

B.L.E.S.S.

5 Everyday Ways to Love Your Neighbor and Change the World

Come & See

Series Overview

Jesus said we're to love our neighbors. As part of our B.L.E.S.S. campaign based on the book by Dave and Jon Ferguson, in this sermon series, we want to consider practical, everyday ways that we can love our neighbors, to bless them, and in so doing, point them to the greatest blessing of all: a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Sermon Introduction

How did you first meet Jesus? Chances are Jesus didn't appear to you in a vision (though that does happen). And it wasn't from a Bible placed by the Gideons in a hotel room (that, too!). It was when someone introduced you to him by inviting you to "come and see" Jesus for yourself.

Passage: John 1:35-51 (NIV)

John 1:35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

John 1:36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

John 1:37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

John 1:38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

John 1:39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.

John 1:40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

John 1:41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

John 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

John 1:43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

John 1:44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 1:46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

John 1:47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.”

John 1:48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

John 1:49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.”

John 1:50 Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that.”

John 1:51 He then added, “I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage. What stood out to you? Was there anything that you found surprising or confusing?
2. Read vv. 38-39. The disciples don't seem to answer Jesus' question: “What do you want?” What do you think it was they wanted? If Jesus were to ask what you want from him today, what would you say?
3. If Jesus invited you over to spend the day with him, what do you think it would take to convince you (other than a miracle) that he was the Son of God sent for the salvation of the world?
4. Nathanael's declaration that Jesus is “the Son of God” and “the king of Israel” is shocking (v. 49). What do you think was it about Jesus seeing Nathanael under the fig tree (v. 48) that could elicit such a response from Nathanael?
5. Do you have a “fig tree” moment when you realized that Jesus was the Son of God sent for the salvation of the world?
6. Jesus' announcement in v. 51 is an allusion to Jacob's dream in Genesis 28:10-17. What do you think Jesus was telling the disciples about himself?
7. How many times in this passage can you count where someone brought someone else to see Jesus? Who invited you to “come and see” Jesus?
8. Is there an opportunity for you to invite someone (for example, the person you've been praying for) to “come and see” Jesus? What might that look like?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God's power.

- Thank Jesus that he saw you before you even knew him.
- Confess that he is the Son of God, the connection point between heaven and earth (v. 51), and your Lord and Savior.
- Ask God to give you the opportunity and the courage to invite someone to meet him, whether by inviting them into a conversation or to church.
- Continue to pray for the person or family you've committed to bless:

"Heavenly Father, I want to be a blessing to _____. Help me to take the time to listen to what they have to say, eat with them, serve them, and share my story with them so that they could see You in me. I pray that they would know You the way that I know You. Use me to make the introduction. Amen."