

**“The 2025 Vision of Mound Evangelical Free Church:
One Year In: Looking Backward→ Looking Forward”**

Sermon Notes

- **The mission of Mound Evangelical Free Church is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ**

Therefore in our **2025 Vision, God is calling us to B.L.E.S.S. Westonka and the Twin Cities in a persevering passion to...*

Prayer

1. Cultivate dependance upon Christ (vv.2-4)

- ☐ **Begin** with prayer

Care

2. Demonstrate the mercy of Christ (v.5)

- ☐ **Listen**

- ☐ **Eat**

- ☐ **Serve**

Share

3. Communicate the gospel of Christ (v.6)

- ☐ **Story**

❖ ...welcoming 75 newly baptized covenant members by January 2025

Next Week: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday 2021

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of January 10th-16th

Getting Started

1. One year ago, with great anticipation, we launched the MEFC 2025 Vision. What we didn't know at the time was that in a matter of weeks, a worldwide pandemic would sweep across the globe. In what ways have our lives and culture changed that have presented significant obstacles to our 2025 Vision?

Digging Deeper

2. Though the changes in our world have obviously presented obstacles to our 2025 Vision, there's no doubt that they have also provided us with *opportunities*. Thinking back over this last year, how have many of these developments also brought with them fresh possibilities for our 2025 Vision?

3. Our 2025 Vision boils down to three words: *prayer, care, share*. God helping us, we are going to become very familiar with them over the next several years. By God's grace we are a church that has the gospel *right*, so by God's grace we want to become a church that gets the gospel *out*. How do you see each aspect of this three-step pathway to outreach working together to achieve our aim of welcoming 75 newly baptized covenant members by January 2025?

4. Sometimes it's tough to know exactly how to get started praying for those on our 'List of 5'. That's why over the years at MEFC, we've drawn up a brief list of biblical categories to get us thinking about outreach that can serve to both spark and guide our prayers for our 'List of 5'. Take some time as a group and pray your way through the following...

Pray for the salvation of unbelievers (Romans 10:1)

Pray specifically for:

- the Holy Spirit to **convict** them of sin (John 16:8)
- God to **draw** them to Christ (John 6:44, 65)
- **open doors** for evangelism (Colossians 4:2)
- you to **take an interest** in lost people, to be politely curious about them and their story (Psalm 8:5-8; 139:13-14)
- **courage**, not to be ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16)
- **clarity** to explain the message of the gospel simply and faithfully (Colossians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- you to be **prepared** to give an answer for the hope that you have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15)
- **your tone** - gentle, respectful, wise, gracious, bold speech (1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:2-6; Ephesians 6:18-19)

- opportunities to **plant** and **water** seeds in people's lives - and to trust God for the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6)

5. The acronym B.L.E.S.S. is a way of getting more specific and concrete as it relates to our prayer, care, share strategy. Consider each letter in the acronym. Together, they form an incredibly powerful chain that can lead to the salvation of the folks on your 'List of 5'. At the same time, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Are there any links in particular that are a struggle for you right now? What are they? With God's help, how might you seek to address and strengthen those links in the days ahead?

Begin with prayer - Pray every day for those on your 'List of 5' (see prayer list above).

Listen - Ask good questions and dive into their lives, offering them the gift of your ears.

Eat - Invite them to share meals, or a cup of coffee with you.

Serve - Look for opportunities to both serve and be served by them.

Story - Be open about your story, sharing your testimony of how you came to faith in Christ, as well as the good news of the gospel of Christ.

6. One of the most powerful assets we have as we seek to reach out to those on our 'List of 5' is the church itself. One way to better leverage the gift of the body of Christ in your evangelistic efforts is to conceive of ***living a life of invitation*** - routinely, regularly, relentlessly - inviting unbelievers into our church's orbit. Now, the precise environment that may be most helpful to them may vary. But, as a rule, consider at least five different invitations you might offer when you're with those on your 'List of 5'.

An invitation to...

- Your home
- The resources of our compassion ministry
- Your community group
- Our Sunday morning worship gathering
- A referral to our biblical counseling center

Close your time in prayer, uniquely asking the Lord to help you to be faithful to B.L.E.S.S. your 'List of 5' in 2021.