

# BLESS – Serve

## Welcome and opening prayers

**What happened last week?** (15 mins – sharing around the room or in small groups) Last week we made the commitment to eat with someone outside our immediate family.

- How was your experience of eating?
- What did you most enjoy?
- What was difficult?
- What did eating together help you learn about God/others/yourself?

## Introduction (10 mins)

Watch the “Bless” YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwHuPsuUyx8>

- Discuss where “seeking to Serve” fits within BLESS.
- Why is it important to seek to serve?

Listen to the song “Brother, Sister, Let me Serve you” from someone in your group or on YouTube

There is mutuality in serving and being served that strips away power dimensions and opens us up to each other.

- Which do you find harder: Serving? Or being Served? Why?
- After listening to each other, reflect upon and discuss what does this say about your condition, your culture, your calling?

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## Bible Study (20 mins)

Read aloud Philippians 2:1-11. Reflect in silence for two minutes. No words. No comment. Now read Jeremiah 29:4-7.

- What do you think these words would have meant for the original hearers?

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- What does it mean to embrace the community in which you live? What does it mean to seek the shalom/the welfare/the peace of your community?

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- What is your favourite bible passage/story about Serving? Why? (Tell the person next to you and then summarise for the larger group.)

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### **Living the Practice of Serving** (15 mins)

Our goal this week is to position ourselves so that we intentionally serve and are served, and then reflect upon what that means as a missional practice. Reflect as a group on some of these questions:

- What do you find easy/hard about receiving service?
- In what ways can you position yourself to receive the grace of someone serving you this week?
- What do you find easy/hard about serving?
- Who can you serve in your local community this week?
- Think about something that has caused you concern/compassion. How can you respond? How can you be the change you want to see?
- How can we help one another overcome any fears or difficulties in serving?

Share your ideas with one another

### **Prayer** (10 mins)

Pray with one another about the people and situations on your heart, and about the places where you may find yourself in the next week. Pray that we will all be able to create spaces that enable us to serve and be served.

**Exercise before the next session:** Seek an opportunity this week to serve someone.

## **BLESS Promise**

*In order to be a blessing I want to commit to....*

#### **Serve**

I will serve (name) \_\_\_\_\_

by(doing what?) \_\_\_\_\_

I will serve \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_

I will serve \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_