

Blessed Relationships

Imagine what a blessed relationship feels like.

Welcome & Review

- Welcome new Imaginers
- Folders & Materials
- Invite friends, relatives, associates, neighbors
- Enjoy your table mates
- Take careful notes of your ideas

What Say Ye?

- Your Imaginings / Your ideas up until now
- Break to clear our tables

Prayer

Lord, we pray your blessings on our gathering,
on our breaking bread together, and our conversations.
May you inspire our hearts and minds,
and may we imagine with you
the future you have in store for us.
In Christ's name and for his mission we pray. Amen.

Reviewing Our Mission as God's Mission

- We exist for God's mission in the world.
- We are *blessed to be a blessing* to all we encounter. (Gen 12)
- We are called to **host** others in love and care. (Gen 18)
- We are called to receive the blessings of guests. (Gen 18)
- We are called, equipped, and sent by Jesus to our people.

Our Behavior

- As Jesus People, we must strive to **behave** consistent with our stated mission as God's mission.
- Blessed to be a blessing (Gen 12)
- Pray for the city because its welfare is our welfare. (Jere 29)
- Blessed life = well-being = human flourishing

God's Mission

- God's mission is **here** and **out there**.
- Our mission is to the people of our mission field.
- We are blessed to be a blessing to all we encounter.
- We are called to host others in sacred relationships.
- We are called to equip ourselves for the mission.

Sacred / Spiritual Relationships

- Our relationships with one another & with new relationships is the **space** where God changes hearts & minds.
- God's new creation (2 Cor 5.17) "happens" in relationships.
- *New creation* relationships happen in "church" and "out there" where we live, work, and play.

Our Mission

- Our mission happens in *sacred* relationships.
- Mission *projects* provide opportunities for sacred relationships.
- Mission is humanitarian (sustenance) AND spiritual.
- Outreach is primarily about the persons in the relationship.

Imagine

- Imagine ways we will enter blessed relationships that allow God to change our hearts & minds.
- Imagine ways we will enter blessed relationships “out there.”

Sustenance AND Spirituality

- Matthew 25 & 28 are bookends of the mission
- “The least of these” AND “Go, make disciples”
- One is not complete without the other.
- Imagine ways we will minister to “the least of these” AND “make disciples.” (life-change)

Imagine

- Imagine ways we will make disciples for Jesus *as we do good.*

Close Encounters of a Spiritual Kind

- Notice the other
- Be open to the other
- Greet the other
- Listen to the other
- Befriend the other
- Stay with the other

Blessed Encounters

- God blesses close encounters where we
intend good will
receive the other
give God a chance to work
cultivate the relationship
follow up.

Imagine

- Imagine ways we will *work at* relationships
to give God an opportunity to change hearts & minds.

Who Are Our Neighbors

- Discover the people, households, and institutions of our mission field.
- Select your interest area to Discover:
mark 1 as your top priority, 2 as second, 3 as third.

Tie a Bow on It

- Wrap up
- Notes, Notes, Notes
- Fall Break October 11 (no session)
- Next 5 sessions will **Discover** our mission field.
- October 18 – November 15

Our Priestly Benediction

Numbers 6.24-26

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
- The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
- The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
