

B.L.E.S.S. | Listening Questions

The following is a simple tool to help you learn how to listen. It is a tool that can profoundly change your relationship with your neighbors because it is a list of questions for you to ask about the people where you live, work, and play. This tool is adapted from a great resource our friends at Ethos Church in Nashville put together. Take some time to prayerfully ask yourself these questions. You can ask these questions on your own, or better yet with other neighbors or a small group. And don't do this just once because the answers will change. Use this tool over and over again as you bless people by listening.

Questions for Where You Live

- Q: Do you know your neighbors' names? If not, how can you introduce yourself?
- Q: Who in your neighborhood just had a baby? Can you naturally offer something, take a meal (either take-out or something homemade), or a small gift and card?
- Q: Who is elderly or disabled? What might they need help with? (Yard work, house chores, caring for a pet, etc.)
- Q: Who is around your age or in a similar life stage? Can you invite them into your space or home?
- Q: Are there single moms or dads around you? How might they need help from time to time?
- Q: Do your neighbors know each other? Can you do something to bring them all together?
- Q: Are there other people who follow Jesus in your neighborhood? If so, can you partner together to look for and meet needs?
- Q: Do you know of birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events happening? How can you help someone celebrate?
- Q: Who has moved in recently? How can you help welcome them to the neighborhood?
- Q: Is there anyone in your neighborhood who doesn't fit the profile of the majority? How can you help them feel loved and valued?
- Q: Is there someone who lives around you who has served or helped you? Is there a small gesture you can make to show your thanks? (A thank-you card, homemade cookies, etc.)

Questions for Where You Work

- Q: Do you know your coworkers' names? If not, how can you introduce yourself?
- Q: Has anyone had any major life changes?
- Q: Has there been a death in anyone's family, or are they or someone in their family ill?
- Q: Has anyone at work just had a baby? Can you naturally offer something, take a meal (either take-out or something homemade), or a small gift and card?
- Q: Is there someone at your workplace or school who doesn't fit in, is different, or gets bullied? How can you help them feel loved and valued?
- Q: Is there anyone new to your workplace? How can you help them feel welcome?

Q: Are there others in your workplace who follow Jesus or are curious about faith? How can you engage in conversations about faith or let them know you are a follower of Jesus?

Q: Do you know of birthdays, anniversaries, or other special events happening? How can you help someone celebrate?

Q: Do any of your coworkers hang out together after work? How can you join in or initiate a gathering?

Q: Are there ways you can support your coworkers after work? Do you have a coworker who plays in a band or has a hobby that you can support them in?

Q: Is there a coworker who always goes out of their way to help or serve you? How could you acknowledge their kindness or express your thanks?

Questions for Where You Play

Q: Where do you go frequently? (Gym, library, sporting events, music venues, restaurants, cafés, bars, bookstores, recreational leagues?) How can you get to know the people you see frequently at this place?

Q: Can you take opportunities to make a significant encounter something more? It may be the barista, bartender, someone checking you in at the gym, or running beside you on a treadmill.

Q: How can you listen and express care for that person with whom you regularly interact?

Q: How can you do more than simply come in and out of these places undetected, and instead begin to look for small and big ways to appreciate, engage with, and encourage people there?

Q: How can you make this place a better and more positive place?

Q: Is there someone you have favor with? For example, does the manager of the gym, the barista at your café, or the wait staff at your favorite restaurant enjoy talking to you? How can you listen to and bless those people?