The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2016-17
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 2

Introduction: ***What do we pray?***

Ask, "What are some things we regularly pray for people we love?" (Some answers may include safety, wisdom, salvation, health, etc.) Write these answers on a board or large piece of paper as they are offered.

After most expected answers have been offered, say something along the lines of "Oh, yes, and willingness to die. And willingness to suffer persecution for their faith." Add these to the list and wait to see how learners react.

Ask, "Don't we pray these for our loved ones? Why not? Are these prayers contrary to the rest of the list?"

Point 1: ***Discuss the nature of idol worship.***

After discussing the passage for this point, show the following video, "Idol Worship" (1 minute, 44 seconds):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPil9Br-5lE

Discuss how—though most Christians in the 21st century are not commanded to bow down to an idol of gold—social, governmental, or pop-culture idolatry is real and consequently a struggle for Christians all over the world.

Point 3: ***What kind of smoke do you smell like?***

Before reading the passage for this point, read the following blog post, "No Smell of Smoke": https://kaseye.wordpress.com/2008/03/12/no-smell-of-smoke/

Ask the following questions: "What kinds of smoke do we get on ourselves? The smoke of sin? The smoke of the world? The smoke of being a Pharisee? How do we keep ourselves smoke-free and untarnished by the secular—or perhaps even churchy—world that can cling to us?"

Conclusion: ***Through the Fire***

Invite a few volunteers to read the following verses about fiery ordeals:

- Psalm 66:10-12;
- Job 23:10;
- Isaiah 43:2;
- Zechariah 13:9;
- 1 Peter 1:7; and
- 1 Peter 4:12-13

After the volunteers have read their respective passages, invite them to share about the *struggle* of fire that refines but also the *hope* that is assured in these passages.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Many Christians believe that blending in with the world is necessary for being an effective witness, but as we live within the culture where God has places us, we must also remain self-aware of becoming conformed to the world and its idolatrous values. Pray for your learners by name, that they would have their eyes opened to any secular idolatry in their own lives and to live courageously in the strength of Christ Jesus.