

I ♥ CV

Week Three

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 it's own unique website. See your local staff contact for help.

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for being here with us, for loving us as we are, and for inviting us to change. Help us to hear from you today.

“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.

Talk It Over

This series we've looked at various actions the “B.L.E.S.S.” strategy encourages each of us to take — to begin with prayer, to listen well, to eat with others, to serve, and share our story. Today we specifically looked at the “serve” step.

This “B.L.E.S.S.” strategy is not meant to be some weird prepackaged program or religious checklist to convert people. This strategy is simply a tool to help us intentionally love more like Jesus who blessed people everywhere he went.

- What would be some of the pitfalls or negative side effects of us treating this strategy like a prepackaged program or religious checklist?

Read Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

Jesus doesn't try to transform us through guilt, fear, or shame; and nor does God desire to bless us simply for our own sake. Jesus' plan is to transform us through his blessings and love, and then in turn, we are made to have those same blessings and that same love go through us and land on others. God blesses us and he invites us to bless others; this is the first “law” of blessing — it must flow outward.

- In what ways have you seen God's blessing and love for you flow out of you and onto others?

This week we looked at this equation:

Blessing + Serve = Transformation

Blessing – Serve = Stagnation

- How does this equation resonate with you? How have you seen it come true in your life?

(Content continued on the next page.)

Mark 10:42-45 (Voice) and Mark 6:34

We are never more like Jesus than when we choose to be conduits of God's love, goodness, and generosity. People matter to God so they need to matter to us and true compassion is meant to be displayed in action.

This week we looked at simple tools to serve well:

1. **Serve people in my proximity.** Look at where you live, work, and play.
 2. **Serve people perceptively.** Be aware of what is going on in the lives of the people we are serving. In order to serve people perceptively we need to be interested in understanding others — let's not assume we've figured them out, know what they need, know their pain, etc. And remember, physical pain is often easier to see in others than mental and emotional pain.
 3. **Serve people personally.** Be willing to enter into others lives, experiences, and pain. We need to understand the pain of others is as meaningful and difficult as ours.
- Which of the three ideas feels the most natural? Which feels the most difficult?
 - If you have any stories of how you have seen these ideas play out in your life, share one with us.

Read John 14:12 (NLT)

We have the power of God in us; we are called and designed to be conduits of God's love, hope, goodness, and generosity. God meets us where we are and he desires to send us out to bless the world.

- In what way does fear hold you back from blessing others?
- How could having more confidence in your capacity to bless others be an asset to you?

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 for 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.

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.