

Lesson Outline

Week 4: The Blessing -- Speaking Life Into the Next Generation

Opening Prayer Focus

Ask God to use this time, open our eyes to opportunities, and help us live out His Word before our grandchildren, families, neighbors, and others.

Review of Previous Lessons

1. The Responsibility of Grandparents

God calls grandparents to pass faith to the next generation.

This happens through discipleship, living out the Word, speaking truth, and being an example.

We must be in the Word ourselves if we want to pass it on.

Pray for a hunger for God's Word.

2. Leaving a Spiritual Heritage

We are leaving a legacy whether we realize it or not.

Our grandchildren will remember how we lived.

Key question: If your grandchildren imitate you spiritually, what will they look like?

3. Being Intentional

Be planned, purposeful, and spiritually alert.

Look for opportunities to speak truth and encouragement.

Intentional living applies to grandchildren, adult children, neighbors, and everyone God places in our path.

Following Christ deeply may bring resistance, but it is worth it.

Main Lesson: The Spoken Blessing

The blessing is a biblical practice of speaking life, value, encouragement, and God's truth over someone.

Biblical Background

God blessed Adam and Eve after creating them.

The patriarchs blessed their families.

Rebekah's family blessed her before she left home.

Isaac blessed Jacob.

Solomon blessed the people after the temple was built.

Blessing others is a powerful way to pass on faith and identity.

Five Elements of the Blessing

1. Meaningful Touch

A hug, hand on the shoulder, or hand on the head can communicate love and acceptance.

2. A Spoken Message

The blessing should be spoken out loud.

Examples:

"I love you."

"I am proud of you."

"I am so glad you are mine."

“God has a purpose for your life.”

3. Attaching High Value

Speak words that show the person they are valuable and loved.

Call out God-given strengths and character.

4. Picturing a Special Future

Help them see that God has plans for their life.

Pray over their future, faith, marriage, calling, and character.

5. Active Commitment

Continue to support, pray for, encourage, and walk with them.

Blessing is not only a one-time event but an ongoing commitment.

The Power of Words

Words can bless or curse.

Negative labels can shape a person's identity.

Avoid speaking things like:

“You're dumb.”

“You'll never amount to anything.”

“You're bad.”

“You're too shy.”

“You're just strong-willed.”

Instead, speak truth with faith:

“God made you strong for His purpose.”

“You are loved.”

“You are valuable.”

“I believe God has good plans for you.”

Living Out the Blessing

Our lives should match our words.

Children and grandchildren learn from what they see.

Consider a “word fast” from:

Judgment

Criticism

Sarcasm

Negativity

Complaining

Gossip

Encouragement Matters

Blessing is not only for grandchildren.

Speak blessing over adult children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, neighbors, church members, and those who are hurting.

Even adults need to hear:

“I’m proud of you.”

“You are doing a great job.”

“I’m thankful for you.”

“I’m glad you are mine.”

Example Prayer of Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May His Word be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.

May your family be filled with the Spirit of the living God.

May your home be filled with hope, salvation, joy, laughter, and peace.

May you trust in the Lord with all your heart and acknowledge Him in all your ways.

I bless you in Jesus’ name.

Key Takeaways

Be intentional in speaking blessing.

Use Scripture when blessing others.

Speak life instead of labels.

Encourage often.

Pray over your family’s future.

Bless your children and grandchildren regularly.

Look for opportunities to bless others.

Live in a way that reflects Christ.

Closing Thought

Time is short, and our words matter. Ask God to help you speak life, encouragement, and truth over the next generation and everyone He places in your path.