

Blessing List - Facilitator's Guide

by Randall Neighbour

To do right away: Ask your small group leader if you can spearhead relational evangelism for your group this fall. Ask for ten minutes right after worship time for the next six to eight weeks to work with group members to show them how relational evangelism works and how much fun it is when it's done right.

[The Blessing List poster will go up on the wall next week and remain there until one of the people on the list visits the group meeting! On that night, make a new one and invite the Blessing List person to put the name of an unchurched friend on the list.]

Week One – Arrive early and ask your group's host to put the poster on the wall in the room where the group will be meeting in a spot where everyone who is in the meeting can see it. Bring some tape or that sticky poster stuff that doesn't mar walls just in case the host doesn't have it.

After worship, explain that this poster will soon be filled with friends and family members who live in Houston and are unchurched. Ask everyone to find one other person and pray for God's guidance as to who should go on the list and is ready to take a step toward Christ through relationships with other Christians in the group.

Leave the Blessing List with the host and ask them to put it back up for next week's meeting.

Week Two – Arrive early enough to help the host find the Blessing List and put it up on the wall if they have forgotten. Bring a fresh Sharpie marker with you so names can be added to the list.

After worship, ask everyone to give you up to two first names of local people who are unchurched that they would like to add to the list. They should state their first name and something they love about the person's character (He's a good listener, she's a generous person, she's got an excellent work ethic, he's very self-disciplined, and so forth). Put the group member's initials by the person's name in the space provided.

After you've done this, ask everyone to pray with the person on his or her right or left, but not about the person on the list. Challenge them to pray something like, "God, work powerfully through *me* as I interact with _____ this week. Help *me* see _____ the way you see him/her, and give *me* the opportunity to share something deep with them about myself and my relationship with You." (Stress this should be a first-person prayer.)

Week Three – Arrive early enough to help the host find the Blessing List and put it up on the wall if they have forgotten. Bring that Sharpie marker back with you as more folks will add names. Remember though, no more than two names per person on the Blessing List.

After worship, ask the group if anyone had a special interaction with the person they put on the Blessing List. The idea behind this question is one of expectation that the prayer last week was earnest. Ask people to be very brief because you need time for prayer.

This week, ask the group members to stand up, find a *different* prayer partner from last week, and pray that God would bless the people on the list with a strong desire to know God intimately. Instruct them to also pray for the person they put on the list by name.

Week Four – Ask your small group leader if the icebreaker shared tonight can be, "What's your main hobby or interest these days?" Then, after worship, ask everyone who has put a name on the list to *very briefly* share a hobby or interest that the person on the Blessing List might have. Then, discuss "cross-pollination." Who in the group could be relationally linked up with the person on the list to do that hobby or who has that common interest?

Close with a challenge to be friendly and connect, for this is the very cool way that God uses the body of Christ to connect with lost or unchurched people. Close by asking someone to pray for favor in the “cross-pollination” the group members will be doing. (Note: write down the hobbies each person shares during the icebreaker and the hobbies the Blessing List people have to help the group members connect!)

Week Five – After worship, ask the group if any relational connections were made the previous week between an unchurched friend on the Blessing List. Encourage them to connect again this week, and take the balance of the time to plan a fun event that unchurched people on the list would enjoy. Go bowling, take in a ball game or a concert, throw a party, meet at a restaurant for a bite to eat or to hang out for a while. Close the time with prayer.

Weeks Six to Nine – After worship, read one of the principles of relational evangelism off the back panel of the Blessing List and talk about it for a few minutes. Ask for “aha!” discoveries, and what the members want to change or start doing to be more effective to reach out. Pray together and keep planning parties, get-togethers, and relational connections.

Another thing you can do during this time is to ask everyone to prepare a one-minute testimony:

- In a sentence, describe what your life was like *before* you accepted Christ.
- In a second sentence, explain *how* you turned your life over to Christ and *why* you decided you needed to do it.
- In a third sentence, share what it means to walk with Christ *today* and know God intimately.

Closing Note: The Blessing List is just a piece of paper on the wall. There’s nothing magical about it, but God will powerfully use it if you can refer to it each week and work with your group members to think like relational evangelists!

Please share a testimony of how God is powerfully using relationships in your small group to win friends to Christ! Email your stories to: randall@touchusa.org.