

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

“Lord, help us to be a blessing to the people and in the places where we have been sent.”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:1-3, John 20:21, Genesis 12:1-13, Galatians 3:7-9

ICEBREAKER

Do you prefer to plan your vacations or for them to be spontaneous? Why?

OPENING THOUGHT

The mission of our church is helping people find their way back to God. That means we are all part of it, all the time. It might be challenging to think about our role in that mission. If we're not sure what it looks like to be “on mission,” we might be hoping people find their way back to God rather than helping people find their way back to God. What is the difference between hoping and helping? Explain.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3, John 20:21, and Galatians 3:7-9. What do these passages have to say about God's long plan for his people to be a blessing to others?
2. Read Matthew 20:28. How did Jesus serve others? Why is that relevant to us?

LIFE APPLICATION

3. Just as Jesus sent out his disciples in John 20, we are sent out into our world today? That may seem intimidating or overwhelming. We might think, “I'm not prepared,” or “I have nothing to offer,” or maybe In what ways do you struggle with being “sent” out on the Jesus mission of helping people find their way back to God?
4. Review the B.L.E.S.S. Practices; they represent a simple strategy for living our everyday lives on mission. How are the B.L.E.S.S. Practices different from trying to “convert” people?
5. Which of these practices come naturally to you? Which is challenging?
6. If you started living your life to bless others, what would change tomorrow?

CHALLENGE

Living the B.L.E.S.S. Practices is not about adding another “thing” to your calendar, but it's a prayerful and generous posture toward the world that looks for opportunities to serve others and share the story of how Jesus is changing our lives. This week, let's pray that God would show us how to bless the people in our lives.

Start the B.L.E.S.S. Spiritual Growth Plan. You can find it on the COMMUNITY app, or at communitychristian.info.

THE B.L.E.S.S. PRACTICES**BEGIN WITH PRAYER**

The **“B”** is for **Begin with Prayer**. We believe that prayer is how you discover your mission as well as how you accomplish it. If you’re not sure who God is calling you to bless or where the place God is calling you to go, you can begin with prayer. And if you know people or the place you want to impact, begin praying for those people and that place.

LISTEN

The **“L”** in **B.L.E.S.S.** is for **Listen**. Sadly, most Christians are known for talking more than listening. If we sincerely hope to impact people’s lives, then we must first get to know them. Any relationship starts with listening. We need to listen to their hopes, their dreams, and their challenges. Truly listening may be the kindest and most loving gift you can give someone.

EAT

The **“E”** in **B.L.E.S.S.** is **“Eat.”** This third practice is our personal favorite, and it’s something in which many of us are experts—eating! There is something about sharing a meal that moves any relationship beyond acquaintance toward friendship—faster than just about anything else we can do. And there are few ways we can better bless the people around us than by sharing a meal.

SERVE

The first **“S”** in **B.L.E.S.S.** is for **“Serve.”** If you will begin with prayer, listen, and eat, there is a good chance you will discover how you can best serve the person or place to which God has called you. They’ll likely tell you how you can best serve them.

STORY

The second **“S”** in **B.L.E.S.S.** is **“Story.”** Our experience is that if you do the other B.L.E.S.S. Practices – *Begin with Prayer, Listen, Eat, and Serve*; then there is a good chance you will have the opportunity to share your story. Someone may ask you to explain what makes you different. It is then that you can tell them your story of how Jesus changed your life.