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SIMPLE WAYS TO

BLESSES

POCKET GUIDE



Beulah
ALLIANCE CHURCH



INTRODUCTION

“Where does my life fit into the great and grand story of God’s mission?”
What would it look like if God’s mission was the starting point of your life? It’s a shift in perspective.

This pocket guide will outline one way to live this kind of life and mission by equipping you with the five simple practices of BLESS.

GOD’S MISSION

“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

~MATT 28:18-20

"I may wonder what kind of mission God has for me, when I should ask what kind of me God wants for his mission."

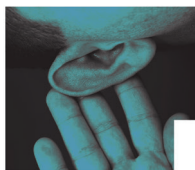
~ CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT

THE BLESSING STRATEGY

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

If you do at least one of these BLESS practices every day, you will not only look more like Jesus, but you will help others find Jesus too!

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SIMPLE WAYS TO



Begin with prayer

I will pray for the people in my life and the places that I'm in.

Listen

I will listen to and discover the needs of others and the places where God is at work.

Eat

I will share meals and spend time with people in my life.

Serve

I will respond to the needs of others and help them in practical and impactful ways.

Story

I will share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in my life with others.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER



"God, may your kingdom come and will be done. Please provide me with an opportunity today to bless someone or someplace. Help me be aware of your presence and your leading today."

PRAYING FOR PEOPLE:



Who do you live, work, and play with that is far from God?

Pray that God would create spiritual curiosity in them, and then spend time with them.

PRAYING FOR PLACES:



Where does pain exist here?

Pray for healing.



Who makes the decisions here?

Pray for integrity.



Who throws the parties here?

Pray for community.



Where are the pennies spent here?

Pray for provision.

LISTEN

“God, how do you want me to bless the world today? Help me to listen to and discover the needs of others and where you’re at work.”



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 today, 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.

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?

A co-worker over lunch? A neighbour during the day? A friend or family member over the weekend?



Is there a place that you regularly visit (coffee shop, gym, etc.)? **Ask God to grant you opportunities to eat with people.**

SERVE

Before jumping into serving, have you taken the time to pray for, listen to and eat with these people? Doing these things first helps you discover the way that you really need to serve them.



Who can you serve this week? Who do you know that has a practical need? Ask them how you can help them.

STORY

You can't spell BLESS without the second S. In other words, sharing the story of God with others is necessary to participate in God's mission (Matt 28:18-20).



Here are some tips on how to share the story of God with others:



Start by **sharing how God has blessed you** and made a difference in your life.



Share your story in such a way that demonstrates that **God is also at work in their life.**



Don't feel like you have to tell your life story at once. Think **"bite-size"** stories.



YOUR NEXT STEP



Daily:

Every day, intentionally look for ways to BLESS others.



Weekly:

With people you connect with on a regular basis, commit to asking one another this question, "Who did you BLESS this week?" Accountability will keep you from drifting away.



If you don't have others to do this with, find others with which you can connect at:

www.beulah.ca/communitylife



If you want to grow in your understanding of how to communicate the story of God, register for the next *Essential Story* workshop at

www.beulah.ca/essentials

A DISCUSSION GUIDE

Use this discussion guide to introduce BLESS into your mid-size community, small group or with others you are connecting with.



Read pages 2-4, and discuss these questions:

Have you ever considered what would've happened if Abraham didn't respond to God's command to go and be a blessing to others? In the same way, what will happen if you and I don't respond to Jesus' command to go and make disciples?

Since God's commandment to Abraham is the foundation of Jesus' commandment to us, is it possible that blessing others is a critical part of making disciples?



Read page 5, and discuss these questions:

Share how prayer has made a difference in your life.

Can you identify any barriers that may keep you from "beginning with prayer" on a daily basis?



Read “Listen” on page 6 and discuss these questions:

Have you ever assumed you knew what someone needed, only to find out later that you were wrong? Share your story.

What difference does it make to listen to other’s needs before you begin serving?

What are some things that you could be listening for as you interact with people far from God?



Read “Eat” on page 6 and discuss these questions:

What difference does eating or having coffee with someone actually make? What are ways that you can incorporate this into your everyday life?

What if your mid-size community or small group had regular opportunities where instead of a study, you invited those who are far from God and ate together? Partied together? Imagine the love of God that they would feel and the conversations that would arise.

Plan an upcoming gathering to do just that.



Read “Serve” on page 7 and discuss these questions:

When’s the last time that someone truly served you or you served someone else? How did that affect you? What did it do to your relationship?

What keeps you from serving people?

How do you think God may be calling you to serve someone? Is there something that you can help them with? Have you asked them? What is one step that you can take toward obeying God and serving that person?



Read “Story” on page 7 and discuss these questions:

What is the greatest barrier that prevents you from sharing your story of how you met God with others?

Who first shared the Gospel story with you? What stands out to you about that presentation?

How is God challenging you to share your story and the gospel story with others?



Decide how you will integrate this into your community as outlined on page 8.

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