

Life Group
Pursued by God
12-17-2023

Icebreaker

What is the biggest gift you ever received? —OR—

What was the most unexpected blessing/gift you ever received? —OR—

How do you feel when you receive an unexpected gift/blessing?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading? (other than the designated reading)

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

God's Effort To Be Near His People (through the Old Covenant)

Scripture

Ephesians 1:3-10 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,** ⁴ even as **he chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ **he predestined us for adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him **we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,** according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ **making known to us the mystery of his will,** according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

James 1:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,** coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Ephesians 2:4-10 (ESV) ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—** ⁶ and **raised us up** with him and **seated us with him** in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Romans 10:12-13 (ESV) ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, **bestowing his riches on all who call on him.** ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Philippians 4:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (ESV) ⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that **having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.** ⁹ As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food **will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.** ¹¹ You will be **enriched in every way to be generous in every way,** which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God

because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Ephesians 3:14-21 (ESV) ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you **to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being**, ¹⁷ so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ **may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth**, ¹⁹ **and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God**. ²⁰ Now **to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think**, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:30-33 (ESV) ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But **seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you**.

Why would God give us “**all sufficiency in all things at all times**”? (2 Cor 9:8) Why will He “**enrich us in every way**”? (2 Cor 9:11)

Questions

From where do blessings come? (James 1:16-17; Rom 10:12; Phil 4:19) Through whom do they come? (Eph 1:3, Phil 4:19)

List the blessings found in Eph 1:3-10, 2:4-10, and 4:14-21).

On whom does God bestow His riches: (Rom 10:12-13)

What would God supply for the Philippians? (Phil 4:19)

Why would God give us “**all sufficiency in all things at all times**”? (2 Cor 9:8) Why will He “**enrich us in every way**”? (2 Cor 9:11)

What is the condition for God giving us our daily necessities? (Matt 6:33)

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Make a list of at least 20 specific blessings God has given you.
- Thank God specifically for each of the 20 blessing you listed.
- Find one way to be generous this week so that God can supply you with the means for that. (2 Cor 9:6-15)