

Blessing



DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. What is your love language to show love to others?
2. What is your love language to receive love from others?
3. How could you express your best wishes, a sincere blessing, to another person using your favorite love language?
4. If I wanted to bless you in a way that would impact you deeply, how would I go about it?

Acts 7:54-60

Here Stephen is being stoned, an unimaginable punishment, and looks up to see Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Jesus is watching to see what happens with Stephen, and what happens is a perfect template for blessings in our lives. Stephen was Hebrew and as a Hebrew, he knelt down to ask the Lord to forgive these who were to stone him. The Hebrew word, “to bless” literally means “to bend the knee” or “to kneel down”. When Stephen knelt down, he was kneeling down to speak a blessing for his attackers and to Saul.

Acts 22:19-21

The power of the blessing that Stephen gave to Saul, now Paul after the Lord met him on the road to Damascus, is evidenced with the tremendous accomplishments of Paul. Most of western civilization is built on the

principles of the Bible, and especially the New Testament. Many of our laws, cultures and customs come from the teachings in the New Testament. Paul was the leading writer of the New Testament with his letters and teachings to Christians.

Luke 12:34

This scripture shows us that we need to have a heart for the blessing we are to give someone we forgive. The Lord knows our heart and by giving up that ‘treasure’ of our heart, we are truly forgiving and blessing them.

The blessing part is sometimes hard to get started because we don’t have the vocabulary for it. We really don’t know how to bless someone. Try to use the offense that you are forgiving someone for and use that to bless them. The Bible is full of blessings.

Psalm 20: 1-4

A blessing is different from a prayer. When you pray, you are asking God to bless this person. When you bless, you are speaking that blessing yourself, and it is your blessing. God has authorized us to bless and the weight of His authority goes with that blessing you speak.

Luke 6:28

This is a mandate from Jesus that gives you the authority to bless. When we bless someone, God blesses them just like it is His words coming forth. Now a good question would be if we were asked to bless someone like Osama bin-Laden. How would that happen? Here is a blessing for bin-Laden “May he know the goodness of the Lord” The goodness of the Lord will lead us to repentance.

PRINCIPLES FROM THE WORD

- Stephen showed us to bless those who harm us.
- Like Paul, serious transgressors may become blessings to the world if we can bless them.
- We are authorized by God to bless others especially those who are against us.
- There are numerous blessing examples in the Bible. We must do the word, we must act on the teachings of these scriptural guidelines.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Is it uncomfortable to consider blessing those who are doing evil things?
- What is the opposite of blessing? Can we do that, too?
- How does it sound when we bless others and not just intercede for them?
- Who is God asking you to pour out blessing on right now?

DOING THE WORD

• Here is what a blessing might sound like: “May the Lord speak to your heart and may you know His voice. May He teach you His ways, and lead you in His path. May you come to clearly understand god’s will and purpose for you, and may the Lord fulfill the destiny He has chosen for you. May you be quick to hear and may you be quick to understand. May the Lord teach you and instruct you, and may you know the goodness and mercy of the Lord and may they follow you all the days of your life. Amen”

- Here are some blessings from Paul to us, God’s people:

- Eph 3:16 ~ May you find ~ that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit.

- Eph 3:17 ~ So that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love.

- Eph 3:18 ~ And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is.

- Eph 3:19 ~ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

- Now, the most important aspect of this series is to do the word, to act on these principles set out before you. This takes practice, so take the rest of the time you have in this session and practice blessings on those in your group. Take a person by the hand, look them in the eye and speak a blessing to them.