



Week 1 Small Group: A Legacy of Blessings

OPENING PRAYER:

We have come together to share, to grow, and to change. May we all feel safe with each other: safe to explore the scriptures and question, safe to consider new ideas, safe to share our lives with each other, and with our amazing God. Amen.

Quote

"Cheerful givers do not count the cost of what they give." Julian of Norwich

BREAKING THE ICE:

When have you found joy in God's blessings in your life? Share a story of how those blessings impacted your life.

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

- Were the Corinthians ready? If they were ready to give, why does Paul continue encouraging them?
- What is the difference between being an owner and a steward?
- Define "blessing" in context of this scripture.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Who has modeled generosity for you?
2. How does the culture or ethos of your family/community/organization impact your willingness to share your blessings?
3. Think of a time when you were part of a generous group vs. part of a group that was less willing to share. How did that impact your actions?
4. Take some time this next week and walk around your home, the church, and community and reflect on how you have been blessed by another. Consider writing a note to express your thankfulness.



CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear God, we thank you for all the ways that you bless us. We ask you to shape our hearts, minds, and spirits to be generous. Help make us ready to offer back to you a generous gift that is given as freely as you give to us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Week 2 Small Group: Blessed People Bless Others, The Grace of Increase

OPENING PRAYER:

We have come together to share, to grow, and to change. May we all feel safe with each other: safe to explore the scriptures and question, safe to consider new ideas, safe to share our lives with each other, and with our amazing God. Amen.

Quote

"The person who gives with a smile is the best giver because God loves a cheerful giver." Mother Teresa

BREAKING THE ICE:

What is the most generous thing someone has done for you, or that you have witnessed in your life?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

- What does the passage name as the fruit or "blessings" that come from generosity?
- Is Paul promising riches and prosperity to the one who gives a lot? Why or why not? What might be the blessings, other than financial, that result from generosity?
- How are our blessings like seed?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Was there ever a time when God asked you to give, and you were afraid to share? What keeps you from being generous?
2. What is the tie between faith and generosity? In what area (time, talent, gifts, finances, etc.) of your life is God calling you to walk by faith?
3. Consider what drives your giving. Are you responding to a need or releasing the blessings that you have been given? Is there a difference? Does it matter?



CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear God, of all the gifts that you give, we are most thankful for your gift of grace. May we humbly receive this gift. Then, give us the faith to be bearers of that grace so that all the world may know your love. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Week 3 Small Group: Overflowing Blessings

OPENING PRAYER:

We have come together to share, to grow, and to change. May we all feel safe with each other: safe to explore the scriptures and question, safe to consider new ideas, safe to share our lives with each other, and with our amazing God. Amen.

Quote

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." John Wesley

BREAKING THE ICE:

How would you feel if Paul was addressing you and your congregation with this letter?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

- What was the blessing that would arise from the collection for the Macedonia church?
- According to Paul how would their generosity impact how others would respond to God?
- At the start of this passage, Paul asks the people to prepare (get ready) for their giving. What might be the ways we can prepare to give? How is this different than spontaneous giving?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Where have you witnessed God's generosity in someone's life that moved them or someone else closer to God?
2. God's grace allows us to see the possibilities of God. How has grace caused you to witness God's glory?
3. Share a time when you have become an agent of grace in the life of someone you didn't know. How did it move you closer to God?



CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for all the wonderful examples of your blessings that we have experienced. We thank you for how we have been touched by others overflowing of generosity in the past. May we be ready and willing to be the vessels that you use today so that all may know your blessings. Create in us a cheerful and grace-filled heart. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.