

# BLESS – Share your Story

## Welcome and opening prayers

**What happened last week?** (10 mins – sharing around the room or in small groups) Last week we made the commitment to serve and be served.

- What did you experience in serving and being served?
- What did you learn about God/others/yourself?

## Introduction (10 mins)

When did telling the good news about God, and about God at work in our lives, become something to be embarrassed about? Why is sharing faith sometimes cringe worthy, awkward, difficult, embarrassing? After all, this is Good News! Think about your BEST EXPERIENCE of someone sharing with you the Gospel, God's story, their story of God at work in their life. What resonated with you? What inspired or impacted you? Why? What effect did this have on your life?

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Briefly share this best experience with the group.

## Bible Study (30 mins)

Read John 4:5-42.

- What aspects of BLESS do you see in this encounter?

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- Both Jesus and the woman stepped beyond what was customary and “safe” in their culture. What is one thing from their encounter that encourages you in your faith sharing?

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Read Acts 26:1-29

Paul engaged with King Agrippa with grace and charm (v 2, 3, 25-29), and then spoke of his life before he became a follower of Jesus (v 4-11), how he became a follower of Jesus (v 12-18), and how his life has changed since that time (v 19-23). Few of us have such a dramatic story, but all of us have a story. Think about your life in these three sections: before you became a follower

of Jesus (brief); how you became a follower of Jesus (can you share this in such a way that the hearer would know how to become a follower of Jesus?); what has changed in your life since you followed Jesus (brief).

In groups of two or three, practice giving a brief presentation of your own story to one another and give helpful feedback to one another.

### Share with someone (10 mins)

Our goal this week is to Begin by prayerfully seeking to Listen to someone's story, perhaps particularly someone you have recently Eaten with and Served, discern how it intersects with God's Story and your Story, and share briefly with them so that their story, God's story, and your story intersect meaningfully.

- What do you find easy and what do you find hard about sharing your story?

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- Who might God be inviting you to Share with in the week ahead?

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### Prayer (5 mins)

Pray with one another about the people on your heart. Pray that you may be filled with the Spirit to speak the word with boldness (Acts 4:29,31; 9:27; 13:46; 28:31). And pray that God will give you words of wisdom and knowledge as you simply share Story.

**Exercise before the next session:** Seek an opportunity this week to listen to someone's story and share something of your own and potentially God's story.

## BLESS Promise

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

### Share my Story

I would like God to help me share my story

with \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

with \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

with \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_