



The Evangelical Covenant Church

MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES



INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM

BLESS is a new approach to prayer and evangelism. It's less about downloading information or memorizing scripts, and more about loving our neighbors well. It helps us get "unstuck" and practice evangelism more effortlessly.

God's way of reaching and restoring the world has always been through blessing. Five missional practices that make up the acronym **BLESS** are a way to participate in the strategy God gave Abraham to reach the world. "And I will bless you...and you will be a blessing" (GENESIS 12:2). As we engage these practices daily, we partner with God's Spirit to bless those who do not know him.

CovChurch.org/BLESS

FIVE MISSIONAL PRACTICES TO NATURALLY INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO JESUS

BEGIN
with prayer

LISTEN
with care

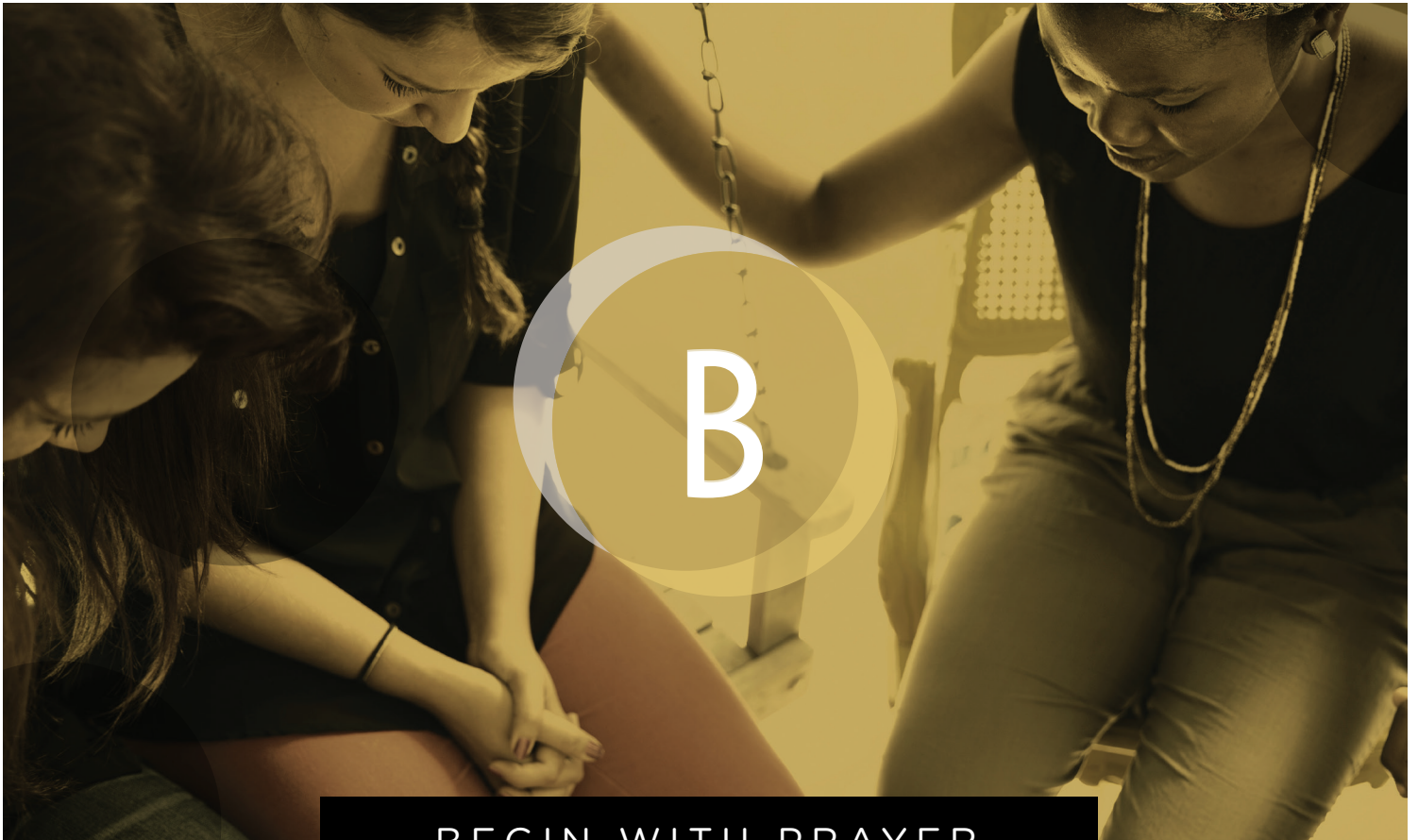
EAT
together

SERVE
with love

SHARE
your story



intentional evangelism initiative



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Jesus came to find people who are lost and to help those who are hurting. As we seek to join him in his mission, we begin with prayer, recognizing we can only do this through God's power.

Begin by asking God, "Where do you want me to join you in the work you are doing in my family, friends, and others you are seeking to draw toward yourself?" Create a prayer list and ask God how you can pray for each person. Be bold and look for divine opportunities to be a blessing!

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LISTEN WITH CARE

To BLESS others, begin with listening rather than talking. Jesus often engaged people by asking them questions and loving them through conversation. When people are heard and understood, they feel safe and valued.

So get curious and ask good questions. Listen deeply to people's dreams and pain. What's more, listen for evidence of God's work in their lives so you can participate in the work God is already doing.

Listen well so you can learn how to BLESS others!

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EAT TOGETHER

To BLESS others, seek creative ways to share meals together. Through the simple act of eating together, we practice hospitality, build community, and deepen relationships.

Jesus commonly ate and drank with those he sought to engage, such as Matthew, Zacchaeus, the Samaritan woman, and many others. We can richly BLESS others through missional hospitality.

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SERVE WITH LOVE

Perhaps the most powerful way to BLESS others is by serving them in love. Jesus's ministry was characterized by service (MATTHEW 20:28), and he showed the full extent of his love to his disciples by serving them (JOHN 13:1-17).

We too can have a profound impact through service. As you listen deeply and build community with others, you will discover meaningful opportunities to serve them. As we freely and joyfully serve others, they will begin to experience the love of Jesus in tangible ways. God longs to love others through you.

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SHARE YOUR STORY

Look for opportunities to BLESS others by sharing the story of how Jesus is transforming your life and the world. You don't need a script and you don't need a dramatic story.

When you set Christ apart in your heart, you become different. You experience grace. You know what it is like to be forgiven. You know what it means to have purpose. You handle your relationships differently than you once did. You make financial decisions and approach career priorities differently than others. Your heart has grown for God's mission to extend the whole gospel to the whole world. Jesus changes everything. You can tell the story.

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