

**“Begin with Prayer”
#Blessed Series
Acts 2 United Methodist Church**

God’s Blessing Strategy

Mark Russell, *The Missional Entrepreneur* (2009):

	Blessers	Converters
Strategy	“to be a blessing”	“to convert, evangelize”
Social good	tremendous	not so much
Conversions	100	2

To accomplish the mission to reach others for Christ, we need to be _____.

From the beginning, God’s way to change the world has been a “_____”
_____.” Genesis 12:2-3

Jesus understood this strategy as _____ His earthly ministry. Luke 4:17-19.

The three “R’s” of God’s blessing strategy:

- R_____ those who are far from God.
- R_____ God’s dream for this world.
- R_____ the mission in the lives of others.

B.L.E.S.S. Missional Practices

- B - Begin with Prayer
- L - Listen
- E - Eat
- S - Serve
- S - Story

Two Temptations when it comes to these five missional practices:

1. Treat like a _____ AND/OR
2. Dismiss for being too _____.

B - Begin with Prayer

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father d_____ . . .” John 5:19

Prayer is how we discover where God is _____.

God is at work in the every day _____ and _____ where you live.

Pray for “_____.”

When you see God at work, that is your _____ to join Him there.

Action Steps

- Commit to start every day with a prayer asking God to use you to bless some place or someone in your world. Be bold and ask for “_____.”

_____ the Acts 2 community

Someone or some place that you have an on-going _____ with.

- Ask each other the question every time you gather at home, in small groups, in programming teams, and/or committees: “Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week?”

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- To accomplish the mission to reach others for Christ, we need to be **blessers**.
- From the beginning, God’s way to change the world has been a “ **blessing strategy**”.
 Genesis 12:2-3
- Jesus understood this strategy as **defining** His earthly ministry. Luke 4:17-19.
- The three “R’s” of God’s blessing strategy:
 - **Reach** those who are far from God.
 - **Restore** God’s dream for this world.
 - **Reproduce** the mission in the lives of others.

B.L.E.S.S. Missional Practices

- B - Begin with Prayer
- L - Listen
- E - Eat
- S - Serve
- S - Story

- Two Temptations when it comes to these five missional practices:
 3. Treat like a **check list** AND/OR
 4. Dismiss for being too **simple**.

B - Begin with Prayer

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father **doing** . . .” John 5:19

- Prayer is how we discover where God is **working**.
- God is at work in the every day **people** and **places** where you live.
- Pray for “ **divine appointments**”.
- When you see God at work, that is your **invitation** to join Him there.

Action Steps

- Commit to start every day with a prayer asking God to use you to bless some place or someone in your world. Be bold and ask for “ **divine appointments**.”
 Outside the Acts 2 community
 Someone or some place that you have an on-going **relationship** with.
- Ask each other the question every time you gather at home, in small groups, in programming teams, and/or committees: “Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week?”