BLESS: Pray & Listen

1. Right after Jesus was baptized but before he began his ministry, he went into the wilderness to fast and pray (Luke 4). In Luke 6:12-16, we find that he prayed before he selected his disciples. What does this tell us about the emphasis Jesus placed on time alone with his Father in prayer?

2. Ryan described prayer as a way of joining God in his work. What does that mean to you personally? How does it change the way you view evangelism?

3. When you think about your "Top 5," what are some specific needs they may have that you could begin praying about right now?

4. In Acts 16, we saw that God opened Lydia's heart to respond to the gospel. Why is it important to remember that God must be the one to draw people to Himself?

5. Paul prayed for clarity and open doors to share the gospel in Colossians 4. What might a clear, open door look like for someone in your Top 5?

6. Peter and John prayed for boldness in Acts 4—not for comfort or protection. How might that prayer inspire or challenge the way you pray for courage?

7. What would it look like for you to make prayer for your Top 5 a consistent rhythm in your life? Is there a specific time, place, or method that might help you stay committed?

8. Can you recall a time when someone truly listened to you? What made it feel different from a typical conversation? What about a time when you have felt unheard? What was that like?

9. Why do you think it's so powerful when someone gives us their full attention? How does it reflect God's character?

10. Jenna mentions the difference between treating people as people vs. treating them like a project. What are some subtle ways we might make someone feel like a project—and how can we avoid that?

11. What are some challenges you face in being fully present when someone is talking to you? What are some strategies that might help?

12. Jesus modeled intentional listening throughout his ministry. What's one story from Jesus' life that shows this, and what can we learn from it?

8 Practices