

Establish Spiritual Communities

— October —

We long to see God raise up disciples in Italy who multiply; making disciples who make disciples.

~Below you will find a suggested amount of time for each segment of your meeting, but don't feel bound by these suggestions. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your prayer time together.

10 Minutes- Mix and Mingle

Use this time to catch up and get settled before your time of prayer.

10 Minutes- Praise

Before taking time to intercede, praise God for who He is and how He has recently shown Himself to you.

Speak His names out loud (God, You are Savior, You are King, etc.), and His character (God, Your love is unconditional, You are always present).

Praise God for the ways He has been working in and through You. (God, thank You for providing for my family, Thank You for giving me patience yesterday, etc.)

10 Minutes- Personal Surrender and Confession

Personal Surrender

Before interceding on behalf of the people of Italy, surrender the worries of your life that may distract you during this prayer time. Take a moment to write down on a piece of paper any concerns that are on your mind. Is it your finances? Is it a relationship? Jot that down. Then in your heart, give these concerns over to the Lord.

Confession

Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of any disbelief or sin that you have been giving in to. Take a moment in your heart to confess these to the Lord and receive His grace and forgiveness.

*15 Minutes- Prayer through the Word

Theme - Establish Spiritual Communities

This month we are asking God to establish spiritual communities within Italy where believers are growing in their spiritual gifts, sharing the Lord's Supper, worshiping together and multiplying disciples.

Acts 2:42-47

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Prayer Points for Italy

- God, as groups of Italians read Your Word together, we ask that these Italian seekers would put their trust in You, Jesus, and become churches.
- God, we ask You to bind Italian believers together in unity and love as they devote themselves to studying Your Word, meeting together in mutual community and sharing the Lord's Supper.
- God, we ask You to open the eyes of others in Italy to the Truth of Your love, grace, forgiveness and reconciliation as they witness these spiritual communities.

1 Corinthians 14:26

“What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.”

Prayer Points for Italy

- God, we ask that You give Italian believers a heart for each other, striving not to build up themselves, but one another.
- God, we ask You to reveal each Italian believer's spiritual gift to them and how You want to use it for the building of Your Church.
- God, we ask You to tune Italian believers' hearts to hearing Your Spirit's voice and prompting in how to build up one another and the Church.

*15 Minutes- Intercession for Italy

Below are some insights on ways we can pray for the existing church in Italy and the opportunities to establish new spiritual communities.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Existing Local Churches

Throughout all of Italy less than 2% of the population are evangelical believers.

- Ask God to fill these Italian brothers and sisters with deep love for one another.
- Ask God to fill these churches with unity and hope.
- Ask God to show His presence in and through the groups of believers in their own communities.
- Ask God to give international workers wisdom on how they can best serve the local church.

Establishing New Spiritual Communities

There are still many communities and neighborhoods throughout Italy where there are no followers of Jesus. The majority of Italians have yet to experience the freedom Jesus offers from religious duty. They have yet to receive the love and grace He extends through relationship with Him and His family.

- Ask God to continue to build His Church throughout Italy.
- Ask God to raise up worker to go to regions where His church is not present.
- Ask God for boldness, creative strategies and open doors to enter and engage the unreached regions of Italy.
- Ask God to give the Italian Church a heart which beats for the lost of their nation.

10 Minutes- Listening Prayer

On a blank piece of paper, ask the Lord the following questions. Be still and listen. Write down any words or thoughts that come to mind.

- God, how do you want to build spiritual communities in Italy?
- God, as a part of Your global Church, how can we encourage and model spiritual community to our brothers and sisters in Italy?
- God, how do You want to use me among my spiritual community?

After jotting down these thoughts, share them with a partner or your group. Now spend time praying to God for the things He has put on your heart.

5 Minutes- Closing

We want to hear from you. Take a moment to debrief your prayer time. Are there themes, thoughts or passages that God has laid on your heart for the people of Italy? Take a moment to write these down as a group and give them to your small group facilitator. (Small group facilitator- please email these to your contact person in Italy.)

**NOTE: To use this guide for 30 minutes of prayer versus 60, focus your time on the two, 15 minute sections.*