

# B.L.E.S.S.

*5 Everyday Ways Love Your Neighbor and Change the World*

## Begin with Prayer

### 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

So, you want to bless other people, but don't know how to get started? The first step is simple (just not always easy): pray for them.

### Passage: 1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NIV)

1Tim. 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—

1Tim. 2:2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1Tim. 2:3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior,

1Tim. 2:4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1Tim. 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

1Tim. 2:6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

### 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. Who does God expect us to pray for (v. 1)? Are there any exceptions—someone we *shouldn't* pray for? (Bonus: why do you think Paul mentions praying for people in authority specifically?)
3. According to v. 4, what does God want for everyone? Again, do you think there are any exceptions, anyone God *doesn't* want to be saved?

4. Verse 6 says that Jesus “gave himself as a ransom” for all people. What do you think that means and why does it matter for us?
5. Is prayer part of your daily routine? Do you ever struggle to pray?
6. What do your prayers reveal about what you care most about?
7. Think of someone, preferably someone who lives in your neighborhood. How could you pray for them?

## **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.*

This week, pray that God would make you a blessing to someone else.

“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.”