’s desire and his prayer was that his people, the Israelites, would be saved. His desire was so great that he experienced sorrow and anguish over their spiritual condition (Romans 9:1-3).

We often lack the passion and prayer that Paul possessed. We can be honest about that, but we don’t have to stay that way. Prayer is key.

- Do you spend much time praying for those who don’t yet know Jesus within your local community?
- Take a moment to think of a specific person in your community that you could pray for this week.

Take a Step

Each day this week, ask God to give you a heart that passionately desires for others to know Jesus Christ. Pray for others to come to faith through your influence.

Good News Reports

We want to start our discussion time by hearing what God is already doing in our communities, how are you seeing God move? Does anyone have any good news, big or small, they would like to share from their time spent engaging with their community?

Breakout Discussion

Break into groups of about 3, ideally partnering with people from different churches or communities to discuss the questions below.

- When you think about your local context, what challenges come to mind?
- In your local community what opportunities are there for you to start to engage with those who don't yet know Jesus?
- In your mission to your local community what is working and is there anything you are struggling with?
- How can we support and encourage one another in this?

Feedback

Did anything from your breakout discussion groups stand out that you would like to share with the whole group?

Pray

Take some time to pray with one another. This is a time to thank God for all He is doing in your local context and pray for wisdom in how to approach the challenges and opportunities that you discussed earlier.

Share any specific prayer requests that you have related to your missions.

Send out

Draw the session to a close.

Prayer: "Dear Father, we thank you for our time together today. Lord, we ask that you continue to strengthen and nurture the relationships that were formed today. Help us as we step out into our communities to engage with the people we meet with wisdom, dignity and love. Give us the courage to boldly demonstrate your love and help us be a light in our community. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen"