

- **S- SERVE**

*1 Peter 4:10 NLT - 10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*

Maybe this was what first came to your mind when you thought of being a blessing to your neighbor. Use your gifts, the unique way God made you, to serve your neighbors. And you don't have to wait for a "neighbor" to need your help. You can start serving anybody who needs your help.

*List some of the opportunities and ways you can serve others in the next 24 hours.*

- **S- STORY**

*John 9:25 NLT - 25 "I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"*

The final "s" of our bless acrostic is story, your story. When you share your own experience of the transforming power of Jesus, you bless others with hope that they too can be transformed. It doesn't need to be a perfect theological explanation, just look at what the blind man told the Pharisees.

*What would you say is the most significant change Jesus has made in your life?*

### **WRAP-UP**

It is God's desire and intent that His people would be a blessing to the world. There are opportunities all around us every day. Be the Gospel to your neighbors and bless them by praying, listening, eating together, serving, and sharing your story of a transformed life.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*Mark 12:31 NLT - 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."*

### **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life

*Challenge- Find one way to bless a neighbor this week.*

## ***"How to B.L.E.S.S. Others."***

### **Invited #2**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We know the Gospel is "Good News" and the Good News is that we are invited into a relationship with Jesus. But that invitation needs to be extended to everyone. You might not consider yourself a missionary or an evangelist, but you are a neighbor. And bringing good news to your neighbors doesn't mean you have to be a converter or a convincer. It means you get to be a blessing. We are going to consider some of the many ways we can be a blessing to our neighbors and bring the good news of the kingdom of God to those around us.

### **Ice Breaker**

How many neighbors do you know by name on your block?

### **Key Passage**

*Mark 12:29-31 NLT - 29 Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. 30 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."*

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

#### **1. You Will Be a Blessing**

*Genesis 12:1-3 NLT - 1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."*

It has always been God's intent that His people would be a blessing to others. From the time He called Abram we see God wants us to bless everyone, especially those who haven't heard the good news yet. We are God's instruments to bring Good News and blessing.

*A "neighbor" isn't necessarily someone living within a block of your house, they may be a coworker, classmate, or teammate. Do you remember one of these "neighbors" who blessed you and embodied the Good News of God's Kingdom even before you came to know Jesus? What groups of people do you see regularly, spend time with and have the opportunity to bless?*

## **2. B.L.E.S.S.**

Pastor David used a simple acrostic to remind us of the things we can do to bless others. Each letter in the word "bless" represents one thing we can do to be a blessing to our neighbors.

- **B – Begin with prayer**

*Romans 12:9-12 NLT - 9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.*

In Romans 12: 9 – 12 Paul expands on how we are to love our neighbors. Verse 12 ends with "keep on praying." And so, the first letter in Bless reminds us to "begin with prayer." Paul tells us not to pretend we love these people who are our neighbors, but truly develop an affection for them. Consider what you know about them as you prepare to pray. Let God move your heart as you bring each one before His throne.

*Do you know who lives near you? Could you put names on a map of your neighborhood? If so, you can use that as a starting place for your prayers.*

You might take a walk through your neighborhood and pray for each home as you pass. You may not know them personally, but God can guide you as you pray. And how about coworkers, classmates or teammates? Make a list of those you regularly spend time with and

begin by praying for them by name as you are en route to see them. Start simply with short prayers like "God bless John today and bring him peace."

- **L – Listen**

*James 1:19 NLT - 19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.*

Another important way to show people they are loved is to show them they are heard. James tells us we should be quick to listen, not listen quickly and then move on. We are also advised to be slow to speak.

*What are the pitfalls you've found when you are not slow to speak? How much do you know about those people you see regularly? Have you taken the time to find out who they really are, do you know their history, heart, habits and hurts? If not, ask them.*

The more you know your neighbors the more your genuine affection can grow.

- **E – Eat**

*Romans 12:13 NLT - 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.*

Most of us can relate to this as a blessing- sharing a meal with someone. It's no surprise that Jesus' followers were blessed when He shared meals with them.

What if you blessed your neighbor by inviting them to join you for something to eat? It could be a meal in your home or a cup of coffee at your favorite hangout- but your hospitality towards them will bless them.

*Look at your calendar and see if you can find 2 times in the next 3 weeks that you can invite someone to eat with you. Who would you invite, where would you go?*