



Love Your Neighbor

"Begin with Prayer"

April 24, 2022 // Tyler Scott, Lead Pastor

INTRODUCTION

When you've been transformed by God's love, you can't help but want to love others—and help them experience the same grace and freedom. But how do we share our faith without scaring them away or offending them? For most Christians, "evangelism" is an intimidating word that connotes pressure to "convert." But what if there were a more organic, authentic way to share our faith and love our neighbors, friends, and coworkers? BLESSing others is the way, and it's been God's plan from the beginning. The B.L.E.S.S. practices are some of the most practical—and powerful—ways to love someone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who in your life has been the greatest BLESSing to you in your spiritual journey? How can you begin to emulate his/her approach as you seek to reach the people around you?
2. What thoughts come to mind when you hear the word "evangelize?" Are you more naturally a "blesser" or a "converter" when it comes to reaching people who are far from God?
3. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Luke 19:1-10. What do these passages tell you about God's plan for His people to be a blessing to those around us?
4. "You are blessed to be a blessing." That is true about all of us. How does that make you feel? What thoughts does that spark in your mind and heart?
5. The "B" in the B.L.E.S.S. practices stands for Begin with Prayer. What are your earliest memories of praying? Was it a particular prayer/place/people?
6. We see in Scripture that Jesus prayed A LOT (ie. while he was being baptized, to rest and reconnect with His Father, before he did miracles, for his friends and their faith to grow, before AND during His crucifixion, all night before he chose his 12 disciples, etc.). What do you notice about the emphasis Jesus placed on time alone with God in prayer?
7. What do you find most CHALLENGING, and most HELPFUL, about prayer?
8. The definition of prayer is "simply talking with God," where we talk to God and He talks to us. Have you ever felt Him prompting you to reach out to someone? How did you respond, and what was the result?
9. With the Neighbor Map in mind, who are the 8 people you can begin to pray for, asking God to give you opportunities to B.L.E.S.S. them?

PRAYER: Use the Neighbor Map tool to write down the names of 8 neighbors where you live, work or play. Then begin with prayer...and pray for each of them by name. Also, pray for each other to remain faithful to pray for their neighbors (and each other!) for 5 minutes each day.