

FORMED BY GOD. TOGETHER. FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.



Week Three - For the Sake of Others.

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

We want to start the year by reminding ourselves who we are and how God has called us to live. God created us for a purpose and wants us to partner with Him and join His mission of restoring all things. Pray our kids see they have a part in God's Story and can join His mission as His Spirit fills them.

- **Big Idea:** God wants us to partner with Him to bring His love to the world!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **BLESS Rhythms Overview**

God has blessed us to be a blessing. We can use the word BLESS to remind us ways to love God and others. Each letter stands for another word:

Bless - **L**isten - **E**at - **S**peak - **S**abbath

Raise your hand if you've eaten this week? Did you speak at all? Listen to anyone? Rest or play? Did you have a chance to help someone? All of these are normal rhythms of life, but when we do them on purpose to serve God and others, we start to look more like Jesus and the people God made us.

Sing Together

Story - from Genesis 1:28 / Romans 12:1-2 / 1 Peter 2:9-12

God made the first man and woman in the garden with His own hands, forming them out of the dirt of the earth, breathing His own breath into them, and bringing them together as one in order to reflect to the rest of creation what God is like.

What do you think life was like for the humans in the garden?

What do you think they spent their time doing?

They certainly enjoyed all that God had made and experienced a life free of pain, fear, and shame... until they rebelled against God. But, it's not like they just laid around all day bathing in the sun and eating delicious fruit freely from the trees. They had a job to do! God told them,

"Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."

That meant that God wanted them to continue the good work He had started in the garden and spread it throughout the world. They were formed, together, for a purpose — for the sake of all of creation!

But they rebelled.

And when they did, instead of filling the earth with God's goodness the world became filled with violence, selfishness, oppression, and the sin of humanity.

So, God began His mission to restore all of creation and to redeem humanity so we could once again fulfill our purpose to care for the world and reflect God's love. He called a nation, Israel, to follow Him. They were God's own chosen people, a nation of priests who God blessed so that they could bless all the other nations and show what God is like. For the sake of the world.

But Israel also rebelled.

This is why Jesus came. His life, death, and resurrection made a way for us to be transformed back into the full representation of God. As he lived perfectly through the power of God's Spirit he loved people, taught people, fed people, healed people, and died for all people. He came for the sake of the world and gave his life for others. Then God sent His same Spirit to empower all who follow and trust Jesus so we could live the same way.

Now, being transformed by the love of Jesus and brought together again as God's community, we are called to once again fill the earth with God's goodness. We are called to imitate Jesus and reflect what He is like, proclaiming God's goodness throughout the world. In Jesus, we are given a purpose — not just to lay around with the life God gave us or keep His good news to ourselves, but to live for the sake of others, so that they may know God's love!

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Do you think God still wants to partner with humans today? Do you think He wants you to partner with Him?
- Jesus said the world will know we follow him by seeing our love (John 13). How are we able to live together in a way where the world sees God's love in us?
- God has placed you in this church community for a purpose and He has placed our church in this city for a purpose. How can we live our lives for the sake of others in our city?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, we need you to continue to form us into your image and fill us with your Spirit so we can together show your love to our city. Help us. In Jesus' name, amen.

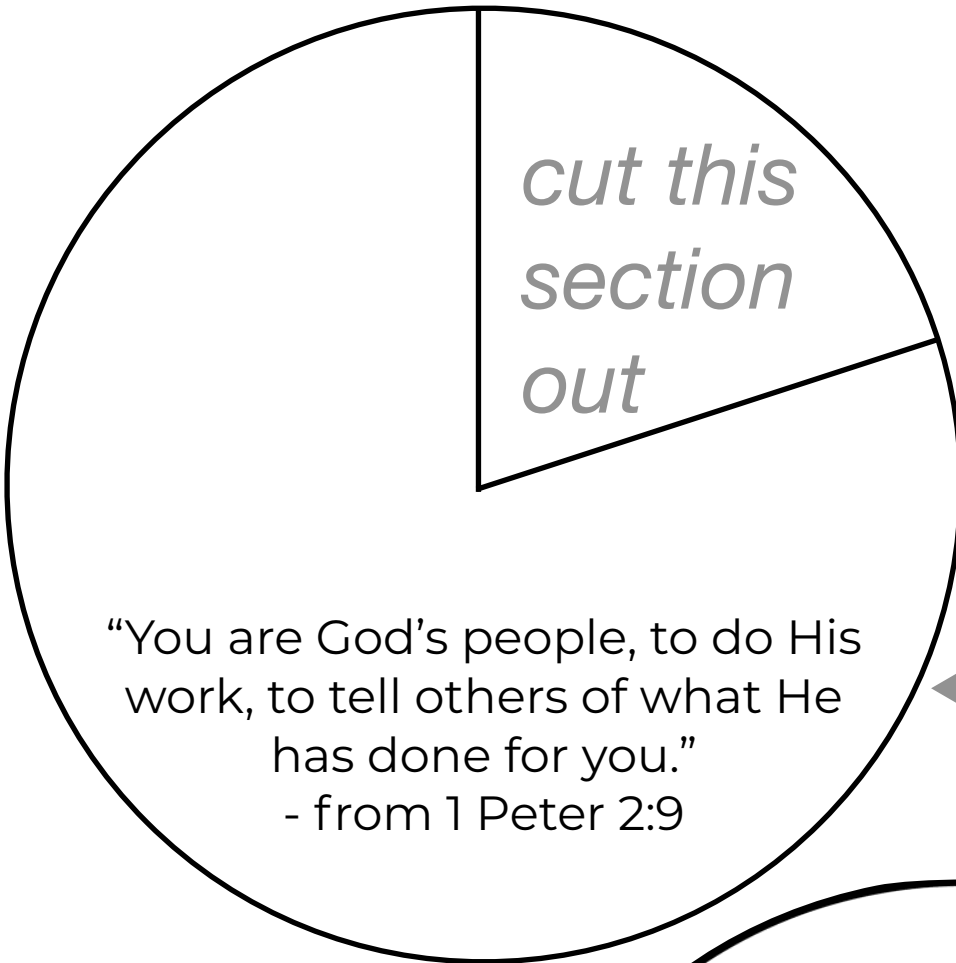
- **Craft:**

- Use the attached sheet to help kids create a spinning pinwheel of the BLESS rhythms

- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Speak** rhythm. Who can you share good news with this week? Pray for the opportunity to simply talk about how God has been good to you with someone who needs to hear it.



cut out both circles

decorate this section

use brass fastener to connect this piece

on top of this piece

