

## Blessings Introduction

Opening Prayer:

**Icebreaker:** What is one of the nicest things anyone ever did for you?

### Bless

1. God blesses his people when he bestows on them some gift temporal or spiritual #Ge 1:22 24:35 Job 42:12 #Ps 45:2 104:24,35
2. We bless God when we thank him for his mercies #Ps 103:1,2 145:1,2
3. A man blesses himself when he invokes God's blessing #Isa 65:16 or rejoices in God's goodness to him #De 29:19 Ps 49:18
4. One blesses another when he expresses good wishes or offers prayer to God for his welfare #Ge 24:60 31:55 1Sa 2:20

### **We're commanded to bless others, and in doing so, reap a blessing.**

Nu 6:22 ¶ The LORD said to Moses,

23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

24 "'The LORD bless you and keep you;

25 the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

26 the LORD turn his face towards you and give you peace.'"

27 "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Ge 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

1Ch 16:43 Then all the people left, each for his own home, and David returned home to bless his family.

Ps 5:12 For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favour as with a shield.

Ps 28:9 Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them for ever.

### **We cannot pick and choose when and where we care to bless—and not bless.**

Balaam said to Balak, Nu 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfil?

20 I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it.

Lu 6:27 ¶ "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you.

Ac 3:26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

Ro 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

- 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
- 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Discuss why God has you bless people who hate you. Are there any of these things that you struggle with more than others? Discuss the danger in grumbling against fellow brothers and sisters—or churches and fellowships.

**When we focus on others—best of all *without limit*, then we are blessed—we need not worry about God blessing us.**

De 15:10 Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

Mal 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

1Co 10:26 for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

De 24:19 When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

20 When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow.

22 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

Discuss how the Lord looks at giving today. Why does the Lord expect so much from us? When we give the way his Word describes (to those in *genuine* need), then what should we expect to see happen?

**God said He would *bless* us, not give us a cushy life.**

PS 41: 1 ¶ For the director of music. A psalm of David. Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble.

2 The LORD will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes.

3 The LORD will sustain him on his sick-bed and restore him from his bed of illness.

4 I said, "O LORD, have mercy on me; heal me, for I have sinned against you."

5 ¶ My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

6 Whenever one comes to see me, he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander; then he goes out and spreads it abroad.

7 All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me, saying,

8 "A vile disease has beset him; he will never get up from the place where he lies."

9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

10 But you, O LORD, have mercy on me; raise me up, that I may repay them.

11 I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me.

12 In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence for ever.

13 Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

If a blessing is not perfect health and healing all of the time, then what is a blessing?

**Situational Question.** When was a time in your life when you blessed someone else without expecting anything in return, and in some way God blessed you for being obedient?

**Experience Question:** What is an obstacle that keeps you from blessing God or others the best that you can?

**Application Question:** How can God help you to be a better blessing to others? Could be enemies, church family, personal family, coworkers, missions.

**Prayer:** for these needs, and ministry as needed.

Read the Scriptures, and then take about five minutes to do the discussions and questions at the bottom of the page.

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