

BLESS

“Jesus Practices for Loving Neighbors”

Neighboring: Luke 10:25-39, Acts 17:26-27 (www.artofneighboring.com)

- Jesus simply commanded us to “love our neighbors” as ourselves. What if this is not just a metaphor to love everyone, but also about loving our actual neighbors. Could it be that God actually planned where we would each live and who would be our literal neighbors? Why are they our neighbors?
- Loving neighbors starts with meeting neighbors.
- Let’s start with the simple first step of meeting the neighbors directly surrounding our home. The first and most important step is to learn, retain, and use the names of your literal neighbors. This is a bar so low that everyone can do it, even if it seems at this moment a huge challenge.
- We have each been immeasurably blessed by the life-changing love of Jesus in order that we can bless others. If we aim to “BLESS” I believe we will see hearts, homes and neighborhoods eventually transformed by Jesus!

BLESS (Jesus’ Practices for Loving Neighbors)

- **B- Begin in prayer.** Ask the Father, “how do you want me to bless my neighbors?” Pray by name for your neighbors, “Oikos Map”
- **L- Listen** to your neighbors struggles, stories, pains etc. The best story is their story.
- **E- Eat** and spend time together. This is something we can’t just check off and rush, it takes time and is crucial to relationships.
- **S-** learn how to **Serve** them through eating and listening. Through eating together and listening people will begin to tell you how you can serve them.
- **S-** share your **Story** of meeting Jesus and Jesus' story. This may happen at the first meeting or as trust is built. We love Jesus and all of our life is connected to Him so Jesus will just flow out of us.

25 Simple Ideas to Engage Neighbors (Josh Reeves)

I have found that it is often helpful to have practical ideas to start engaging the people around me. Most of the things on this list are normal, everyday things that many people are already doing. The hope is that we would do these things with Gospel intentionality. This means we do them:

- In the normal rhythms of life pursuing to meet and engage new people
- Prayerfully watching and listening to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working.
- Looking to boldly, humbly, and contextually share Jesus in word and deed.

Below is a list of my top 25. Not all of these are for everyone, but hopefully there will be several ideas on the list that God uses to help you engage your neighbors. Would love to hear stories of how you have lived some of these out or other ways you have engaged your neighbors.

1. Stay outside in the front yard longer while watering the yard
2. Walk your dog regularly around the same time in your neighborhood
3. Sit on the front porch and letting kids play in the front yard
4. Pass out baked goods (fresh bread, cookies, brownies, etc.)
5. Invite neighbors over for dinner or bbq
6. Attend and participate in HOA functions
7. Attend the parties invited to by neighbors
8. Do a food drive or coat drive in winter and get neighbors involved
9. Have a game night (yard games outside, or board games inside)
10. Art swap night – bring out what you're tired of and trade with neighbors
11. Grow a garden and give out extra produce to neighbors
12. Have an Easter egg hunt on your block and invite neighbors use their front yards
13. Start a weekly open meal night in your home
14. Do a summer BBQ every Friday/Saturday night and invite others to contribute
15. Create a block/ street email and phone contact list for safety
16. Host a sports game watching party
17. Host a coffee and dessert night
18. Organize and host a ladies artistic creation night
19. Organize a tasting tour on your street (everyone sets up food and table on front porch)
20. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
21. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
22. Start hosting a play-date weekly for other stay at home parents
23. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
24. Volunteer to coach a local little league sports team
25. Have a front yard ice cream party or lemonade stand in the summer

Two Helpful Links: the “Nextdoor” App. and www.artofneighboring.com

Notes from KC Underground

“BLESS Missionary Rhythms”

“Living on mission is more about postures and rhythms than activities and programs. But sometimes it’s HARD to wrap our minds around how to live on mission, to find persons of peace and to plant the Gospel with hungry and open people. One tool missionary leaders and trainers use is the acronym B.L.E.S.S.

B- Begin in Prayer: Pray with and for people to whom God has called you

L- Listen and Engage: Prioritize listening over talking and create space to intentionally engage with those whom God has called you

E- Eat: Spend time eating meals, drinking coffee or enjoying Happy Hour with those to whom God has called you.

S- Serve: Meet needs, be selfless, practically help

S- Story: Share stories of Jesus, point to Kingdom truths, and be ready to invite others to Discover Jesus more (DBS settings)

Video notes

- Luke 10- Jesus sent out 72- find POP, those God is already drawing, open to you and the gospel message you are bringing.
- Gospel spreads virally like Luke 10, gospel travels in tapestry of relationship
- POP is a gateway to relational network
- This is our main job
- How do we find them?
 - Praying, serving, access ministries,
 - How do we do it in every day normal settings
- BLESS
 - 5 missionary rhythms that help us live in an ongoing posture of mission, like an access ministry in our everyday lives and places
 - BLESS rhythms, not check list, it’s
- Rhythm like Breathing, In and Out

- B
 - Breath in- where are you already at work, stop and listen
 - Breath out- Kingdom come type prayer, combat against enemy, intercession
- L
 - Breath in- Listen to God's voice and to the people's stories and to the community story
 - Breath out- engaging in relationships, create spaces to listen, firepits, meals, coffee, walks
- E
 - Eating builds trust
 - Breathe in- meals with believers or missional team mates
 - Breath out- being intentional to build relationships, parties or small focused connections, coffee breaks at work, happy hour
- S
 - Breath in- Allow others to show hospitality and be served
 - Breath out- tangible things so people know God's love
- S
 - By eating together, serving, listening opportunities open up
 - Breath in- Like Jesus we speak the gospel to ourselves daily, from unbelief
 - Breath out- helping others know Jesus story in our lives, or the story of how God changed everything
 - This is how new DBS's get started which is the seed of new Home Churches