

BLESSED TO BE A B.L.E.S.S.ING 5 EVERYDAY WAYS TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR *

1: B-BEGIN WITH PRAYER

JIM HINTON

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

I. I AM BLESSED IN ORDER TO BE A BLESSING

1. God blesses

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)

2. Jesus blesses

And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them...Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

Mark 10;13,16 (NLT)

3. I am called to bless

In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." 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 declare the Gentiles to be righteous 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 3:6-9 (NLT)

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us...that your ways may be known on earth your salvation among all nations.

Psalm 67:1-2 (NIV)

I can bless with my:

- Words
- Lifestyle
- Friendship (See Luke 19:1-10)

II. FIVE EVERYDAY WAYS TO BE A B.L.E.S.S.ING TO OTHERS

B: Begin with prayer L: Listen E: Eat S: Serve S: Story

...Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else.

Mark 10:43b-44 (NLT)

III. B—BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- 1. Each day before I get out of bed in the morning and before I go to sleep at night ask:
 - Lord, who can I pray for?
 - Lord, who can I bless?

We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer.

Corrie Ten Boom

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. "You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

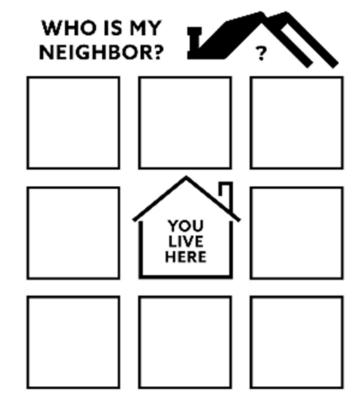
Matthew 7:7-11 (NLT)

2. "Who is My Neighbor?" Exercise

 Write down the names of my neighbors, coworkers, teammates, people at the gym etc. in the 8 squares and pray for them.

3. Three simple B.L.E.S.S tools

- Plan
- Prepare
- Places



^{*}Based on the book BLESS: 5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World by Dave Ferguson (Skyhorse Publishing, Kindle Edition)