

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:2-3, NIV

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Genesis 12:2-3, NIV

The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. What’s more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, “All nations will be blessed through you.” So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

Galatians 3:7-9, NLT

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Genesis 12:2-3, NIV

God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us—that Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. God, our God, blesses us. God blesses us, so that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

Psalms 67:1-2, 6-7, NAS

Think River...

Not Buckets...

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth..”

Acts 1:8, NIV

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20, NIV

Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

1 John 2:6, NIV

The B.L.E.S.S. Lifestyle

B – Begin by praying

L – Listen to them

E – Eat together

S – Serve them

S – Share your story

B – Begin by praying

One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles.

Luke 6:12-13, NLT

Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. But he replied, “I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent.”

Luke 4:42-43, NLT

BLESS

Without the

B

Is just

LESS

L – Listen to them

“What do you want me to do for you?”

Jesus

“Love begins with listening.”

Fred Rogers

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...”

James 1:19, NIV

History Where did you grow up?

Heart What’s your favorite...?

Habits What do you like to do for fun?

Hurts How are you doing with (name the situation)?

E – Eat together

“Jesus ate all kinds of foods around all kinds of tables in all kinds of places with all kinds of people.”

Tim Chester

But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum?”

Mark 2:16-17, NLT

“Mealtimes were far more than occasions for individuals to consume nourishment. Being welcomed at a table for the purpose of eating food with another person had become a ceremony richly symbolic of friendship, intimacy and unity.”

Scott Bartchy – NT Scholar

The story of Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13, NLT

“As we sit and eat together, we don’t just pass food around; fellow diners pass bits of themselves back and forth as well.”

Leonard Sweet

S – Serve them

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45, NIV

I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. John 13:15, 17, NLT

S – Share your story

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Mark 5:18-20, NIV

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15, NIV

But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

2 Timothy 4:5, NLT

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