

BLEOS

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER
LISTEN TO OTHERS
EAT TOGETHER
SERVE GENEROUSLY
SHARE YOUR STORY**

God's Mission

He explained it to Abraham this way in Genesis 12, "I will bless you...and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." God's strategy for reaching and restoring the world is simply this: to have His people bless the world.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

You might ask yourself, 'Where does my life fit into the narrative of God's mission?' 'What would my life look like if I started each day with the intention to join God at work?' It's a shift in perspective and practice.

This pocket guide will unpack and explore a few ways to live this kind of life by equipping you with the five simple rhythms of BLESS.





YOU WERE MADE TO BLESS

Our mission to go and make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:18-20), is founded in the original mission - to go and be a blessing to others (Genesis 12:1-3). This means that blessing others and seeing people come to know, love and serve Jesus are linked together!

If we practice one of these BLESS rhythms every day, you will not only look more like Jesus, but you will help others find Jesus too!

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

“God, may your kingdom come and will be done.” Reflect and ask God: *“Lord, what are you already doing in the spaces where I live, work, and play? How can I join you?”*

Allow God's Word to be your prayers. Pray scriptures over those God has placed in your life. Do a prayer walk around your neighbourhood and places God has put on your heart.



LISTEN

“God, how do you want me to bless others today? Help me to listen and discover opportunities to serve and share in my community you have placed me in.”

Before you can help others find Jesus, you need to listen to them first. Their hopes, pains, challenges and dreams. In your interactions with others, take the posture of a learner. Lay down your assumptions, and practice being present. Pay attention to the local news and ask God how you can meet those needs.

Listen to others more intently, be friendly and ask more questions. Take an interest in someone else’s story and focus on their body language and posture. Be quick to listen to someone’s story.



EAT

Eating is one of the fastest ways to move a relationship from acquaintance to friendship. Who can you eat with (or have a coffee with) that is far from God?

Try a new recipe together. How about gathering some work mates or school parents and create a meal (e.g. pizza, curry). Bake some cookies or coffee scrolls together.

Bonding over a shared activity creates a great space to start some meaningful conversations.





SERVE

Jeremiah 29:7 says “Seek the welfare of the city to which I have sent you.”

How does that change the way you see your neighbourhood, workplace, university and kids’ school? How does it alter the way you view serving?

Sometimes it’s about doing something practical for someone else but at other times it is simply about being present for another person at a significant milestone in their life. Each moment you take to serve allows opportunities for future interactions and connections to take place.

BraINSTORM with your Life Group, and ask “How can we seek the welfare of the neighbourhood/work/uni/kids’ school where God has sent us?”

SHARE YOUR STORY

Sharing the story of Jesus with others is necessary to participate in Jesus' mission (Matthew 28:18-20). Sharing the story of Jesus isn't only about how you met Jesus but also about sharing every day moments that Jesus continues to influence you in your life, and how Jesus is also at work in their life.

Sharing your story may not come naturally to you, so consider doing Alpha with someone or take up a course to learn how you can share your faith naturally in conversations.

Don't feel like you have to tell your life story all at once. Think "bite-sized" 1 or 2 minute stories.





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Pray for opportunities to serve and share in your community and beyond. Be friendly. Remember the waitress's name, the shopkeeper, the florist. Say thank you. Show appreciation. Speak to strangers on the plane. Ask questions. Listen to their stories. Be open to every opportunity to express the grace we find in Christ to others, with or without words. Be focused on the now of being not just the future of purpose. Seek to overcome injustice, poverty and unbelief in every situation where God has given you the ability to respond. Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 28:19-20

YOUR NEXT STEP

Daily:

Every day, intentionally look for ways to live out the rhythms of BLESS.

Weekly:

With your Life Group or people you connect with on a regular basis, commit to asking one another this question - "How did you live out each of the BLESS rhythms this week?" Accountability will keep you focussed on God's mission for us individually and as a church community. BLESS is a journey we take together towards transformational change in spaces God has placed us in.



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