

B.L.E.S.S.

5 Everyday Ways Love Your Neighbor and Change the World

Blessed to Bless

Series Overview

Jesus said we're to love our neighbors. As part of our B.L.E.S.S. campaign based on the book by Dave and Jon Ferguson, in this sermon series, we want to consider practical, everyday ways that we can love our neighbors, to bless them, and in so doing, point them to the greatest blessing of all: a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Sermon Introduction

Our lives are full of blessings flowing our way. Unfortunately, it's tempting to try and keep those blessings only for ourselves. But hoarding the good God gives won't make you happy or healthy. Real joy comes when your life is a river bringing blessing to others.

Passage: Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

Gen. 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

Gen. 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

Gen. 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."

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Read the passage. What stood out to you? Was there anything that you found surprising or confusing?
2. Look at v. 1. What did Abram have to do to receive God's blessing? Do you think what God asked of Abram was easy or safe?

3. Why do you think God wanted to use Abram in this way to bless “all peoples on earth”? Why not just bless everyone? Or why not just bless Abram?
4. *Blessing* can be kind of a churchy word. At a very practical level, what do you think it means to bless someone?
5. Can you think of a person who’s blessed you in your life? What did they do for you? What made it meaningful to you?
6. Have you ever thought about your life as a conduit of God’s blessing? Who do you think God might want to bless in your life?
7. In Galatians 3:13, the Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus was cursed for our sake. How did Jesus’ death—taking on the curse for sin—secure for us the blessing we needed but couldn’t earn for ourselves?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God’s power.

- Praise God for the many blessings you’ve received in your life.
- Confess any ways that you’ve been selfish with your blessings, trying to keep them only for yourself, rather than sharing them with others.
- Thank God that Jesus took the curse you deserved for sin so that you could receive the ultimate blessing of life with him.
- Ask God to bring to mind someone this week who you could bless in some way.