

Develop Leaders

— November —

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 - Develop Leaders

This month we are asking God to develop Italian leaders throughout the country and region.

Titus 1:6-9

“An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

Prayer Points for Italy

- God, we ask You to raise up Italian men and women to lead Italian believers in Your Truth and in a DMM vision.
- God, we ask You to protect and strengthen the families of those You raise up.
- God, we ask You to help these leaders to follow Your example and serve and equip Your people in humility, not lording their authority over them.

1 Timothy 3:8-13

“In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.”

Prayer Points for Italy

- God, we ask You to raise up Italian leaders who are wholeheartedly devoted to You, sincere in their faith and living a life of integrity before the community.
- God, we ask that as You raise up Italian leaders, they will be empowered and emboldened in their faith and in the calling You have placed on their life.

*15 Minutes- Intercession for Italy

Below are some insights into the specific opportunities and challenges we have in developing Italian leaders.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Opportunities

- We are attempting to model following Jesus in the most simple way possible. This allows local believers opportunity to lead from a natural place of loving Jesus and following Him, without any extra-biblical requirements.
- Italian culture is very communal. This means that those people of influence (aka people of peace) that God is drawing to Himself usually have a strong social sphere and network. They are able to naturally lead from the beginning out of their desire to seek and follow Jesus.
- Italian culture is very relational. Italians are able to naturally develop as leaders as they do life with others.

Challenges

- There are few evangelical believers in the country. We simply are asking God for more Italians to put their trust in Jesus. We believe that as God draws new Italians to Himself, He will also raise up new leaders.
- There has been very little development of new leaders in the past 20 years.
- Western workers often bring their own biases of what a Christian leader should look like. We want to see God raise up Italian leaders, not Western leaders.
- Italians mistake Christian maturity with knowledge, rather than going by the Biblical definition of knowledge + obedience + sharing. Therefore, there is an expectation that a leader must have many years of training before leading, and many of the current leaders aren't capable of multiplying new leaders.

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, what ways do You want to encourage Italian leaders? Do You have specific verses You would like to share with them?
- God, what Christian leaders in my city do You want me to pray for this week?

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.*