



Compelled

Sharing Jesus With Others

BLESS OTHERS

A WORKBOOK FOR ARVADA COVENANT CHURCH

Did you know?

82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited. Only 2% of church members invite a single unchurched person to church each year.

Yep. You read that correctly. During our Vision Desserts in June, we shared some key initiatives with you and one of those initiatives is to be more invitational. This is less about downloading information, and more about loving our neighbors well. People you pass every single day are yearning for purpose and dying for community.

We, the church, have both. You do the inviting and let God do the heavy lifting and moving of hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our hope is that the end result could be an entire community fully engaged in an invite culture and blessing others in a natural and life-giving way.

This workbook is a resource to help you consider who to invite to church as we live out our fourth practice of blessing others. The prompts will help you see new opportunities to join the Spirit in blessing the people in your life who do not know God.

Pastor Brian Rhen and Pastor Jodi Moore



**ARVADA
COVENANT
CHURCH**

How do I bless someone in my life?



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Ask God to show you three to six people in your life who do not know God, and pray for them each day.



LISTEN WITH CARE

Pay attention to people's dreams and pain. Listen for evidence of God's work in their lives.



EAT TOGETHER

Share meals together.



SERVE IN LOVE

Be attentive to opportunities God provides you to care for people and attend to their needs.



SHARE THE STORY

Once you build a relationship and earn trust, look for ways you can share the story of how Jesus is transforming your life and the world.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Begin by writing down the names of three to six people in your life who do not yet have a relationship with Jesus. Then write down ways you want to ask God to help you deepen your own relationship with them.

**Collaborate with
the Holy Spirit**

**People who do
not know Jesus**

My prayer needs:

POSSIBLE WAYS TO PRAY

- Pray as you go (drive, eat, shop, etc.).
- Use an item you see regularly to remind you to pray whenever you see it.
- Pray that _____ will become thirsty for God. (John 7:37-39)
- Pray that the Father will draw _____ to Jesus. (John 6:44-45)
- Pray that _____ will become open to God's truth. (2 Corinthians 4:4-6)
- Pray that _____ will take genuine steps of repentance. (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- Pray that _____ will become receptive to God's grace. (Romans 3:23-24; Titus 3:4-7)
- Pray that _____ will clearly experience God's love. (1 John 4:7-10, 19-21)

For more ideas on beginning with prayer, go to covchurch.org/bless-pray.

**Pray for people in your life
who are far from God. Ask
God, "How do you want to
use me to bless the people
in my life?"**

Reflections

Write your reflections on Beginning with Prayer here.

I saw these answers to prayer:

I saw the Holy Spirit work through:

Where am I stuck?

LISTEN WITH CARE

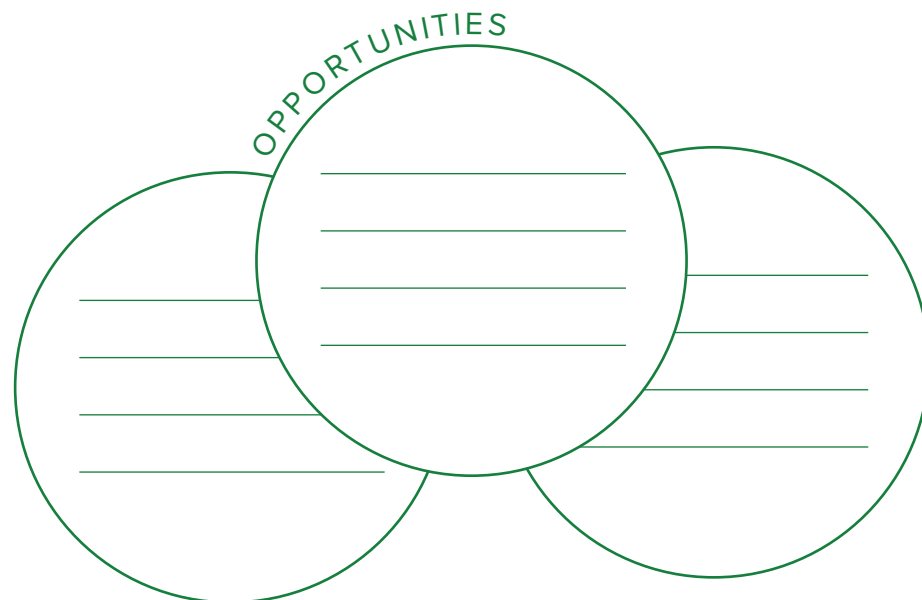
**What are some natural opportunities to listen in your life?
How can you create opportunities to listen?**

Ways to Listen

Phone calls | Emails | Social media | Texts | While together

For more ideas on listening with care, go to
covchurch.org/bless-listen.

**If you want to be a good listener, think of yourself as
someone who comes alongside another person—not to give
advice, but to learn the other person's real story.**



Ask Another Question

Nonstarter: Be quick to give an answer

The Opener: Ask one more question

Jesus didn't answer many questions. He often replied with a better question or told a story that didn't always make a whole lot of sense (aka "parables). Rarely did Jesus do what we tend to do: give a direct answer.

When I meet someone new for coffee, my favorite thing to do is ask questions, to draw people out, to actually get to know the person in front of me. At times, the questions asked also help the other person to know themselves. Jesus asked great questions:

"Do you want to get well?" John 5:6

"What do you want me to do for you?" Mark 10:51

"Do you love me?" John 21:17

"Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15

Instead of clearly explaining to the disciples who he was, Jesus asked them who they thought he was. Jesus never gave the disciples all the answers right away. Today we call this a relationship. Friendship. Life. There is nothing we can know all at once. Rather, one conversation leads to another and eventually a relationship. Lectures lead nowhere.

While it can be much easier to give an answer, this week I want to challenge you to think of a better question. Or pause and try to discern the heart behind the question someone else is asking you. When someone asks me why there's suffering in the world, the quick answer is "because of a broken world. Sin." But was that really their question? Maybe that person is really asking why they've had to suffer so much. Or if God really gives a rip about all the evil in the world. While the analytical approach to life's great questions isn't a bad approach. It's not the way of Jesus. Being kind like Jesus means caring enough to learn why a given question matters to another person. This usually means asking another question, and another, and another, and listening. We listen to show our concern instead of listening to give a right answer.

Start your questions with who, what, when, where, why, or how. Go deeper by asking, "What was that like for you?" "How did that feel?" "That's a great question. Tell me more." This will lead to deeper and more meaningful conversation. All of us yearn for someone to care enough to ask us good, deep questions that will draw out the best from within. Try it!

Reflections

When I listened,

I heard:

I saw the Holy Spirit work in:

I learned I can listen better by:

EAT TOGETHER

Whether you are eating a meal together or just hanging out, the idea behind this practice is to intentionally spend time together, connecting on a deeper level and building relationship with people who do not know God.

NATURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION



A light green illustration of a spoon, fork, and knife arranged vertically. The spoon is on the left, the fork is in the middle, and the knife is on the right. They are positioned behind a series of seven horizontal green lines, which serve as a writing area.

Sharing meals together on a regular basis is one of the most sacred practices we can engage in as believers. Through the simple act of eating together, we practice hospitality, build community, and deepen relationships.

POSSIBLE IDEAS

- Have dinner together in your home or at a restaurant
- Share a pizza
- Enjoy a cup of coffee together
- Host a holiday party
- Organize a block party or neighborhood BBQ
- Include others in your family celebrations
- Try new restaurants together
- Add one person to one meal per week
- Throw a small dinner party
- Create an affinity group
- Teach someone how to cook
- Share a holiday meal
- Attend their party or event

For more ideas go to covchurch.org/bless-eat.

**Share meals with people in
your life who do not have
a relationship with God.
Engage in meaningful
conversation.**

Reflections

When I listened,

I heard God say:

I saw the Holy Spirit work by:

Our connection deepens when:

Relax the Strategy

Nonstarter: Overthink everything

The Opener: Just go with it sometimes

When I was in my twenties, I went through a program called “Evangelism Explosion.” This method plunges right in with two questions. The first question: Do you know for sure that you will go to Heaven one day? And the second is this: If God were to ask you, “Why should I let you into my heaven?” what would you say? No subtlety there! Maybe you’ve used the Romans Road, the Bridge diagram or the Four Spiritual Laws—all are clear, concise, and strategic.

But a strategy doesn’t lead to a real conversation. The strategies listed above are monologues pretending to be conversations. Jesus had no cookie-cutter mold method of talking to people. Each conversation went a different direction. Real conversations involve real listening, to the person and to the Holy Spirit. As we mentioned earlier, it means asking questions based on what you’ve heard.

We recently had our neighbors over for dinner, drinks and game night. They are good-hearted, energetic, non-religious folks. The kind you’d want for a neighbor. They started off by saying how nice it is to live together in peace and harmony and if the whole world would just be nice and tolerate each other, we’d all get along. In years past, I would have jumped in and started down a pre-planned path about why I disagree. Good strategy, right? Not really. Because sometimes good strategy shuts down a conversation real quick.

I stayed quiet and listened. Nodded my head and made eye contact. The conversation continued and it soon came out that there had been some recent family drama in their lives—that very same day. It was some hard stuff for them to deal with. I could have jumped in with my own family drama story, but I kept listening. Eventually, I was able to get to what was really on their hearts. They may have said they wanted world peace, but really they were looking for inner peace. So my current strategy, aligned a bit more with Jesus, is to exhibit patient listening in real-life conversations (involving food never hurts) that go wherever the person and God want them to go. Be ready to jump in when it seems right. But if not, just grab a drink and enjoy the conversation for what it is.

For the next generation,
**compassionate service is the most effective
on-ramp to evangelism.**

We've found that before skeptical young adults embrace faith,
they first want to know that it makes a difference (a show-
then-tell-logic).

—By Tim Lucas and Warren Bird in Liquid Church: 6 Powerful
Currents to Saturate Your City for Christ

Ways I Can Serve

Offer to pray | Keep someone company | Be generous with
your gratitude | Offer to take care of a tangible need (cook a
meal, babysit, shovel snow)

You may choose to serve others. However, sometimes the
greatest opportunities come when you allow others
to serve you.

Ways Others Can Serve Me

Accept their compliments | Borrow something | Share your
needs with your neighbors openly

Reflections

I grew in Christ by:

I found natural opportunities to serve when:

I saw the Holy Spirit work in:

SHARE THE STORY

When in your life was God most real to you? When has your encounter with Jesus been most influential? When have you most connected to the reality of the spiritual side of life?

That's your crucial story to learn to share.

That's the story that will be most relevant for you as a guide to others in their spiritual journey.

—Rick Richardson, “Reimagining Evangelism: Inviting Friends on a Spiritual Journey”

OPENINGS IN MY CALENDAR

-
-
-

NATURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

-
-
-

covchurch.org/bless-serve

IDEAS FOR SHARING THE STORY OF GOD'S LOVE

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

**Once you build
relationship and earn trust,
look for ways to share
the story of how Jesus is
transforming your life and
the world.**

Reflections

As I shared, I heard God say:

I saw the Holy Spirit work by:

I can share again:

I learned:

Say Something Crazy

Nonstarter: Carefully manage your reputation

The Opener: Risk looking foolish

Jesus looked foolish, but didn't seem to mind. It's a little strange to tell your closest followers that they need to eat his flesh and drink his blood. Then there was that time he put mud on the blind man's eyes. Is that really necessary? Or the time he told the Jews to destroy the temple and he'd raise it again in three days. Really?! The temple they were thinking of took forty-six years to build. Jesus wasn't the only one in the long line of biblical heroes who were willing to look foolish for a bigger purpose yet to be revealed. Moses told Pharaoh, "Let my people go." Ruth stayed with Naomi, saying "Your people will be my people and your God my God." Hosea asked the prostitute Gomer to marry him.

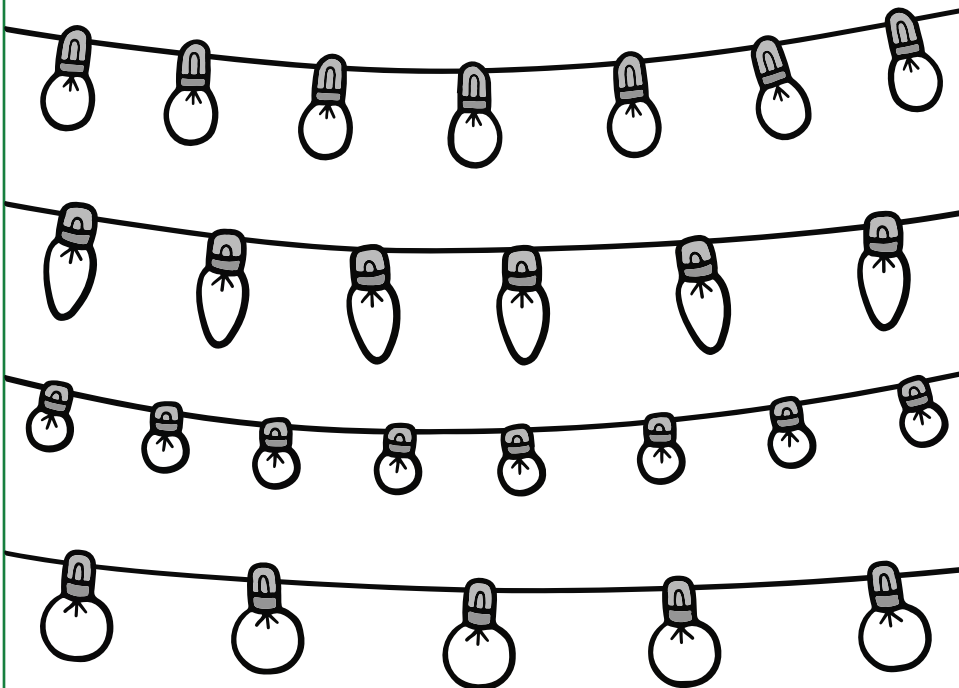
I once opened an umbrella inside the sanctuary as an object lesson for a children's sermon. Did you know that opening an umbrella indoors will result in bad luck "raining" down on you? Thankfully, in that moment, I was motivated by something greater than luck. The people before me were farmers... in a drought... in rural Nebraska and I was their new pastor from the city. I decided to look foolish. I prayed for rain. The next day, it rained. And those who knew of my prayer saw it as an act of God. Pretty cool, huh?

Of course, things don't always work out like that. You wouldn't be at risk of looking foolish if you didn't sometimes end up looking like a fool. If we're real honest, sometimes we don't talk to people or bring up Jesus or have deep conversations because we're afraid of looking foolish or feeling awkward. Not everyone appreciates our asking where they worship, if they have a faith or if they believe.

Here's the thing: being foolish for Jesus in our everyday interactions can have a profound impact on how those interactions go. What if instead of looking foolish, you get to watch the person in front of you have a powerful encounter with God? What if the person in front of you had a dream about Jesus last night and your "happening" to bring him up in conversation propels him to pursue God? What if your new acquaintance is longing for someone to invite her into something deeper and more meaningful than what she yet knows? What if we get to be conduits of the love of God in someone's life? It's a risk worth taking, if you ask me.

So ask questions in an attempt to go deeper. Talk about Jesus. Be the best version of yourself for the sake of others. Be a fool for Jesus' sake.

Color a light every time you take a
step on your BLESS journey.



**BEGIN WITH PRAYER
LISTEN WITH CARE
EAT TOGETHER
SERVE TOGETHER
SHARE THE STORY**

Color in a box when you see the Holy Spirit moving
in one of these missional practices.

Celebrate!

I LEARNED...ABOUT MYSELF

[illegible]

**BEGIN
WITH
PRAYER**

**LISTEN
WITH
CARE**

**EAT
TOGETHER**

**SERVE
WITH
LOVE**

**SHARE
THE
STORY**

I LEARNED...ABOUT GOD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

[illegible]

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LEADING ME TO:

[illegible]



**ARVADA
COVENANT
CHURCH**