



## Week Two

*If you and your group are part of a different EastLake Church location — like Venice Church, EastLake Temecula, EastLake Imperial Beach, EastLake Online, or any other EastLake — adjust the questions below to reflect your local church, neighborhood, city, or location. Your local church will also have its own unique website. See your local staff contact for help.*

### Opening Prayer

God, thank you for being here with us and being interested in doing good in us and through us. Help us to hear what you have for us today. Amen.

### “I Heart Chula Vista” Series Overview

We kicked off a new series this week called, “I Heart Chula Vista”, where we look at the wisdom of good neighboring and join together to show Chula Vista just how much we can love others. As a body of Christ we will be looking at ways we can bless our community and then on October 27- 29 we will be intentionally gathering outside the walls of our church to serve others. For more information, visit [iheartCV.com](http://iheartCV.com).

### Talk It Over

This week we continued looking over the idea that we are ‘sent people’ who are meant to bless the people we live, work, and play with. To help us live this out, we are looking at five practical ways to go about this specific Jesus mission using a method called “B.L.E.S.S.”.

- In what ways have you recently felt blessed by someone else? Tell us what happened and why it mattered to you.

### **This week we looked at what the “L” and “E” stand for in the B.L.E.S.S. method:**

#### **1. L is for Listen: Listen for what’s really happening in people’s lives.**

#### **Read Luke 18:35-42 (NLT)**

Good listening is not about learning a technique or trying to manipulate people; the best way to be a good listener is to genuinely care. In the above passage we see that Jesus heard that one man’s voice in a huge crowd of people and then he focused his attention to make sure he could actually listen to him. We’re surrounded by people who desire to find a listening ear. David Augsburg says it this way, “Being listened to is so close to being loved that most people cannot tell the difference.”

- When is listening the hardest for you? When is it the easiest?
- In what ways are you feeling heard this season and in what ways do you feel unheard?

## **2. E is for Eat: Eat with others regularly.**

### **Read Matthew 9:9-13**

When Jesus was on earth he moved his mission forward in some strategic, regular ways: He taught, he healed, he did miracles of various kinds, he took care of the poor, he prayed, he died on the cross, he stood for love, and so on. He also spent a good amount of time eating with people. In this passage of scripture we see that Jesus was intentionally connecting with Matthew, and Matthew's community, over a meal. Jesus' choice to connect over a meal was a statement that he wanted to be associated with that specific group of people and that he affirmed the worth of those people. The fact that Matthew, or his community, had a bad reputation didn't deter Jesus from connecting intentionally.

- What are some personal positive associations you have about sharing a meal with someone?
- Looking at your life this season, how are you doing at connecting with people intentionally over a meal?
- Have you ever struggled over connecting with someone because you didn't want to be associated with them? Tell us about your fears and decision.

### **This week's bottom line is simple: We must engage with people to be a blessing.**

Engaging with people can be extra difficult for us in different ways and for various reasons. But if we want to be people who bless others we have to be people to engage with others. Everywhere we go is a mission field with people whom God desires us to connect with and love.

- In what way can you get better at engaging with others?
- Is there someone specifically in your life you want to get better at engaging with?

### **October 27-29 All Serve Week**

- If you signed up for a project on the iheartCV.com website, tell us what project you chose to serve at and why?
- If you haven't signed up for a project on the iheartCV.com website, take a look at the website after prayer. Feel free to sign up of a project as a group or as individuals.

### **Closing Prayer**

God, help us to partner with you and to live on mission. Help us to find natural, organic ways to engage well with others.

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### **How To Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group connect in friendship and grow faith.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith for your specific group.

Spend some time praying about your group, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance regarding your specific group.