



BE THE BODY OUTREACH

My power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

We all know that we have weaknesses and that there are others who have strengths that we don't have. But, God made you for a reason. He has you in the places that you are for a reason. Be you, and trust that God is going to do what he says in 2 Corinthians 12:9.

That's all well and good to say and believe, but unless we do something, it's meaningless.

So, let's DO SOMETHING!

We need to be stretched, to take the challenge to “preach good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, and to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor.” (Paraphrase from Isaiah 61:1-2).

Let's start practical with something you can do TODAY. We are called to love our neighbors, right? So, let's start there.

Who is your neighbor? Look around you. Your neighbor is anyone God has put in your sphere of influence, including family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

We all know, though, that people don't care about hearing what you consider truth until they are in a real relationship with you. The following is a way to help you to be intentional to step into relationship with those around you. This takes time. So be patient and continue to engage intentionally!



BE A BLESSING.

As you consider those in your life, look for and create occasions to do the following:

Begin with Prayer (Ask God to lead.)

Listen (Listen to their stories, to their interests... and Look for ways to connect.)

Eat (Share a meal with them or Engage with them in a fun or meaningful way.)

Serve (Once you've developed a relationship, you'll know specific ways to care.)

Story (Look for an opportunity to share your faith story AND THE STORY - Jesus' story.)

Inspire Service (Invite them to join you on a Sunday morning.)

Network (Invite them to serve alongside you, and introduce them to other Christ followers.)

Groups (Consider what other groups might be a good next step: possibly a restore group, serving group, or a life group.)

Step 1: Begin Praying:

Pray and ask God to show you WHO in your life (who doesn't know Him) he wants you to pursue intentionally. **Write their names here:**

Step 2: Listen to their story:

Now, start engaging with those people so you can begin to hear their story. Here are some

- ideas:
- 1.) Sitting by a co-worker at lunch or inviting one to lunch just to talk.
 - 2.) Hang out on your front porch or outside so you can say "hi" to a neighbor in the evening, or invite a neighbor over for dinner.
 - 3.) Call a friend who doesn't know Jesus to go get coffee, etc...
 - 4.) Schedule a time to hang out with a family member, other parents from your child's sports team, etc.

Be curious - Ask questions, and let people talk.

Here are great questions to ask if you are just getting to know someone:

- What do they do for work and fun?
- How long have they been in the neighborhood?
- Family?
- Where are they from?



If the person God brought to your mind is someone you already know a little bit, then here are some next level questions to ask:

- Some great questions to consider is: “What do you do for fun? What is it about that that gives you life or that you enjoy?”
- If the topic of faith or God surfaces, ask: “Do you have a spiritual background?” If they say, “I went to church,” ask if that was a good experience?
- When you ask these questions, be ready for a return question. Use this as a chance to share a brief explanation of where you are with God right now or what you are talking to God about. The point is to communicate that God is real for you and that He’s relevant to your life.

What is your plan to start connecting and listening to those God brought to mind?

Step 3: Eat and Engage:

Realize that sharing a meal with someone or having fun and fellowship is just as important to growing relationally as studying the Bible or attending church. There is no separation from the secular and sacred. “For where two or more gather in my name, there I am with them.” This certainly includes being entertained or eating! Partaking in fellowship, fun, and friends is Godly at its core and can be a huge building block to creating relationships, trust, and community.

How will you invite the people God has put on your mind into FUN with you?



Step 5: Serve

Once you have been praying for someone, listened to their story, and eaten with them, you will know how to serve them. Be weird, and step in to serve them in a way you know will bless them. This could be mowing their lawn, bringing a meal, picking up their kids, picking up a coffee for someone, etc...

John 13:35 says, "By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Let's be known for our love and service to one another!

How will you serve this week?

Step 5: Share your story

As you pray, listen, hangout with, and serve the people that God brought to your mind, you have positioned yourself to be like no one else they know.

Use this as an opportunity to talk about where God has shown up in your life recently. (Tip: Don't be preachy, but be real.)



List some things here that God has done in your life recently that you could share authentically:

“For example: “Remember how I told you that I was worried about that situation at work? Well I’ve been praying about it and asking God for wisdom to know what to say or do and you wouldn’t believe what happened this week... It is amazing to me that when I’m overwhelmed and I pray about it God seems to always help me work out the situation.”

At some point in your relationship with the people you are intentionally pursuing you will have the opportunity to share your story of coming to faith. If you haven’t ever practiced that or don’t know what to include, check out this resource:

<https://www.cru.org/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/evangelism-principles/how-to-tell-your-story-worksheet.html>

Practice writing out your story of faith using the worksheet on this site.

Jesus said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28: 18-20

For us to be people who answer this call we have to be intentional and start to engage those around us who don’t know Jesus.

By walking out BLESSING, you will become more intentional with the people around you and eventually get the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with them!

