

RECAP

As you reflect on this past week -

Where did you find opportunities to be a witness in your spheres of influence?

Were there any answers to your prayers for each other to be a Christ-centered, Acts 1:8 family?

IDEA 1

Ash started her sermon by sharing some interesting statistics about the city of Salem.

Were there any statistics that surprised you? That made you sad?

As you think about the city of Salem, what are things that break your heart or frustrate you?

What is your response when you encounter those things?

Read Acts 1:3-8

In this passage we see the disciples asking Jesus the question, when is he going to restore the Kingdom. Jesus responds by telling his disciples that he will empower them by the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

- **What does Jesus' response to the disciples question tell us about his plan for restoring the Kingdom?**
- **How do you think the disciples would have responded to Jesus' statement that they will be empowered to be his witnesses?**
- **Ashley highlighted the fact that we too have received this same calling. What is your reaction to that? Excitement? Hesitancy? Fear? Confidence?**

IDEA 2

Ashley shared the idea that we have been blessed by God to be a blessing.

As you think about your own life, how have you extended the blessing you've received from God to others?

IDEA 2 CONT.

Discuss the BLESS acronym that Ashley shared.

- B - Begin with prayer and fasting
- L - Listen
- E - Eat
- S - Serve
- S - Story

What aspects of the BLESS acronym feel accessible and exciting to you?

What aspects seem challenging to engage in?

How might BLESSing lead to Kingdom impact in your neighborhood?

As you think about the Blessers vs Converters study that Ashley shared, why do you think the Blessers had a noticeably bigger Kingdom impact?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Print off copies of the Relational Network handout and share with the group (see below).

- Take 5 minutes to fill out the different categories with names of people God may be calling you to bless in that relational network.

After people have finished that, break up into 2's or 3's and pray for people in their relational networks.

- Ask that Holy Spirit would prepare their hearts to receive blessing. End by praying a blessing over the other people in your group, asking God to help them see that they have been put in these relational networks to be a blessing and that they are empowered by Holy Spirit to be witnesses where they have been put.

APPLICATION

Discuss as a group - who can you BLESS this week?

Is there someone in your relational network who:

- You can praying blessing over?
- Ask intentional questions and listen to more of their story?
- Invite over for a meal?
- Serve in some way?
- Share what Jesus is doing in your life right now?

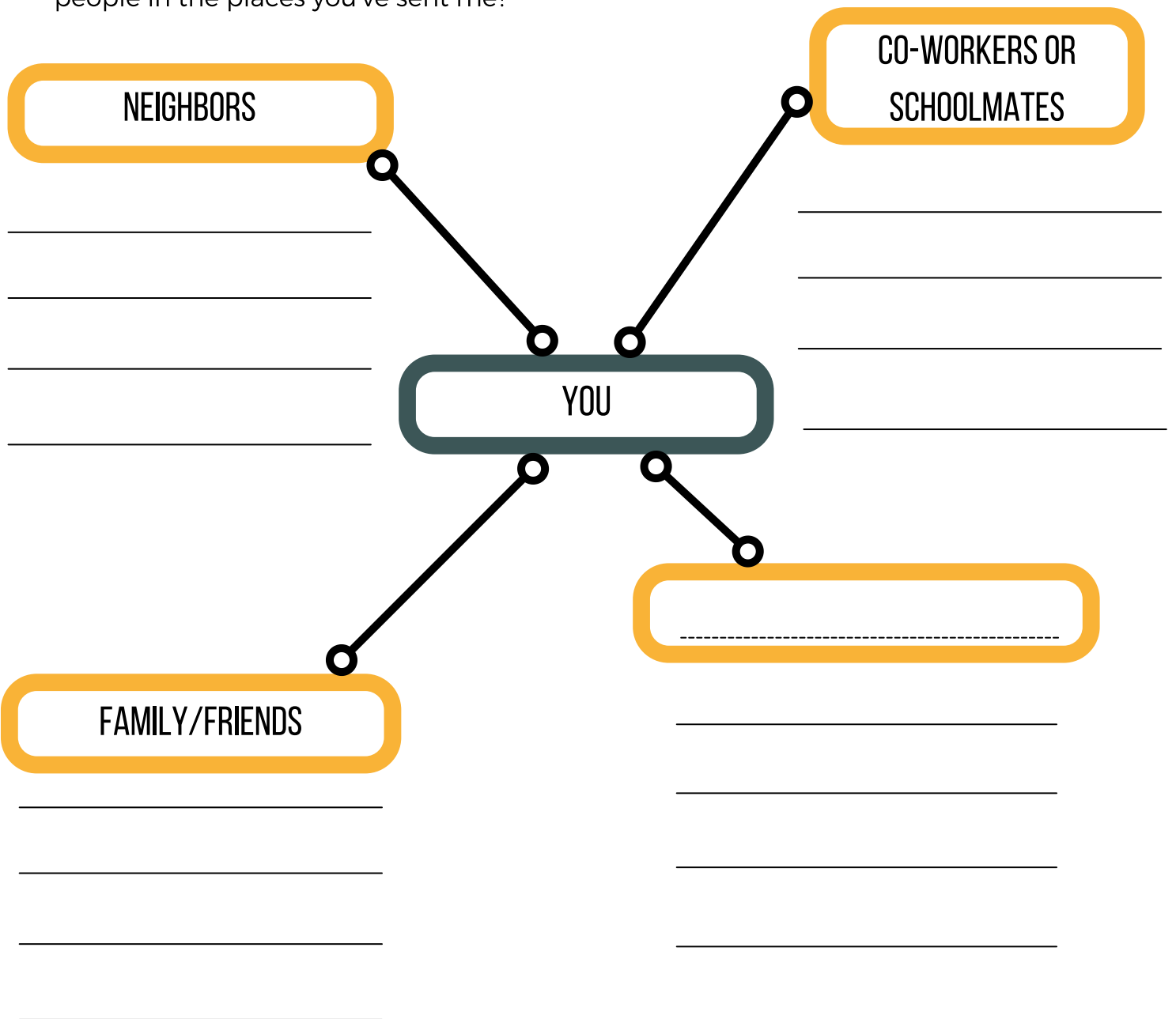
NEIGHBORHOODS

RELATIONAL NETWORK

Whether you realize it or not, God has placed you in specific contexts (e.g. your neighborhood, workplace, school, sports team, etc) for a specific purpose.

The Relational Network exercise looks at the contexts in which God has placed you, and helps you identify the people he might be asking you to intentionally bless.

Once you've completed this exercise, the next step is to begin praying for opportunities to bless the names on this list. "God how do you want me to bless the people in the places you've sent me?"



BLESS Prayer

Begin with Prayer, Listen, Eat, Serve, Story