

# Start Discovery Bible Studies

— September —

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 - Start Discovery Bible Studies

This month we are asking God to provide opportunities for Italian believers to begin studying the Word together and inviting others to join them.

*EHebrews 10:24-25*

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

### Prayer Points for Italy

- God, we ask You to help Italian believers understand the importance of meeting together.
- God, we ask You that these times of studying Your Word will bring encouragement and spiritual growth.
- God, we ask that You embolden Italian believers to invite others to join them in reading Your Word together.

*John 6:43-45*

*“Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from Him comes to Me.”*

### Prayer Points for Italy

- God, as Italians study Your Word, we ask that:
  - You would draw Italians to Yourself. Teach them Your Truth.
  - You would bring reconciliation and an end to grumbling between people groups.
  - You would teach Italians to recognize Your voice and Your Spirit. Help them to hear from You.

## \*15 Minutes- Intercession for Italy

Below are a couple challenges and a couple opportunities we have found in beginning discovery Bible studies in Italy.

### *CULTURAL INSIGHT*

#### **Challenges**

- We struggle to find people who are hungering spiritually and who long to learn more about God. Italians are in need of God to give them spiritual hunger and courage.
- Italians believe that the Bible is too complicated, that only a trained professional can understand it, or that it has been corrupted by man over the centuries.
- Most Italians do not believe that it is the inspired, infallible Word of God to which they need to align their life.
- We have found seekers who are willing to read God's Word with us, but they struggle to include others. Sometimes the seeker is too nervous to invite others, or the friends or family they do invite aren't willing to keep coming.

## Opportunities

- We have seen some groups begin after a believer prays that God would provide for an Italian in a very specific way. For example, He may miraculously provide physical healing or a new job.
- We have seen some groups begin among immigrants as their material and emotional needs are met.
- Italian culture is full of different networks and social circles. There is great opportunity for people in all parts of society to be seeking God, engaging His Word, letting God's Spirit transform them and forming into simple churches that multiply. We need wisdom and creativity as we reach out to these different social groups.

## 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 is keeping more Italians from meeting together to study Your Word?
- God, how would You like us to continue praying for Italians as they meet together.
- God, with whom would You like me to begin reading Your Word?

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.)

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