

BLESSING & CURSE

GOD'S BLESSING

Memory Verse: "Look, today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!" - Deuteronomy 11:26

Overview

In today's study on Blessing & Curse, we'll explore what God's Blessing is and our part to play in it.

We know God blesses us, but what does this actually mean?

1

If you haven't already, spend a few minutes praying, inviting the Holy Spirit into your conversations.

2

Read Gen 1:20-22, 27-28. God creates life and then blesses that life. What do these verses tell us this blessing is? How does the blessing in v27-28 differ from v20-22? How is God's act of creating and blessing similar/different to what He commands us to do?

The Garden of Eden was a place of flourishing and thriving, a place of blessing. It was a spiritual space where the heavens met earth, and God's presence walked among His creation. It was also a physical space where the land, creatures and humanity produced life. God's blessing is both a spiritual and physical flourishing.

3

Do you see 'blessing' as a more spiritual or physical thing? Why? Read Deut 28:1-14. What would these blessings look like in today's age? What dangers are there in focusing too much on them? How do we receive these blessings, and do we meet the requirements?

4

Read Gal 3:14. If we're promised God's blessing in Christ, we don't need to strive for blessings but for Christ Himself. How might living for Jesus bring about greater blessings in our lives, and why might we handle these blessings better? How might this impact those around us who don't yet know Him?

Key Verse

"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful, increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'"

- Genesis 1:28

APPLICATION



1

Thinking

What is the main thing you have learnt or been reminded of in today's study?

2

Doing

How are you going to apply what you've learnt?

3

Committing

Commit to keep each other accountable in your application. Be ready to share the next time you meet.

4

Praying

Close this study in prayer, thanking God and asking Him for help, strength, and wisdom.



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"Making Jesus known to everyone in the UK, Europe, and Beyond."

BLESSING & CURSE

THE CURSE

Memory Verse: "Look, today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!" - Deuteronomy 11:26

Overview

In the last study we explored God's Blessing. What did you learn/apply? Has anything changed for you?

In today's study on Blessing & Curse we'll explore the opposite to God's Blessing, the curse. What is this curse and what impact does it have around us?

Key Verse

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.'"

- Galatians 3:13



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If you haven't already, spend a few minutes praying, inviting the Holy Spirit into your conversations.

2

Read Gen 3:14-19, 23 & 4:10-14. If God's blessing is spiritual and physical, is it the same for the curse? In what ways do we see this in Scripture? Notice how Cain's sin against his brother and God also directly impacts the earth. What are your thoughts on this?

The effects of the curse brought about a constant resistance to the flourishing of creation. For life and growth to happen, it's no longer easy but difficult, painful and tiring. Choosing life under the curse will always be met with resistance. It's easier to give up and allow the curse to have its way, producing its opposite, death. Praise God this is not our reality in Jesus Christ!

3

Read Lev 26:20, 32-33, Deut 21:22-23, Num 35:33 & Jer 3:1. Why does God care so deeply about the land (think about the Garden of Eden and what He wants to restore. Don't forget, it's spiritual but also physical)? How might this impact the way we live?

4

Did God remove our gift of responsibility to care for His creation when we fell under the curse of sin? How does this show His patience, love and goodness? Read the Key Verse. God allowed His creation to fall under the curse, and even His own Son, so that we would be set free from it and go on to be His blessing. What does this teach you about the value God has placed on you?

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BLESSING & CURSE TO TRUST OR NOT TO TRUST

Memory Verse: "Look, today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!" - Deuteronomy 11:26

Overview

In the previous study, we explored the curse. What stood out to you? Has anything changed for you?

In this study, we'll explore 'To trust or not to trust'. What pattern do we see in the Bible, what reasons do we have to trust, and why might it be difficult.

Key Verse

"But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

- Matthew 6:33



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2

Read Gen 1:29-30; 2:9, 18; 3:4-6, 21. What do we learn about God's character? What do we learn about ourselves? In what other ways do we see this pattern throughout Scripture?

Even in Adam and Eve's desire to gain their own wisdom, define right and wrong, and trust themselves over God, He killed one of His own animals to cover their shame. God continually acts in love to us, even to the point of sending His Son to die on our behalf. He is passionate about restoring His blessing to His creation and inviting us to participate in it.

3

In what ways do you follow Adam and Eve's actions in your life today? In what ways do you act differently? Why do we struggle to bless other people, and how might we change this? Read the Key Verse (try using different translations). How does the Key Verse relate to what we see at the start of Genesis?

4

Read Rom 8:32; 2 Cor 1:3-4; 1 John 4:19; Eph 1:3; 2 Cor 9:6-12. What assurance can we live under, according to these verses? Do you sometimes wonder why it isn't easier to bless others in light of these passages? Finally, read Gal 5:16-17. How could it become easier/harder to trust in God's blessing?

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BLESSING & CURSE OUR PROMISE IN CHRIST

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Overview

In the last study, we saw how trust is an essential difference between blessing and curse. What stood out to you in this, and how did you apply what you learnt?

Today we'll explore the tension between promised blessings and sufferings in Christ and ask 'how significant our actions here and now'.

Key Verse

"...we are heirs—
heirs of God and
co-heirs with
Christ, if indeed we
share in his
sufferings in order
that we may also
share in his glory."

- Romans 8:17



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2

Read the Key Verse. What tension do we find in this verse? How can we be promised blessing in Christ but also suffering? Have you experienced this in your own life? Why do we still experience the curse's effects if it fell upon and was put to death in Jesus?

We live in the now AND not-yet time. God's Kingdom is here, and with it, His blessing of which we are a part through Christ. Yet, the world and those enslaved to sin are still subject to the curse. We feel its effects, but we join in with Christ, enduring suffering whilst being His blessing. As we begin to understand this tension, we can start to live our future hope now as though it's already here.

3

Read Matt 5:11; 1 Pet 2:20-23; 3:9, 17-18. If we know blessing is about flourishing, why are we told we're blessed for suffering with Christ? Does eternal life start now or when we physically die? In light of your answer, how significant is it that we bless instead of repay evil for evil? Does it have a spiritual and physical impact here and now or only after Jesus returns?

4

Read Rev 21:22- 22:5. What does this imagery remind you of? We were blessed to be a blessing and rule over the earth; this hasn't changed. Does that mean we're a part of God's plan to create a renewed heaven and earth? What might look different if we understood salvation in light of continuing God's blessing with and in Christ rather than the end goal being our own eternity with Jesus?

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