

Session 1 – What is BLESS?

BLESS describes five missional practices that help us introduce people to Jesus. BLESS, therefore, defines the Witness component of our definition of a disciple – a Fully Formed Follower of Jesus Christ. BLESS enables us to understand our Identity as a Witness and develop impactful Life Patterns of witnessing. Every one of us can easily and naturally live out these missional practices with unchurched people:

Begin with prayer. Jesus and others have blessed you through prayer. Bless others who don't know Jesus yet through prayer.

Listen. Listen with Care. Jesus and others have listened to you and heard you. Bless others far from God by listening and hearing them.

Eat. Eat Together. Jesus and others have accepted you and "invited you to their table." Accept and invite others who don't know Jesus yet to your table.

Serve. Serve in Love. Jesus and others have served you in ways that changed you. Serve others far from God in ways that can change them. Allow them to serve you, too.

Share. Share your story and God's story. Jesus and others have shared their story with you in a way that changed you. Share your story and God's story with others far from God.

"Most of the evangelistic training I'm aware of says very little about listening. The focus is on what we're supposed to *say*. At best, most of the Christ-followers I know practice only one type of listening: reactive listening. When we hear something we disagree with or that doesn't square with our sense of theological correctness, we react – either defensively or offensively."

Doug Pollock in his book God Space

Listen with Care

Jesus and others have listened to you, heard you, and valued you. We bless others far from God by listening to, hearing, and valuing them through their stories that reveal who they are. In this way, we help them take steps toward Jesus.

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry... (James 1:19)

Ask questions and have conversations about their struggles and pains, their personal aspirations, and their spiritual backgrounds. What is their story?

Normal and natural conversation should be "give and take" as we're listening.

- Learn to question, but don't interrogate.
- Participate, but don't dominate.
- Increasing the amount and types of questions we ask decreases the amount of time we talk. Listening helps us formulate the best responses. People don't want us to preach at them.

Quick Exercise

Think about one thing I just said that caught your attention, convicted you, or you really liked.

Ask me <u>one question</u> about it. – Practice the discipline of questioning before responding. (Example questions: understanding, clarification, evaluation, or application)

Fully Formed Follower of Christ – Witness

How are you incorporating BLESS and the Outreach Temperature Card into disciple-making?

Outreach Temperature Card Update

<u>Today</u>, think and pray through your FRANC List and update your Outreach Temperature Card. Actions should map with BLESS, be specific, and have a reasonable deadline.

Resources

- Reflective Listening by Lindsey and Sarah: https://vimeo.com/273704350/25d8c2998c
- God Space, by Doug Pollock

OUR MISSION



Session 2 - What is BLESS?

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Share your story and God's story. Jesus and others have shared their story with you in a way that changed you. Share your story and God's story with others far from God.

"Sharing meals together on a regular basis is one of the most sacred practices we can engage in as believers. Missional hospitality is a tremendous opportunity to extend the kingdom of God."

Alan Hirsch & Lance Ford in Right Here, Right Now

Eat Together

The Big Idea!

In order to reach those far from God, Jesus ate and enjoyed community with people who were marginalized and excluded by the religious leaders of his day. We can BLESS people the same way.

Practicing hospitality and enjoying community with people far from God enables us to help them take another step toward Jesus.

Great Story!

Read Luke 19:1-10 - Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Hospitality, and especially eating together, communicated acceptance, created connection, and affirmed the worth of people with whom Jesus interacted. Eating together also often led to significant conversations about life and spiritual values. Zacchaeus is a good example. Eating with Jesus changed Zacchaeus' life and led him to magnanimous generosity to all those he had wronged!

Jesus also practiced hospitality by receiving the hospitality and service of others! He received the love and service of those who were outcast and of a socially lower status than he was. He affirmed people by receiving and valuing what they had to give him.

Hospitality then is not primarily about entertaining people, having a beautiful and perfect home, extending an open door to friends and family who will do the same for you, or serving costly gourmet meals to people of your own social status or higher. Hospitality is about sharing what you have and communicating acceptance and affirmation.

Hospitality is missional to the core.

Quick Exercise

What are some things you've done to practice hospitality and create community with those who don't yet know Jesus?

Write down some ideas from the discussion:

What is one way you can apply this with one person on your FRANC list over the next month?

OUR MISSION



Session 3 - What is BLESS?

We have been richly blessed by God. Because God is an extravagant giver, he always intends for us to take what he's given and pass it on to others. His blessings should never stop with us. There's nothing in our lives that God has blessed us with that he doesn't desire for us to share with others.

BLESS describes five missional practices that help us introduce people to Jesus. BLESS, therefore, defines the Witness component of our definition of a disciple – a Fully Formed Follower of Jesus Christ. BLESS enables us to understand our Identity as a Witness and develop impactful Life Patterns of witnessing. Every one of us can easily and naturally live out these missional practices with unchurched people:

Begin with prayer.

Listen with Care.

Eat Together.

Serve with Love.

Share your story and God's story.

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

- The Outreach Temperature Card is a great blend of prayer and planning!
- Short, one-minute stories of how God used you to BLESS someone on your FRANC List this past month.

Share Your Story and God's Story

Sharing Your Story – Why Do We Share Our Stories?

To live a Jesus-centered life is to tell others the things he has done for us. Our personal stories testify to the reality of God and his work in our lives. It doesn't take complicated training to share our stories. It only takes life-changing experiences with Jesus, a heart to share them with others, and some simple approaches to do it.

The Demon-possessed Man

"...tell them how much the Lord has done for you...So the man went away and began to tell...how much Jesus had done for him. And <u>all the people were amazed</u>."

(Mark 5:19-20)

The Woman at the Well

"Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" ... Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony..." (John 4:28 & 39)

Simple Two-Word Testimony

The Blind Man

"Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was <u>blind</u> and now I <u>see</u>." (John 9:25)

This is a Two-Word Testimony in its simplest form! The man was **blind** from birth. He walked away from a life-changing experience able to **see**. Jesus met him at a point of need and he eventually came to believe in Christ. He had a life issue or problem that Jesus helped him resolve. It didn't take many words for the blind man to testify of how Jesus worked in his life!

Quick Exercise

Take a few moments to think and pray about <u>two words</u> that would describe your life before trusting Christ and how he changed you as a result of trusting and following him. Write a brief statement describing how the shift occurred.

Keep your testimonies short and clear. One minute should be enough time for you to share your Two-Word Testimony. These are your personal stories and not your personal sermons. Also, be careful about using words in your stories that unchurched people don't understand.

1.	Think of your life before you put your faith in Christ or began seriously following him. Choose one word that characterized your life apart from Christ and write it down.
	First Word:
2.	Identify one word that best contrasts the first word. The second word summarizes how Jesus began to resolve the issue or problem represented by the first word. Write it down.
	Second Word:
3.	Write a short explanation of how God worked in your life to make the shift.

We can develop Two-Word Testimonies for many areas of our lives. We've all experienced God's provision, or his answer to our prayers, or his emotional, spiritual, or physical healing in some way. These experiences can all be captured in Two-Word Testimonies that you'll have ready to share when you need them.

Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion

- 1. Update your Outreach Temperature Card with action items and deadlines.
- 2. Refine and share your Two-Word Testimony with one person on your FRANC list.
- 3. Fill out your Three-Word Testimony worksheet. This is modelled after Acts 26:1-23.
- 4. Share the results of these assignments with each other, your accountability partner, or your FFF group. Help each other refine your testimonies.

OUR MISSION



Session 4 - What is BLESS?

We have been richly blessed by God. Because God is an extravagant giver, he always intends for us to take what he's given and pass it on to others. His blessings should never stop with us. There's nothing in our lives that God has blessed us with that he doesn't desire for us to share with others.

One of the key blessings from God is forgiveness of ALL sin (past, present, and future) through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Those who trust Jesus Christ for salvation have a perfect standing before God. When we do sin, however, God's power in our life is hindered and reduced. This is why John writes about the importance of confessing our sin (1 John 1:9). We can equip to the five missional practices of BLESS, but if sin hinders our witness, our effectiveness is greatly reduced.

Begin with Prayer.

Listen with Care.

Eat Together.

Serve with Love.

Share Your Story and God's Story.

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

- The Outreach Temperature Card is a great blend of prayer and planning!
- Short, one-minute stories of how God used you to BLESS someone on your FRANC List this past month by sharing your story.

Share Your Story and God's Story

Why Do We Share God's Story?

To live a Jesus-centered life is to tell others how they can come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Scripture teaches us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ from a sense of compassion, care, and love for others. It also presents witnessing as a command. It is an integral part of God's mission for

us so obedience is an expression of our love for God and our desire to live out of our relationship with him. What is the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Paul 's Definition of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance^[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas,^[b] and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. (1 Cor. 15:1-8)

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Sharing and Summarizing the Gospel

We often talk about doing a "Gospel Presentation" as if we have just one opportunity with a person to sell a product and close a deal. Our goal should be that people understand what Jesus Christ has done for them, realize the implications of accepting or rejecting Him, and are offered repeated opportunities to put their faith in Him. If this is the goal, then "presenting the Gospel" becomes a significant conversational milestone by *sharing and summarizing* in simple ways what Jesus has accomplished on our behalf. It becomes a point of clarity that we both look forward to and then reflect back on in our overall conversations with people who are far from God. In addition, if we have a simple way to summarize the key points of the Gospel, we are well-prepared to share it with someone we may only have one interaction within our lifetime.

Let's take a look at another creative way to summarize the Gospel – The Three Circles video.

Resources for Sharing and Summarizing the Gospel

Three Circles Gospel https://vimeo.com/326917759/0ed136a05d

Bridge Illustration https://vimeo.com/120370274

Four Spiritual Laws (in many different languages) http://www.4laws.com/laws/languages.html

Do vs. Done (one-minute Gospel) Handout attached

Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion

- 1. Pick a simple method of sharing and summarizing the Gospel that you are comfortable with. Practice it with your spouse or accountability partner.
- 2. Update your Outreach Temperature Card with at least one action item to share the Gospel with a person on your FRANC list.

OUR MISSION



Session 5 - What is BLESS?

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Isaiah 52:7 & Romans 10:15

Do we believe that others are searching for good news? Do we believe that we not only have good news, but we have the best possible news? Why is there a disconnect in our hearts when we think of sharing the Good News?

Begin with Prayer.

Listen with Care.

Eat Together.

Serve with Love.

Share Your Story and God's Story.

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

• Short, one-minute stories of how God used you to BLESS someone on your FRANC List this past month. What have you seen God do through you?

Sharing Good News

Why are we often reserved in personal evangelism?

Short Video on Research of the Unchurched
Assuming people are open to discussing faith, particularly people visiting HCBC, how can we engage more with people about their relationship with Jesus Christ, particularly on Sunday mornings?
Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion
 Pick on idea from this morning and commit to implement it. Update your Outreach Temperature Card to reflect this. Be prepared to report next month on what God did as a result of this.
OUR MISSION



Session 6 - What is BLESS?

I have become <u>all</u> things to <u>all</u> people so that by <u>all</u> possible means I might save <u>some</u>. ²³ I do <u>all</u> this for the sake of the **gospel**, that I may share in its **blessings**.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

What would a "Pauline" level of engagement look like in my life? In our church? How many can I/we impact for the gospel? What are the blessings Paul refers to and what is my share of these blessings? When have I stored up enough blessings to be able to retire?

Begin with Prayer.

Listen with Care.

Eat Together.

Serve with Love.

Share Your Story and God's Story.

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

• One short story of how God used you to connect with someone on a Sunday morning this past month, find out where they are spiritually, and move toward sharing the Gospel.

Sharing Good News

1. Why are we often reserved in personal evangelism?

We discussed this in the last session. (offend others, fear of failure, cultural pressure, don't know enough, priorities, busy lives, management structure at work)

Short Video on Research of the Unchurched

2. How open are the unchurched to attending a church-sponsored activity?

Short Video on Research of the Unchurched

3. Three Circles Gospel Presentation

Three Circles Gospel Promo https://vimeo.com/327040237/58ddeb11a5

Three Circles Gospel – Great Example https://vimeo.com/326917759/0ed136a05d

Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion

- 1. Continue to use Sunday morning as an opportunity to connect and share the gospel.
- 2. Update your Outreach Temperature Card to reflect this.
- 3. Memorize the Three Circles gospel presentation, practice it multiple times, and share it with someone far from God and with someone on a Sunday morning.

OUR MISSION



Session 7 – What is BLESS?

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Share your story and God's story. Jesus and others have shared their story with you in a way that changed you. Share your story and God's story with others far from God.

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

- State your current Outreach Temperature
- Share a short story of how God used you to connect with someone on a Sunday morning to share the Gospel this past month, or relate a story about sharing with someone on your FRANC List.

Sharing Good News

Three Circles Gospel Presentation - Practice

Pair up and practice sharing the Three Circles Gospel

Three Circles Gospel – Great Example https://vimeo.com/326917759/0ed136a05d

Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion

- 1. Continue to use Sunday morning as an opportunity to connect with people and share the gospel.
- 2. Update your Outreach Temperature Card to reflect this.
- 3. Continue practicing the Three Circles gospel presentation. Share it with someone on your FRANC List and with someone on a Sunday morning.

OUR MISSION



Session 8 – What are we trying to accomplish? → ML + MC = CC

ML (Missional Leaders) + MC (Missional Congregation) = CC (Conversion Community)

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

- State your current Outreach Temperature
- Share a short, one-minute story of how God used you to connect with someone on a Sunday morning to share the Gospel this past month, or relate a story about sharing with someone on your FRANC List.

Listen with Care

The Big Idea!

We bless others through listening with care. We listen to discover where God is at work in someone's life in order to join God in his work. When we listen, we respond out of our unique background and to the unique opportunities God gives us.

Philip in Acts 8:26-40 is a great illustration!

Philip and the Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

What stands out to you in this story?

As we go along in our lives, here is a general pattern to remember from Philip's story:

- 1. Notice where God is at work.
- 2. Listen to how God might want you to join him in his work.
- 3. Willingness to be interrupted and move toward it.
- 4. Take initiative and ask good questions. Don't interrogate.
- 5. Contribute in the conversation after you gain more understanding of where the person is at. Speak into where God is already at work.

Bad Personal Example:

In college I was talking with a female student from one of my classes during lunch and she asked me, "What do you think about abortion?"

How would you respond?

Here's how I responded. What made my response so bad?

Good Personal Example:

I was talking with a self-proclaimed atheist one evening. He agreed to meet with me to discuss the Christian faith. At first he was a bit standoffish, but then he nervously blurted out, "OK, tell me what you believe and why you believe it."

How would you respond?

Here's how I responded. What made my response so good?

Wondering Questions

Taken from the book God Space, by Doug Pollock (Chapter 6, pp.73-74)

Our wonder can be expressed in a multitude of ways, but there is something about beginning a question with "I'm wondering" that sets it apart. While anything can be overused, this phrase tends to soften the language that follows. It has the potential to instantly create God Space by demonstrating that we have

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

been sincerely thinking about something they said. It also protects us from dominating the conversation with our own worldview. – Doug Pollock

Good Wondering Questions...

- ...are born out of a desire to better understand someone.
- ...flow naturally out of your context and your conversations.
- ...demonstrate that you have listened thoughtfully.
- ...are open-ended and promote more dialogue and reflection.
- ...probe sensitively and reflectively into someone's belief system.
- ...compel others to investigate the Christian life.

Wondering is NOT...

- ...using questions to gain control of a conversation so you can get your point across.
- ...a set of memorized questions to herd people toward a decision you think they should make.
- ...a springboard from which to launch into a monologue.

Good Ways to Start Wondering

- That's an interesting perspective; I'm wondering how you arrived at that conclusion.
- If I could arrange for you to speak at my church about your impression of Christians, I'm wondering what you would say.
- I'm wondering what role religion has played in shaping your life.
- I'm wondering why the topic of God seems to stir up such strong emotions in you.
- I've thought long and hard about our last conversation; here's what I'm still wondering about.
- I'm wondering how my answer to that question made you feel.
- Your comments on the subject have left me wondering
- I'm wondering what you think you'd have to give up or lose to become a Christian.
- I'm wondering what you think it would take for you to acknowledge the reality of God's existence.
- As we've been talking, I've heard you talk about several things that seem to be missing in your life right now. I'm wondering if you're searching for something that's capable of filling those voids.

Exercise:

Think of **one person** on your FRANC List and develop a **wondering question** you could ask that person over the next month that would open up more spiritual conversations.

Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion

1. Ask the person on your FRANC List the wondering question you developed.

2. Use Sunday morning as an opportunity to connect with people and share the gospel.

OUR MISSION



Session 9 – What are we trying to accomplish? → ML + MC = CC

ML (Missional Leaders) + MC (Missional Congregation) = CC (Conversion Community)

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

- State your current Outreach Temperature
- Share a short, one-minute story of how God used you to connect with someone on a Sunday morning to share the Gospel this past month, or relate a story about sharing with someone on your FRANC list.

Listen with Care

The Big Idea!

We bless others through Listening with Care. When we listen, we communicate that the other person is important and we learn to respond more genuinely. As Larry King once wrote, "My first rule of conversation is this: I never learn a thing while I'm talking. I realize every morning that nothing I say today will teach me anything, so if I'm going to learn a lot today, I'll have to do it by listening."

God Space Video Session 4 – Listening Insights

- Don't listen with the intent of formulating a response, just focus and try to understand.
- Give eye contact and watch your body language.

Listening Exercise:

- Pair up.
- One person takes one minute to share an area in which you're currently being challenged.
- The other listens and then attempts to summarize what they heard the person share. Refine it until the one who shared agrees that it's accurate.
- Switch and repeat.

"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)

God Space Video Session 5	, Segment 2 – Wondering Question
Notes:	

Discussion:

Based on what Doug shared, brainstorm some wondering questions you could ask Ron.

God Space Video Session 5, Segment 3 – Wondering Questions Notes:
Personal Exercise: Most of us will talk with more people who think that all paths lead to God and would say they are doing fine spiritually. What wondering question you could ask a person like that?
Open Sharing:

Wondering Questions

Taken from the book <u>God Space</u>, by Doug Pollock (Chapter 6, pp.73-74)

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- I've thought long and hard about our last conversation; here's what I'm still wondering about.
- I'm wondering how my answer to that question made you feel.
- Your comments on the subject have left me wondering _______.
- I'm wondering what you think you'd have to give up or lose to become a Christian.
- I'm wondering what you think it would take for you to acknowledge the reality of God's existence.
- As we've been talking, I've heard you talk about several things that seem to be missing in your life right now. I'm wondering if you're searching for something that's capable of filling those voids.

Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion

- 1. Ask the person on your FRANC List the wondering question you developed. Keep the discussion going by asking additional wondering or understanding questions.
- 2. Use Sunday morning as an opportunity to connect with people and share the gospel.

OUR MISSION

EACH OF US, TOGETHER... SATURATING GREATER AUSTIN WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS.



Session 10 – What are we trying to accomplish? → ML + MC = CC

ML (Missional Leaders) + MC (Missional Congregation) = CC (Conversion Community)

What is BLESS?

BLESS is an acronym for five missional practices that help us introduce people to Jesus.

Begin with Prayer.

Listen with Care.

Eat Together.

Serve with Love.

Share Your Story and God's Story.

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

- What's your current Outreach Temperature?
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Practical BLESS Outcomes of Our 30-Day Infusions

- Consistent prayer for people far from God in our spheres of influence (FRANC)
- Enter **spiritual conversations**. **Dialog** with people far from God by asking questions, listening, and formulating Jesus-honoring responses.
- Share meals with people who do not know Christ personally.
- Serve people far from God and invite them to serve you.
- Share your **salvation story** in relevant and understandable ways. Speak openly about your relationship with Christ and share **stories** of how He impacts your life.
- Share a simple Gospel illustration clearly with people far from God and invite them to trust and follow Christ.

BLESS Check-Up

Self-Assessment:

Assessment of our current state is essential to ensure that our actions support the outcomes we desire.

Discuss:

Compare your current practice with the Practical BLESS Outcomes listed above.

Where am I currently seeing success?

Where do I need further help and practice?

What methods or actions do I need to change?

Discipling New Believers

Where do we start when we lead a person to faith in Christ? Think Person vs. Program

Foundations

Four-lesson basic follow-up to begin discipling new believers.

https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/discipleship/adult-discipleship-resources/foundations-study.html

Session Goals

Session 1 – Confidence (Assurance of Salvation)

You can be confident in your relationship with God because of Christ's death on the cross and your trust in Him.

Session 2 – Acceptance (Relationship with God and Fellowship with God)

You are a new person in Christ and are totally forgiven through Christ's death on the cross (relationship). But you are able to experience His love and forgiveness moment by moment (fellowship) as you obey God and confess your sin.

Session 3 – Empowerment (Filling of the Holy Spirit)

The Holy Spirit is the source of power to live the Christian life, and every believer can claim this power by faith.

Session 4 – Development (Spiritual Growth)

Growing in your relationship with Christ involves developing both your relationship with God and your relationships with people.

Discussion:

How do we use Foundations and stay within the context of our definition of a disciple and our approach to making disciples – Fully Formed Follower of Christ?

Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion

- 1. Pray regularly for the people on your FRANC List.
- 2. Seek to share your testimony and/or the Three Circles Gospel this month.
- 3. Use Sunday morning as an opportunity to connect with people and share the gospel.
- 4. Go online and review the Foundations series. Be prepared to use it when you lead someone to faith.

Resources:

- FRANC list / Outreach Temperature Card
- 30-Day Infusion Handouts
- Three Word Testimony Worksheet
- Three Circles Gospel video link: https://vimeo.com/326917759/0ed136a05d
- Wondering Questions Handout
- God Space, by Doug Pollock
- Foundations: https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/discipleship/adult-discipleship-resources/foundations-study.html

OUR MISSION

EACH OF US, TOGETHER... SATURATING GREATER AUSTIN WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS.



Session 11 – What are we trying to accomplish? \rightarrow ML + MC = CC

ML (Missional Leaders) + MC (Missional Congregation) = CC (Conversion Community)

What is BLESS?

BLESS is an acronym for five missional practices that Jesus and his early disciples constantly modelled. BLESS defines a good neighbor and friend and is every disciple's approach to impacting people far from God with the love of Jesus Christ.

Begin with Prayer.

Listen with Care.

Eat Together.

Serve with Love.

Share Your Story and God's Story.

Outreach Temperature Card Check-Up

- What's your current Outreach Temperature?
- What would keep you from getting to an 8 or 9 on our Outreach Temperature and living consistently at that level?

BLESS Personal Check-Up

What are your current activities with each of the BLESS missional practices and when do you do them? Be specific for each as you fill out page 2. Where do you want to be with each practice? What are your barriers to achieving this?

Begin with Prayer.

Praying regularly for people far from God in our spheres of influence (FRANC).

Listen with Care.

Entering **spiritual conversations** by asking questions, listening, and formulating Jesus-honoring responses.

Eat Together.

Sharing meals with people who don't yet know Christ personally.

Serve with Love.

Serving people far from God and inviting them to help you in different ways.

Share Your Story and God's Story.

Sharing your salvation story in relevant ways. Speaking openly about your relationship with Christ and sharing stories of how He is impacting your life.
Sharing a simple Gospel illustration clearly and inviting people to trust and follow Christ.

Assignments for the Next 30-Day Infusion

- 1. Pray regularly for the people on your FRANC List.
- 2. Refine your BLESS action items for the month.
- 3. Seek to share your testimony and the Three Circles Gospel illustration this month.
- 4. Use Sunday morning as an opportunity to connect with people and share the gospel.