

EQUIP

outward focused

WHAT IS EQUIP?

EQUIP is a live event designed to educate, equip, and empower the men and women of Austin Ridge to fulfill our church's mission of Pursuing God and Pursuing People. You will experience live teaching from various pastors and leaders, interactive conversations, and hands on practical tools that will help you become better equipped as a Christ follower.

Each EQUIP will range in topics from marriage and parenting to doctrine and apologetics. However, each time you attend an EQUIP, the topics will fall in one of the three major purpose areas of Life Groups:

Mutual Care

Spiritual Growth

Outward Focused

This guide was created to walk you or your group through the material and teachings presented at the **Outward Focused | Local Missions** EQUIP event. In this guide, you will find links to the teachings and instructions as well as group discussion questions and practical next steps. It is our prayer that you will leave this guide with a growing heart for pursuing people with the gospel, practical next steps for your group to take in pursuing people with the gospel, and one tangible tool to implement in your spiritual life now.

We are excited to see how God might use this equipping concept in us as followers of Christ, in our Life Groups, in our church, in our city, and around the world.

We thank you for your time and hope you find this to be helpful,

Austin Ridge Missions Department & Austin Ridge Life Groups
Department

USING THIS GUIDE

Within this guide you will find links to videos, questions to guide your discussion time, and space to take notes as your group goes through its contents. Watch each video, then spend time answering the questions and engaging in the activities prompted in the videos.

Video 1: Introduction

Video 2: Outward Focused

Respond: Group Discussion

Video 3: EQUIP – Practical Next Steps

Respond: Group Discussion

Video 4: The Missional Big Three

Respond: Praying the Missional Big Three

Video 5: Closing

All videos here:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/1308736>

EQUIP: PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

Heather Moga, Ministry Assistant

NOTES

OUTWARD FOCUSED ACTION ITEMS

Level #1: Begin thinking outwardly

- Meet your neighbors
- Get to know your co-workers
- Prayer walk throughout your day
- Pray for a nation you hear about in the news
- Pray the Missional Big Three
- Talk to your children about the Great Commission

Level #2: Grow in thinking, living, and serving outwardly

- Pray for and get to know your neighbors and co-workers
- Buy a world map and pray the Missional Big Three with it daily
- Practically serve those in need; i.e. people in difficult seasons, etc.
- Pray for a ministry serving the persecuted church or reaching the unreached

Level #3: Take steps beyond your current routine and comfort zone

- Befriend someone from another culture and learn more about them
- Serve with one of our local ministry partners
- Support a Ridge missionary through connection, prayer, or finances
- Seek to have spiritual conversations with your neighbors and co-workers

Level #4: Build an intentional & consistent outward focused lifestyle

- Take the Perspectives of the World Christian Movement class
- Go on a cross-cultural short-term trip
- Visit an international, refugee, or cross-cultural church in town
- Seek the vulnerable in your community and humbly meet needs
- Connect with local internationals to meet, serve, and have meals with

Level #5: Multiply yourself by making disciples

- Live out levels 1-4 regularly
- Invite others to join you as you serve and help them learn God's heart for people where you are, in the city, and around the world.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & NEXT STEPS

1. Are there any items that you are currently in the regular practice of engaging in? Share those with the group.
2. What are some of the obstacles that keep you from being outward focused?
3. Looking at each level, which best describes where you are currently most engaged?
4. Identify some items that could be a next step for you. What would it look like to begin to regularly practice those?
5. Revelation 7:9 is the picture of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19- 20) finished in heaven. How does this preview expand your idea of what your role is in participating in the Great Commission?
6. What is an item or two that your Life Group could regularly engage in?

MISSIONAL BIG THREE

Don Ellsworth, Missions Pastor

The Missional Big 3 is a guide to help direct our prayers in a way that acknowledges our dependence on Christ to change lives, as well as our role in that work.

ONE: PRAY BY NAME FOR 3 PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THAT DO NOT KNOW JESUS

Read Acts 17:26-27

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

TWO: PRAY FOR THE UNREACHED

READ Revelation 7: 9

UGANDA

Ministry Partners

Pader Community Church,
Women of Pader, Child
Development Program, The Farm
Project

Prayer Requests

- Uganda is in need of ministry for children and youth in schools and universities to rebuild following the AIDS crisis.
- Impoverished and orphaned children in Uganda number over 2 million. They are in crisis and in need of intervention.

INDIA

Ministry Partner

India Gospel League (church
planting organization)

Prayer Requests

- 95.3% of the population is unreached with only 2.1% of the population being professing Christians.
- Significant government corruption and prejudice make it difficult for the country to build on growth they have experienced. This endangers the human dignity, rights, and freedom of the people of India.

SYRIA

Ministry Partner

Ananias House (discipleship &
church planting in the Middle
East)

Prayer Requests

- 31.1% of the population is unreached with 6% of the population being professing Christians.
- Civil War has taken the lives of 400,000 people and has caused more than 4 million people to flee the country as refugees since 2011. Strong international condemnation and continual violence propagate the civil war and its blood-shed.

THREE: PRAY FOR WORKERS FOR HARVEST

READ Matthew 9: 37-38

Pray that the Lord would raise up workers from Austin Ridge.