

2 Ways to Display Passionate Care for People without Jesus

From:

Game Plan: Developing Intentional Missional Ministry

originally published as *Game Plan: Developing Intentional*

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The “B*E*L*LS” Approach

Michael Frost, in his book “Exiles”, shares a simple but very effective approach to living a more intentional lifestyle, or “missional rhythm”, using the acronym “B*E*L*L*S”. Here’s an adaptation:

“Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth. As You have sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:17-18, NIV)

“I will bless you...and you will be a blessing...and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” (Genesis 12:2, 3)

“So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)

Bless at least 3 people each week

This can be done many ways, but the key is to be intentional. "Blessing" could be an e-mail of affirmation or encouragement, mowing a neighbor's lawn or babysitting for a single mom. It could be a small gift, an act of service, or acting as an agent of peace. Bless a person who is a believer. Bless a person who is not a professing Christian. As you've already been using the "B*L*E*S*S" strategy as you pray for people (see our section on intercession), you are now demonstrating God's love in practical ways intentionally.

Eat with at least 3 other people each week

Eat with a person who is a believer. Eat with a person who is not a professing Christian. Leverage your meal times or coffee breaks for relational investment.

Listen to the promptings of God

Commit to specific times of solitude for active listening to God. Find the ways that you best connect to the Lord and hear His voice. Make it a part of your daily rhythm, especially in the "spaces" during your day. Give at least one hour each week for this activity.

Learn from the Gospels each week

Read the whole Bible...learn God's story! Have regular rhythm of Bible study. However, take time to specifically read the Gospels in order to learn specifically from Jesus' ways and words.

Share Your Story

As we spend time with people, we will learn their stories. In their stories we will learn the keys to their hearts and discern how God is working in their lives. Wisely share your own story in ways that connects to their story. Weave in the Good News of God's Story as the Spirit leads. Learn a simple, clear way to present the gospel so people can respond to the invitation of Jesus to follow Him.

At the end of your day, reflect these two questions...make them a matter of prayer...share them with your accountability partners: In what ways did I cooperate with Jesus today? In what ways did I resist Jesus today?

How To "B*L*E*S*S" Others in Prayer

When we pray for God's Kingdom to come, we are asking the Lord to work in people's lives in such a way that they recognize His powerful love drawing them to know Him. As you take time to get to know people and listen for their needs, the Lord will give you wisdom and authority to pray for them. A prayer strategy I've learned from Ed Silvano gives a simple guideline to pray specifically and consistently for these key needs in people's lives. He calls it being a "lighthouse of prayer". We approach our prayer for others from a posture of blessing them with what God wants for them. As Scripture reminds us in Romans 2:4, His kindness leads us to repentance. As people see God at work in their lives, they are more open to Him. Ask the Lord to "bless" people in the following ways:

Body—their physical needs (health issues, freedom from addictions, etc.)

Labors—their work (workplace relationships, job needs)

Emotions—their “felt” needs for love, peace, faith, hope

Social—their relationships with family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

Spiritual—God’s best for their lives—His forgiveness, peace, power, and a home in Heaven.

You can “prayer walk (or drive)” your neighborhood, school, place of work. Pray with His discernment and authority. Ask the Lord of the Harvest for the number of people He wants you to influence for His Kingdom...and ask Him for the faith to do it! God is with you as you pray! Seek to develop a lifestyle of prayer...you will be amazed at the answers to prayer God will bring...miracles are waiting!