

## Week 2 BLESS CG GUIDE

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**Icebreaker:** Go around the group and share one way you've been "blessed" by someone else's service this past week. It could be something big or small!

Review the "B.L.E.S.S." acronym.

- **B**egin with Prayer
- **L**isten
- **E**at
- **S**erve
- **S**hare

Read the following verses together. After each passage, discuss the questions.

**1 Peter 4:10:** "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

- **Discussion:** How does this verse challenge the idea that serving is only for certain people? What "gifts" might we have that we can use to serve others?

**Mark 10:45:** "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- **Discussion:** What does this verse tell us about Jesus's example of service? How does his ultimate act of service on the cross motivate us to serve?

**Ephesians 6:7:** "Rendering service with goodwill as to the Lord and not to man."

- **Discussion:** What's the difference between serving for God's glory and serving for our own benefit or for the approval of others?

- **Practical Application:**

What are some practical examples of service that feel most natural for you?

- Think about your own neighborhood or social circles. What is one specific, practical way you could serve someone this week?
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Sharing our personal story is an essential part of sharing the good news of Jesus. **He is the hero of our story!**

- **Read & Discuss:**

**Psalms 66:3-5:** "Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name." Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!"

- **Discussion:** This Psalm invites people to "come and see what God has done." How is sharing our personal story a way of inviting people to "come and see" what God has done in our lives?

**1 Peter 3:15-16:** "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience..."

- **Discussion:** What does it mean to be "prepared to give an answer"? Why is it so important to do this with "gentleness and respect"?

Sharing our faith isn't just about planned events. When we pray for opportunities, we should be ready for God to use unexpected moments and conversations.

- **Discussion:** What is one "interruption" in your life that God has used or could use to open a door for a conversation about faith?
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### **Sharing My Story & God's Story (In 3 to 5 Minutes)**

**Prompt 1:** How would you describe your life story before meeting Jesus? (What was the struggle, mindset, and belief in God/Jesus?)

**Prompt 2:** Describe the time when Jesus came into your life, and you declared him as Lord. (Where were you, how did you feel, who was involved, what did you give up, what did you say to God?)

**Prompt 3:** How has Jesus changed your life story? How is he the center of your life? (Describe how your life changed: attitude, behaviors, relationships, passions, etc.)

The Bless App is a tool to help you pray for your neighbors by name. It can help you put these principles of serving and sharing into practice right where you live. Encourage everyone to check it out.

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**Action Step Challenge:** Encourage everyone to choose one action for the week.

- Pray for at least three neighbors by name.
- Identify a small, practical way to serve someone in your life.
- Be ready to share a short version of their story if an opportunity arises.

End the time with a prayer, asking God to give the group courage and wisdom to serve and share the hope they have in Christ in the week ahead.