

B.L.E.S.S. Discussion Questions

- The chapter opens with Lord Kelvin's infamous incorrect prediction about physics being complete, which was later disproven by Einstein. How does this parallel our own assumptions about serving others, and what "paradigm shifts" might we need in our understanding of service?
- The text introduces the R-P-M-S framework (Relational, Physical, Mental, Spiritual) for checking in on others. How might using this systematic approach change the way you notice and respond to needs in your community? Which of these four areas do you find easiest or most challenging to address?
- The chapter shares stories of seemingly small acts of service (like Grandma Nellie clipping her neighbor's toenails) that had significant impact. What are some "unglamorous" ways of serving that you might have overlooked or avoided, and how might reframing them as meaningful acts of service change your perspective?
- The text emphasizes Jesus's example of serving "in close proximity" and starting with those nearest to us. In our increasingly digital and global world, why might focusing on serving those physically close to us be particularly important or challenging? How does this principle challenge our typical ideas about making an impact?
- Have you ever experienced a time when someone served you in an unexpected way that deeply impacted you? What made that act of service so meaningful, and how has it influenced your own approach to serving others?

- How might our cultural emphasis on large-scale impact and viral good deeds actually hinder our ability to serve effectively in our immediate communities?
- What specific barriers or assumptions might prevent us from noticing opportunities to serve those closest to us? How can we become more attentive to these opportunities?
- In what ways might serving others actually transform us more than those we serve? How has your own understanding of service evolved through personal experience?
- How do our preconceptions about what constitutes "meaningful service" potentially blind us to everyday opportunities to make a difference?
- What role does vulnerability play in both serving others and allowing ourselves to be served? How might embracing vulnerability enhance our capacity for meaningful service?