

Summary

This appears to be a prayer or opening portion of a church service rather than a sermon. The speaker offers prayers for missionaries in South Asia, asking for God's protection, provision of healthy relationships, language learning assistance, and safety in their ministry work. The prayer also includes gratitude for local connections with the Haven organization and their work with the Afghan community in Lancaster, asking for welcoming hearts and healthy community integration for Afghan refugees.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we thank You for bringing us into community with one another. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us through Your Word and through our discussion together. Help us to be vulnerable, honest, and encouraging to one another. May Your Spirit guide our conversation and help us grow closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one way you've seen God's beauty in creation this week, whether through weather, nature, or something else that caught your attention?

Questions

1. How can we better support missionaries and global workers in our prayers and actions?
2. What does it mean to build 'powerful, lifelong relationships' in ministry contexts?
3. How can we welcome newcomers to our community with open arms like the prayer mentions?
4. What role does language and communication play in building relationships across cultures?
5. How can we pray more specifically for the safety and protection of those serving in difficult places?
6. What does it look like to help people assimilate into a new culture while honoring their own background?
7. How can local churches partner with organizations to serve refugee and immigrant communities?
8. What are some practical ways we can show hospitality to those who are new to our area?

Life Application

This week, reach out to someone who might be new to your community, workplace, or church. Make an effort to build a meaningful connection with them, whether through a conversation, an invitation, or a simple act of kindness. Also, commit to praying specifically for one missionary or global worker, asking God to provide them with the relationships, safety, and opportunities mentioned in today's discussion.

Key Takeaways

1. God calls us to support and pray for missionaries and global workers in specific, meaningful ways
2. Building healthy, lifelong relationships is essential for effective ministry and community
3. We should welcome newcomers to our communities with open arms and help them find belonging
4. Local and global ministry work are interconnected and both deserve our attention and support
5. Prayer should be specific, covering practical needs like safety, relationships, and language learning

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for our time together today and for the reminder that You are working both globally and locally. Help us to be people who welcome others with open hearts and who faithfully support those You've called to serve in difficult places. Give us wisdom to know how to build meaningful relationships and to be Your hands and feet in our own community. May we leave here today with a renewed commitment to pray for and support Your work around the world and right here at home. In Jesus' name, Amen.