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Every lesson has a point—what each participant should walk away knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: God is a gracious giver, so we shouldn't take anything that God doesn't give us.

Head Change: To know why we should receive God's blessings humbly.

Heart Change: To feel encouraged to trust God's plan for our lives.

Life Change: To show gratitude for the all the blessings God has given us.

OPEN

When have you watched an entertaining movie or experienced a great event that was going well until something ruined it? What happened?

A favorite film character dying can ruin a good movie and a thunderstorm can sabotage outdoor party plans. Although we all can relate to the frustration of ruined plans, we do not often consider how our actions can threaten to sabotage God's plans. In the biblical story, God is actively working to fulfill his will. But God's people are often ungrateful, frequently disobey, and can act contrary to God's plans.

In this lesson, Pastor Watson will show us how we can get in the way of God's plans. He will also encourage us to be grateful to God in our hearts.

NOTES

As you watch the lesson, notice how Pastor Watson answers the following questions.

As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

How can greed and selfishness interfere with receiving God's blessings?

What should we remember when we feel hopeless and trapped in unfortunate circumstances?

REVIEW

The lesson began with Pastor Watson encouraging us about God's plan and purpose—especially for those who feel stuck and tempted to doubt God. **In what ways can you relate to feeling hopeless and full of doubt? What have you done to handle those feelings?**

Israel's experience with captivity and oppression in Egypt is an example of how God has a plan for his people even when they do not see it. **What stood out to you from Pastor Watson's retelling of Israel's story in the book of Exodus? What can their story show us about God's purposes and plans for our lives?**

Pastor Watson continued to follow the Israelites' story to recount all the blessings they received from God once they were out of bondage and began to journey to the Promised Land. He referenced several examples from Joshua and Deuteronomy that show us the blessing of listening to and

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obeying God. **What evidence from Israel's journey to the Promised Land shows that God had a plan for them?**

When have you recognized God's purpose for you? What helped you realize you were on the right path despite any obstacles you may have faced?

Although Israel started their journey praising God, they soon began disobeying God's plan. Pastor Watson referenced a story from Joshua 7 when Achan sinned. Read Joshua 7:1. **Why do you think Achan and others in Joshua 7:1 chose to act unfaithfully and take what belonged to God?**

What does Joshua 7:1 tell us about the consequences of acting contrary to God's plan?

In what ways can we, like the biblical characters, frustrate God's plan?

Pastor Watson said when teams like the Dallas Cowboys win a championship, no individual team member can take the trophy as their personal award. Although each player played their part to win, the championship trophy belongs to the "kingdom of the organization." **What does Pastor Watson's football championship illustration teach us about how we should receive what God gives us?**

In the lesson, we learned that Achan was driven by greed. We also saw a pattern of rebellion that shows up in the lives of biblical characters and in Christians today: taking what belongs to God as their own. **Why do you think we can become greedy when we receive material blessings?**

One of the ways people take from God is through how they manage their resources. Pastor Watson referenced a famous verse from the book of Malachi, which indicts God's people for refusing to obey God's commands concerning generosity. Read Malachi 3:8. **What steps can you take to receive from God with gratitude, rather than give in to the temptation to "rob God"?**

SCRIPTURE EXPLORATION

Pastor Watson said that "embedded in every victory that you have in your life are things that belong to God that do not belong to you." One of the most vivid examples of Pastor Watson's point is when King David took advantage of Bathsheba, the wife of one of Israel's soldiers.

Read 2 Samuel 11:1–27.

Pastor Watson described all the accomplishments and prosperity that God granted to King David leading up to his encounter with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel. **Considering David's story, why do people refer to David as the most important king in Israel's history?**

In what ways do you think David's status (money, prestige, etc.) influenced his decision to sin against God?

How do David's actions display that he was ungrateful for all that God had given him?

When have you, like David, been tempted to take what didn't belong to you?

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The story in 2 Samuel 11 happened during the spring when kings were supposed to go off to war. But David remained in Jerusalem and sent the Israelite army to fight without him. **What does David's lack of participation in the war show us about him?**

David first saw Bathsheba while she was bathing and sent messengers to retrieve her. Bathsheba was married to Uriah, one of the soldiers David sent off to war. After taking advantage of Bathsheba, David devised a scheme to get Uriah to come back from the war and be with his wife. But when Uriah refused to sleep with his wife, David modified his plans to make sure Uriah was killed on the battlefield.

How would you describe David's actions in 2 Samuel 11:1–15? In what ways did David abuse the power and the blessings God had given him?

When have you been tempted to use what God had given you in selfish ways? What happened?

During the lesson, Pastor Watson stated that after these events, David likely thought, “I wish somebody would've told me . . . I would become a murderer. I wish somebody would've told me that I should've been satisfied with what God was giving and not taken for myself.” **When have you felt regret and sorrow after making a poor choice? What did you learn about God's love and grace in that situation?**

We learned in this lesson that David sinned because of his lack of satisfaction in God. **In what ways do you struggle with being satisfied with God's blessings?**

Although Pastor Watson shared several examples of people acting contrary to God's plans, he also said the rest of the Bible shows that God still accomplishes his will. **How does God's persistence to accomplish his plans, despite the actions of his people, encourage you when you make mistakes?**

Whatever God gives to his people does not ultimately belong to us—it belongs to God. Therefore, we need to use whatever God gives us as opportunities to direct people back to Jesus. Pastor Watson referred to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11 to anchor this point.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Are you intimidated or challenged by repeating Paul's words “to be imitators of me, as I am of Christ”? Why or why not?

If our goal is to look more like Christ, one of the aims of our life should be to make sure people see Christ in us. Christ was the perfect human, but we are not—sometimes we can be more like David than Jesus. Paul's words remind us that we should always look to Christ as our model for how to live. **What does it look like, practically, to imitate Christ?**

In what ways do Paul's words help us resist greed and be grateful for what God gives us?

In what ways can you cultivate a heart of gratitude rather than give in to greediness?

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FINAL WORD

God's blessings should lead us back to God. But too often we allow the good things we receive from God to lead us away from him. Pastor Watson used the life of David as an example of how God's people can selfishly use God's good gifts. We can take this lesson and apply it to how we walk with God and learn the correct way to receive gifts from God.

God wants us to experience life more abundantly, but that life doesn't include greediness and ungratefulness. God is the goal and motivation for our faith, so we shouldn't allow anything to tempt us to rob him. Instead, we should embrace gratitude, thanking God for all he's given us.

DEEPER WALK

Read: Reflect on the danger of robbing God by reading Genesis 3 and 2 Samuel 11. Remember the power of God's grace and how to be grateful by reading Ephesians 2:1–10.

Pray: Pray that God will show you areas in your life where you have chosen your path instead of God's path. Ask God and others about ways you can cultivate gratitude in your life. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you practice gratitude.

Give: Find ways to be generous with others in the coming weeks. Give your time and resources as a reminder that what you have belongs to God.