

KEY SCRIPTURE

PSALM 67

1 God be gracious to us and bless us. And cause His face to shine upon us— Selah 2 That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. 3 May the peoples praise You, God; May all the peoples praise You. 4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with fairness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah 5 May the peoples praise You, God; May all the peoples praise You. 6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. 7 God blesses us. So that all the ends of

the earth may fear Him.

START TALKING

Share about a time that God blessed you through someone else and the kind of impact it made on you. Did it ultimately become a blessing to someone else through you?

START DISCUSSING

Read Psalm 67

The theme of the chapter is that we are blessed by God to be a conduit of His blessing to others.

Verse 1 describes "God's face shining on us." Numbers Chapter 6 tells us that "the Lord's countenance is lifted upon you". Have you struggled to think that God looks at you with favor? Dave described it as the "yes face" of God to His followers. Often, our past experiences shape the way we perceive the countenance of others toward us. Have your past experiences been characterized more by a "yes face" or "no face" from those around you?

The "Grand Story" from Genesis to Revelation reveals God's plan to bless the whole world through His followers. James 1:17 declares that God is the only true source of all blessing. When you are in need of blessing -solving a problem, feeling better, finding an answer- where do you tend to go searching first? (Social media, DIY or self-help, counseling, friend or family)

From now on, lets commit to trust the "yes face" of God whose favor rests on every believer because of the merits of Jesus. Find and read Heb 4:14-16 and Rom 8:31-32. What in these passages stands out as most significant to you? (Come back to these passages when you find yourself in need and questioning if God understands or even cares!)

Read again Psalm 67:2-5. This portion reveals the purpose of His blessing. What do you believe the purpose is? When we are selfish with the blessings of God, we are like a clogged pipe, slowing the free flow of His blessing through us to others. This means my selfish choices hinder others from seeing Jesus through me. One way to guard against this is to regularly answer these questions.

- 1. Do I attribute to God all the great evidences of HIS favor/blessing in my life, or do I complain, believing I deserve more?
- 2. Am I a channel of blessing for those around me; my loved ones, church family, neighbors, coworkers and missionaries?
- 3. Am I leading my family to be a blessing?