

## **Christ Community Church**

### **B.L.E.S.S. Community Group Guide // April 11 - 17, 2021**

#### **Take some time to share:**

One thing that you are thankful for this week.

One thing you are in need of (try and stick to one thing and personally related).

How can the group help?

**Message Big Idea** - Jesus' mission is to help people find their way back to God, and he lived out the B.L.E.S.S. practices showing us how to live that mission too.

**Scripture** - 2 Corinthians 5:15-21, Luke 19:1-10, Genesis 12:1-3, Galatians 3:7-9

#### **Icebreaker & Opening Thought**

1. Who has been a person who has blessed your life?
2. 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" then we might be hoping people find their way back to God rather than helping pftwbG. What is the difference between hoping and helping? Explain.

#### **Bible Discussion**

3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What is Jesus saying about God's mission and our role in it?
4. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Galatians 3:7-9. God has always wanted his people to be blessed to be a blessing to others. What do you think about that insight?

#### **Life Application**

5. Review the BLESS practices; they represent a simple strategy for living our everyday lives on mission. Which of these practices come most naturally to you?
6. Which practices are challenging for you?
7. Is the notion of living your whole life "on mission" a new one for you? If you started living your life in that way, what would be different about your life?
8. Who could you BLESS in your life now? Are there specific ways you could serve them?

**Challenge-** Living the BLESS 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.

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This week, let's pray that God would show us how we can BLESS the people in our lives.

#### **The BLESS 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 the people are God is calling you to bless or where the place is 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 BLESS is for Listen. Sadly, most Christians are known for talking more than listening. If we sincerely hope to impact the lives of people around us, 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 BLESS 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 past 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 BLESS is for "Serve." We are convinced that if you will begin with prayer, listen, and eat; there is a good chance that by then you will have discovered 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 BLESS is "Story." Our experience is that if you do the other BLESS 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.

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#### Points to Keep in Mind

- The passages reveal several important points about God, his people, and Christian mission in the world. The Genesis and Galatians passage show that God has always wanted a people that would be a blessing to the world. God blessed Israel to be a blessing, not so they could have the blessing for themselves. Like Jesus, God wants us to be his people in the world, representing Christ to others.
- The 2 Corinthians passage reveals that a whole new creation has come as a result of Jesus and that we are all a part of what God is doing. He reconciled us to himself (he brought us into his family), and now God's people are to be the most inclusive, peace-loving, and reconciling people on the planet as we welcome others into God's family.
- Living your life to BLESS others is not about adding another event or program to your life. Living the BLESS practices is more about our posture towards others that is prayerful, generous, and hospitable.
- As you live the BLESS practices out with your neighbors, friends, and family, these practices don't always unfold linearly. Be open to the Spirit and what God wants to do in your life.
- Don't put pressure on yourself to make something happen or to get someone to make a faith decision. It's our job to serve others and reflect Jesus to them; outcomes are God's department.