

Blessing the Community: 10 Easy Steps!

Blessing the Community Projects are a fun way of getting people out of their comfort zones to engage with the surrounding community and share God's love. The idea is simple: Find a need, and come up with some practical way of meeting it.

This resource gives 10 easy steps for planning and running a Blessing the Community Project.

1. Get out of your Comfort Zone

Try to get out of the comfort of your living room at least once a term to serve the Community around you!

2. Discuss Ideas

Talk through ideas with your Small Group. Focus on the needs of the Community that you could meet. Make sure you pray as you do this.

3. Encourage your Small Group

As you discuss ideas as a group encourage everyone who speaks, and offer suggestions to shape the direction of the discussion.

4. Agree on a Project

Try to come to a consensus on an idea that does the following:

- Communicates God's unconditional love for those who don't know Him.
- Enables everyone in the group to take part, allowing those younger in their faith to support in a non-confrontational way.
- Requires a manageable amount of preparation and planning.

5. Use all the support available

If you need any practical help with the project then we are here to help! You can come into church if you need to design and guillotine flyers, borrow litter pickers, or anything else to help make your project happen.

6. Set the Date

Make sure your small group can all attend the project and let them know when and where you're meeting.

7. Buy the things you need

When you need to buy items for your project (cleaning equipment, sweets to give away etc):

- Stick to your budget. Each Small Group has £80 a term for blessing the community. You don't have to spend all this money but if the idea justifies the spend then we want to resource you as much as we can!
- **Keep Your Receipts!** Bring them to church and the small groups team will get you a yellow form and sign it off so that you get your money back.

8. Be prepared to explain why you're doing it

As we serve people in practical ways, they will almost without exception ask us "why?" If people aren't sure what to say, then a good place to start is "we believe that Jesus loves you, and this is a practical way of showing it."

9. Pray

Always pray as you head out, and go with an expectation that God will move!

10. Feedback

Re-group after the event to share stories and pray for individuals, and please share all of your exciting stories with the small groups team so that we can encourage others!