



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: The Burden of Blessings: Week 1 (January 7, 2024)

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: **GATHER** with your family or group. Step 2: **REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: **PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

What brings you happiness in your life? Share or write down the blessings you have in your life.

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Matthew 25:1-18; John 14:3, 16:16; Acts 1:9-11. Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://Bible Hub (biblehub.com)), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://Got Questions (gotquestions.org)), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://Enduring Word (enduringword.com)) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: What is a blessing? What is a burden? How are blessings a burden? Pastor Sam said, "With great blessings comes great responsibility." Discuss. Does God give us things without a purpose? Explain. What is a gift? Who is the man and the servant referred to in Matthew 25:14? When he goes away what is going to happen? Jesus went away just like the master of these servants did. Jesus is using this parable to communicate what?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Matthew 25:19a; John 16:7; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:4. Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://Bible Hub (biblehub.com)), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://Got Questions (gotquestions.org)), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://Enduring Word (enduringword.com)) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: What does Matthew 25:19 tell us? How does this parallel Jesus' plans? What is the Greek word for Master, and does it mean? Based on what you just discovered, who is the Master? You have now established that the man (master or lord) was leaving, and he entrusted something valuable into the hands of his servants. What was it that he entrusted his servants with? We (Christians) are the servants of Christ. Before Jesus our Lord left what did He entrust into our hands? Jesus entrusted something far more valuable than bags of gold. What is the purpose of trusting us with something so valuable as the Holy Spirit? What is the purpose of Jesus giving us the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit equip us to do? What is the most valuable thing in your life? Does that align to what Jesus' finds as the most valuable thing?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Matthew 25:19b-30; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:11-12. Using a good Bible Study tools like [Bible Hub \(biblehub.com\)](http://Bible Hub (biblehub.com)), [Blue Letter Bible \(blueletterbible.org\)](http://Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)), [Got Questions \(gotquestions.org\)](http://Got Questions (gotquestions.org)), and [Enduring Word \(enduringword.com\)](http://Enduring Word (enduringword.com)) study through these scriptures before responding to the following questions: In the story every servant had to stand before the master and give an account of how he managed the blessings he gave them. Jesus is saying I am coming back and you will have to answer for how you managed the blessings I gave you. Fill in the blank: Everything we have in life comes from _____? One day we will stand before _____ and give _____ for how we managed the blessings He gave us. Can you feel the burden of God's blessings in Matthew 25:19b; 2 Corinthians 5:10, and Romans 14:11-12? Explain. Two servants received a "Well done, good and faithful servant". What did they do to receive those words of affirmation from their master? What must you do to receive a, "Well done, good and faithful servant"? What are you doing with what Jesus has given you?

DOING THE WORD

Based on what you're doing with what God has given you so far, if you were God, would you give yourself more? How faithful have you been with the blessings God has poured out upon you? Cite specific examples. Examine your life, what has God entrusted to you? Have you buried the gifts or multiplied the gifts He's given you? What are some "what ifs" that are stopping you from stepping into faithfulness? How can you take a step of obedience towards investing your time, talent, and resources in eternal purposes? How can you wait well in your current situation? What does this look like for you? We are all called to invest the blessings God has entrusted to us to build His kingdom and bear fruit. End this study by praying and asking God to reveal to you how you are doing with what He has given you. Then respond as needed.