



## Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: The Burden of Blessings: Week 2 (January 14, 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 attracted you to your spouse? If you're single, what qualities are you attracted to?

### DIGGING DEEPER 1

**Read Genesis 1:26, 28; Proverbs 19:21.** 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: Let's start with a quick review from last week. What's a blessing? What is a gift? So, a blessing is something that God gives us even though we don't deserve it and God doesn't bless us without a purpose for the blessing. Thus, "The Burden of Blessings". Based on the scriptures you studied above what is our purpose? According to Genesis 1:26 did Adam need someone to complete him? Whose likeness was he created in? So, who completed him? One of the greatest gifts God has given many of us or will give you in the future is a spouse. On that day when God asks you, "what did you do with what I gave you?" How will you respond? In your own words, what is the purpose of marriage? How does your purpose differ from scripture? How do you use your marriage to reflect God and share Jesus with others? Explain. In Genesis 1:28 God gives us the purpose to marriage. What does this mean? To just have babies? We are to be reproducing image bearers of God for what purpose?

### DIGGING DEEPER 2

**Read Genesis 2:18; Colossians 2:9-10.** 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: According to Genesis 2:18 what is the purpose for a wife? Does she complete man? Put the meaning of Genesis 2:18 together with Genesis 1:28. What did Adam need a helper for? How does our wife help us effectively accomplish God's purpose? How do we make marriage into what we want it to be rather than what God has told us it should be? God's purpose always takes precedence over our preference. According to Colossians 2:9-10 who makes us complete? So then, why are we married? What's the difference between the purpose of marriage and the benefits of marriage? How would you answer these questions about your spouse: Does this person make me a better Christ Follower? Will they help me reflect God's image to the world, and will they partner with me to grow God's kingdom?

### DIGGING DEEPER 3

**Read Matthew 5:14-16.** 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 the metaphor of light represent biblically? Considering Matthew 5:14-15, are you hiding the light Jesus has given you or living as a city on the hill so all can see? Considering Matthew 5:16, do your good works cause people to give glory to God or to yourself? Who sees you pursue Christ daily, not including your church attendance on Sunday. If your spouse doesn't attend church with you or if they aren't a Christian, can you still fulfill God's purpose in your marriage? How important is it for your spouse to see your daily pursuit of Christ? Elaborate.

### DOING THE WORD

Your daily pursuit of Christ will validate your spouses need to follow Jesus too. You must be the change that you want them to see in you. Be honest, how are you doing in that? CF offers some great opportunities to help you in your pursuit of Christ and to help you and your spouse to fulfill your purpose. Please understand, this goes beyond your weekly Church attendance. Here are a few of them: New Believers Class, My Story Training, and connecting to and joining a small group. How are you taking advantage of the opportunities given you to grow in Christ?