



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

I. JESUS COMPLETELY SHIFTED THE GREATNESS PARADIGM

1. Serving others is the key to greatness and happiness

So Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. 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. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:42-45 (NLT)

[Keep] remembering the words that the Lord Jesus himself said, “There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.”

Acts 20:35 (TEV)

2. I am never more like Jesus than when I serve others

You should think in the same way Christ Jesus does. In his very nature he was God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something he should hold on to. Instead, he made himself nothing. He took on the very nature of a servant. He was made in human form.

Philippians 2:5-7 (NIRV)

II. FIVE WAYS WE CAN BLESS OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE (LIKE JESUS)—JN. 13

1. Serving is always motivated by love (v.1-2)

2. Serving is done in simple ways (v.3-5)

Three questions to ask:

- Who is in need?
...Right in front of me right now....
- What is their need?

How's my neighbor doing relationally?

How is their home life?
How is their marriage, dating or family life?
Do they have close friends?
How are their relationships at work?
Do they have a healthy circle of friends?

How's my neighbor doing physically?

How is their overall health?
Does their energy level seem good?
Are they getting regular exercise?
Are their eating habits healthy?
Are they able to sleep?

How's my neighbor doing mentally?

Are there signs of anxiety?
Are there symptoms of depression?
Have I noticed any mood swings?
Are there any unhealthy thought patterns displayed?

How's my neighbor doing spiritually?

Do they sense something is missing in their life?
Are they willing to have you pray for them?
Do they display spiritual curiosity?
Do they initiate spiritual conversations
Are they moving closer to God?

- How can I meet their need?

- Give away flowers or veggies from my yard
- When going out for coffee or lunch ask coworkers if they want anything
- Clean up my home/office kitchen even when I didn't make the mess
- Write people encouraging card, emails or texts
- Cook a meal for a sick friend, neighbor or coworker
- Stay late to help someone with a project at work
- Bring in an elderly neighbor's mail, trashcans or newspaper
- Walk a neighbor's dog
- Get first aid certified
- Let someone cut in front of you in line
- Leave generous tips with a happy note
- Give a ride to someone in need of one
- Visit a retirement home
- Volunteer at FMSC or a local food bank
- Be polite, courteous and friendly to everyone
- Compliment someone
- Mow and elderly neighbor's lawn/clear snow
- Invite neighbors to a backyard cookout
- Organize a neighborhood clean up
- Help with a community garden
- Shovel/clear snow from a neighbors driveway
- Babysit for a single parent

3. Serving is never beneath me (v.6-16)

Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.

Matthew 25:40 (CEV)

4. Serving is rewarded by God (v.17)

The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.
Proverbs 11:25 (The Message)