



FELLOWSHIP
MISSIONARY CHURCH



BLESS

PRAY • CARE • SHARE

2020

DIGITAL POCKET GUIDE

A Handbook to Help You BLESS
Your Neighbors This Year

Getting Started

THE MISSION

"I will bless you...and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

- Genesis 12:2-3

God's strategy for reaching and restoring the world is simply this: to have His people bless the world. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Are you asking, "Where does my life fit into the great and grand story of God's mission?" What would it look like if God's mission was the starting point of your life? It's a shift in perspective.

This pocket guide will outline a way to live this kind of life by equipping you with the five simple rhythms of BLESS.



THE VISION

Our vision—seeing our neighbors flourish with Gospel Hope (John 10:10)—finds its roots in God's original vision for us to be a blessing to others (Gen 12:2-3). This means that blessing others and seeing people come to know, love, serve, and flourish in Christ are linked together.

If you practice one of these **B-L-E-S-S** rhythms every day, you will not only flourish in your walk, but you will help others flourish as well!

USING THE ONLINE TOOL

1. Dashboard

An overview of your activity. Click the Quickstart Welcome Video for a great introduction to the site.

2. Map

A visual layout of your area, complete with household names. This is where you'll **log your activity** as you progress through the BLESS model.

3. List

A listing of all the neighbors in your vicinity. Know a neighbor who isn't listed? Add their name here!

4. Coverage

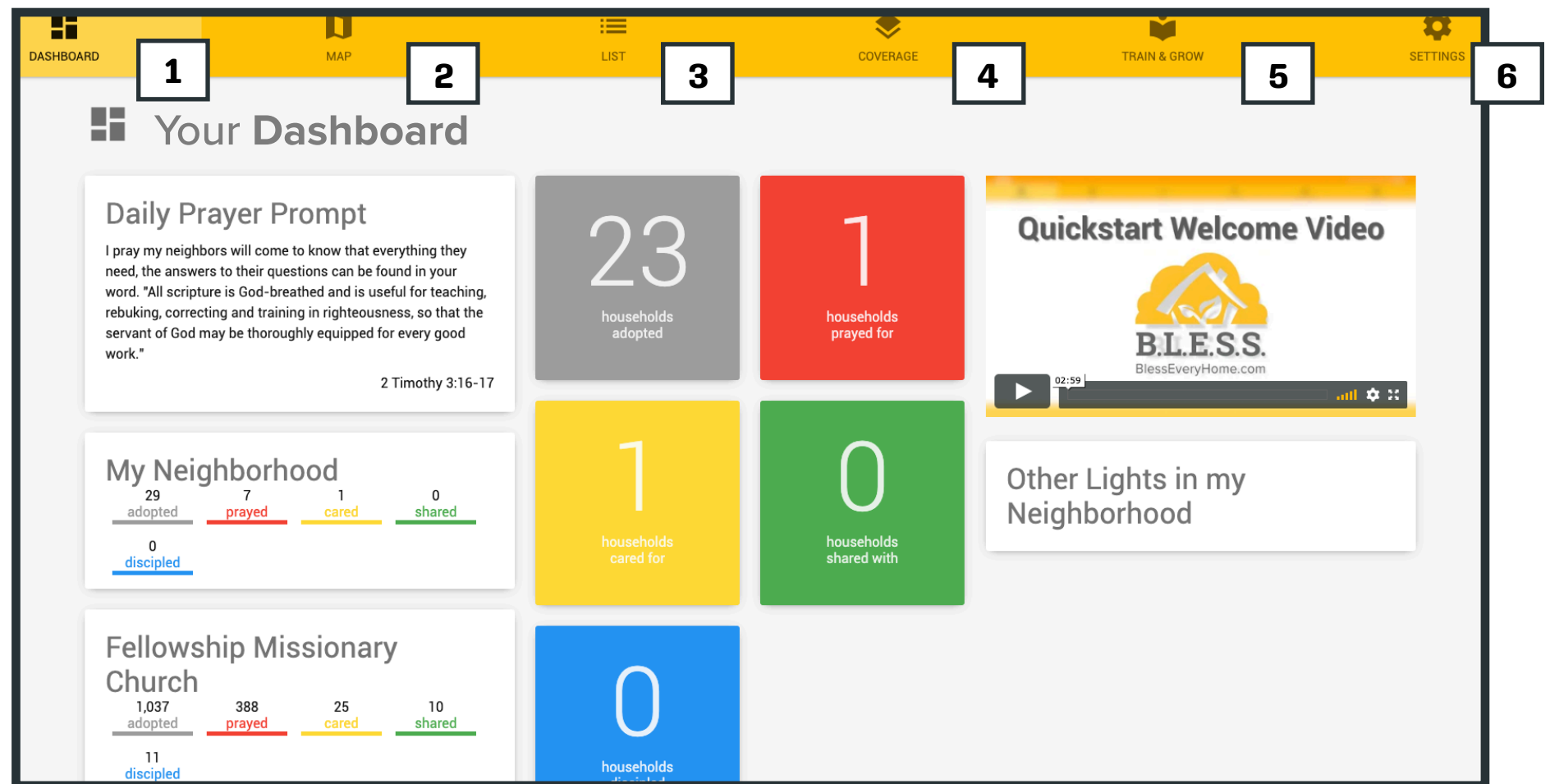
View a map of all the houses in the city adopted by Fellowship.

5. Train & Grow

Optional articles and resources to help you on your journey (not sponsored by Fellowship).

6. Settings

Adjust preferences and widen/narrow your list of neighbors on a map view.



Log into fmc.church/bless with the email address you chose when you signed up.

For assistance, contact us: info@fmcfw.org | 260-447-3578

Once you're logged in, click on the Quickstart Welcome Video for clear, step-by-step instructions on how to use the site. Once you're up to speed, look through the list of names the site generated for you and begin to BLESS your neighbors by walking through the steps outlined in the following pages.

IMPORTANT: Make sure to log your interactions with your neighbors under Map (2). Seeing your progress is a crucial encouragement to others on this journey! We're all in this together.



Step One

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

"God, may your kingdom come and will be done. Where are You already at work where I live, work, and play? How can I join You? How can I BLESS someone today?"

Praying for People

Who are the people listed on your BlessEveryHome map? Among those people, who do you think the Spirit might be calling you to pray for by name? Pray that God would create spiritual curiosity in them, and then look for ways to get to know them and spend time with them.

Praying for Places

- ◆ Where does pain exist here?
Pray for healing.
- ◆ Who makes the decisions here?
Pray for integrity.
- ◆ Who throws the parties here?
Pray for community.
- ◆ Where are the pennies spent here?
Pray for provision.

Practice His Presence

Prayer is a daily, ongoing, intimate conversation with our loving Father, who is present with us every minute of every day. Jesus said, "My Father and I are always at work." Begin by praying, "Father where are you already at work where I live, work, and play...and how can I join you?"

Pray With and For Others

We also must learn to pray with and for others. Begin to pray for your neighbors by name. By breathing in and breathing out in prayer we will learn to "pray without ceasing."

"...pray without ceasing."
-1 Thessalonians 5:17



Step Two

LISTEN WITH CARE



"God, how do you want me to bless my neighbors today? Help me to listen to and discover the needs of others and where you're at work."

Preparation

Before you can help others flourish, you need to listen to them first—their hopes, pains, challenges and dreams. In your interactions with others today, take the posture of a learner. Lay down your assumptions and practice being present.

Pay attention to the local news and pray that the Spirit would guide your thoughts to people or places. Then ask God how you can meet those needs.

Listen to God's Word & Spirit, People, and Places

We patiently and actively listen first to God's Word and God's Spirit. Secondly, we actively seek out the stories of our neighbors (people) and our neighborhood (place).

Engage God's Word & Spirit, People and Places

Out of a posture of listening, we move quickly toward responsive obedience to the Word and Spirit.

Out of a posture of listening, we move actively toward relationships with our neighbors and neighborhood.

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free... So I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

- Galatians 5:13

Step Three

EAT TOGETHER



Eating is one of the fastest ways to move a relationship from acquaintance to friendship.

Who?

Who can you eat with (or have coffee with) who is far from God or is in need of hope?

A co-worker over lunch? A neighbor during the day? A neighborhood cookout?

Where?

Is there a place in your neighborhood you regularly visit (coffee shop, gym, etc.)?

Ask God to grant you opportunities to eat with people.

Eat With Your Family

Meals are a daily reminder of our common need for God and his provision. We regularly eat meals with other followers of Jesus for the express purpose of sharing not only food, but community and truth.

Eat With Your Neighbor

We regularly invite our neighbors—those whom God has placed us in proximity with in our neighborhood, workplace, and community—into community and the experience of grace.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

- Acts 2:42



Step Four

SERVE IN LOVE



"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- Mark 10:45

Ready, Set, Stop

Before jumping into serving, have you taken the time to pray for, listen to and eat with these people? Doing these things first helps you discover the way that you really need to serve them.

Who Can You Serve?

Among those you've been praying for, who do you know that has a practical need? Sometimes it's as simple as asking them how you can help.

Serve Your Family

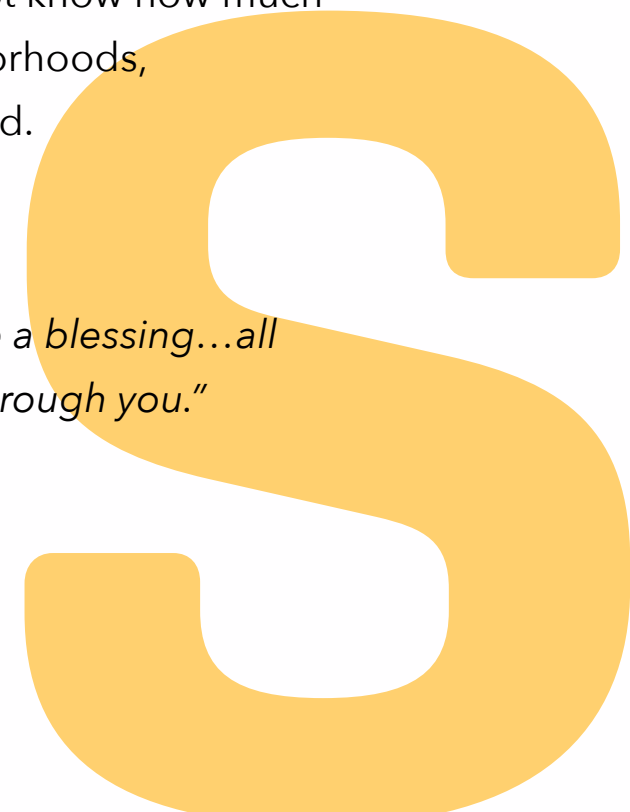
God's plan is to bless all nations—all peoples—through Jesus and His people. We intentionally seek out God's direction each week for a tangible way to bless someone in our church family or nuclear family.

Serve Your Neighbor

We live out God's mission to bless the world by seeking out God's direction each week for a tangible way to bless someone who may not know how much they matter to God—in our neighborhoods, workplaces, communities and world.

"...I will bless you...and you will be a blessing...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

- Genesis 12:2-3



Step Four

SHARE YOUR STORY

You can't spell BLESS without the second S. In other words, sharing the story of Jesus with others is necessary to participate in Jesus' mission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Tips for Sharing Your Story

- ◆ Start by sharing how Jesus has blessed you and made a difference in your life.
- ◆ Share your story in such a way that demonstrates that Jesus is also at work in *their* life.
- ◆ Don't feel like you have to tell your life story at once. Think "bite-size" stories.

Listen to the Story of Others

We continue to patiently and actively listen to the stories of our neighbors with a focus on their search for meaning and help them find their way into Jesus' story.

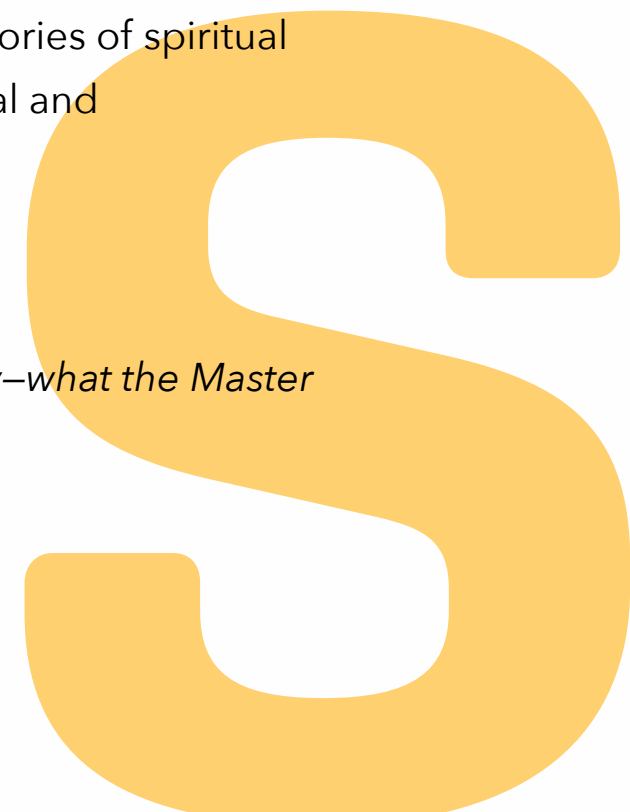
Share God's Story and My Story

We look for ways to meaningfully share what we're learning through the Scriptures about Jesus' Story.

In addition, we share our unique stories of spiritual exploration and discovery in natural and conversational ways.

"Jesus said, '... Tell them your story—what the Master did, how he had mercy on you.' "

- Mark 5:19 (MSG)



IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS

Share Your Success or Struggles

As you learn how to BLESS your neighborhood this year, be a blessing to others at Fellowship as well by sharing your journey! We need your encouragement and insight as we navigate this road together as a church Body. So, as you make progress, we're asking you to consider sharing stories of how God has moved in your life or your neighborhood via simple, 30-90 second videos. Please consider helping us with this **crucial** task of encouraging others along the way. We're all in this together!

Two Ways to Share

Shoot a selfie.

1. Take a video of yourself with your phone and upload to social media. Tag us (@fmcfw) and use the hashtag #MyBlessMoment.

Let us shoot it for you!

2. Contact us via email, phone or DM and set up a time for a low-tech, low-pressure video shoot.



Support



info@fmcfw.org

260-447-3578

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