

## **LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR**

### **The Jesus Mission**

As believers who have been saved to a life in Jesus – we are saved, loved, elevated, empowered and sent. In whatever way and place people have become lost – we are to be present to give a way to be found.

Living in the presence of God is living with our heart's affection turned toward His kingdom. When the presence of God rests on ordinary people, it changes the environment in which they live. We become a host for God and for His Kingdom, which is what enables us to demonstrate God's love and to manifest His Kingdom.

As we go “Into Our Community Together,” we are living on mission. That mission is to live like Jesus and share His love, which summarizes both the great commandment and the great commission. We can change our communities by blessing one person at a time, loving our neighbours by using the everyday practices modelled by Jesus.

### **Changing the World Around Us**

The Holy Spirit is changing the world inside of us to change the world around us. The Holy Spirit does not just want to live in us but wants to partner with us through right relationship to point other people into a radical saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

God wants us to be Holy Spirit empowered witnesses (Acts 1:8). Witnesses are people who simply tell and demonstrate what they have experienced.

Being on mission is the greatest privilege we're ever given. We are given the opportunity to be a part of making history. Lost people matter to God and therefore should also matter to us (2 Peter 3:9).

## **Immersed in Love and Prayer**

Having the opportunity to share Jesus with people is often a process and not an event.

Every activity and conversation, and every relationship that we have, must be covered, surrounded and filled with love and prayer.

Be ready for the opportunities He gives you and don't let any model, formula or system stop you from following His leading.

## **Our Qualifications – Love and Faith**

*Love* - Jesus lives inside of us, so that we can love the world around us. Love is active, not passive.

We love others with God's heart of love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). It's the love of Christ that compels us to action.

It is love that leads us to ensure we honour people in the process of sharing with them God's love.

*Faith* - Faith requires a combination of submission and obedience. Faith overcomes fear. We are motivated by love rather than fear.

Jesus summarised the entire law into two simple things – love God and love your neighbour. We have both the resource and power of heaven behind us. This alone should be enough to move us into a position of obedience and be prepared to take a step of faith.

## **BLESS**

Over the next five weeks we are going to look at the acronym BLESS. The aim is that by the end of the series you have a clear plan of how you can love your neighbour better.

**B** – *Begin with Prayer*. We are going to map out who our neighbours are and as we do this, we are going to pray for them every day.

**L** – *Listen*. As you come to know your neighbours, we are going to listen in order to hear their hopes and dreams and their challenges so we can pray more specifically.

**E** – *Eat & Drink*. There is something about sharing a meal together that moves any relationship past acquaintance toward friendship—faster than just about anything else we can do. And there are few ways we can better bless the people around us than by sharing a meal together.

**S** – *Serve*. One of the greatest life lessons is to learn to serve. Jesus modeled serving at the highest level by laying down His life for us and he calls each of us to serve as well.

**S** – *Story*. There is something powerful about a story. A story is made even more powerful when it is our own, our own experience. After we have Prayed, Listened, Ate, and Served; then there is a good chance we will have the opportunity to share our Jesus story with our neighbour.

We can change our communities by blessing one person at a time. By loving and blessing the people around us using the everyday practices modeled by Jesus.

The most dangerous prayer a Christian can pray is "God use my life for Your glory." However the consequences of this prayer can be life changing. Watch what happens! Little becomes much when you put it in the Master's hand.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What is your relationship like with your neighbours? Dream and share what it would look like if we all loved our neighbours the way Jesus has asked to.
2. Why should love be our number one reason to demonstrate and share the Gospel?
3. How can we honour people who are different to us or who do not hold to the same beliefs and values, while still having a passion to share Christ?
4. Why does faith require you to be active?
5. Share experiences you have had to BLESS your neighbours.
6. Spend some time asking God to create some divine opportunities to get to know your neighbours better.
7. Ask the Holy Spirit daily to develop His love for your neighbours. Spend some time praying in pairs for your neighbours.