

The Gathering Growth Guide

Blessed! // Week 4 // Generosity through the roof!

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Various

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring with a break from Community Groups during the. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family as you prepare to attend your Community Group.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN YOU COME TO GROUP HAVING PREPARED WITH THIS GUIDE!!

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

Over the past month, our church has taken a fresh look at the things that we've been given in a series appropriately titled, "Blessed!" We've learned that God wants us blessed because He wants to bless others through us, and when we feel that we aren't blessed, it's important to look to the eternal for the power to bust up "blessing blockers." In part 4, Paul showed examples in the Bible that can shed some light on some practical takeaways for all of us from the series:

1. **3 blessed people.** From a hated tax collector to 2 unnamed people, generosity seems to be a trait that can really allow the church to stand out in a culture where everyone tends to think of themselves first and others second (if at all). We see from these examples that blessed people bless people, and that allows the power of God to flow into all kinds of situations to transform those around us!
2. **1 stingy person.** One of the harder lessons from the story of the rich young ruler is the fact that Jesus didn't run after him and lower the standard. Jesus asked for everything, and didn't settle for something. The deal breaker for this young man? Generosity, because generosity requires that we trust a generous God to be more than generous to us when we are more than generous to others. The stingy ruler couldn't do that.
3. **4 practical takeaways.** 1) Generosity can't be rented. 2) Let God talk you out of a yes instead of talking you into one. 3) Blessed people may say no now in order to say a bigger yes later. 4) Generosity will happen at all levels and in all kinds of ways.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- As you've thought back through this week's message, what one thing – if any – inspired you or maybe even confused you?
- Think back over the past month's teaching, and share with the group your 1 minute takeaway from the Blessed! series (we know there was a lot to remember, but takeaways usually pop right up to the surface!!).
- Read James 1:22-25. There is one thing that opens the door to the blessed life. What is it? Why do you think our obedience (or lack of it) plays such a big part in being blessed?
- If that passage in James is true (and of course, it is!), then all of us stand at a crossroads in the area of living generously, and at crossroads, we will either choose God or lose God. How can you be obedient to the truth of scripture about generosity with your time, talents and treasure?
- So many times we look at what we don't have and talk ourselves out of being a blessing based on our perceived poverty. Read Matthew 16:13-17. Jesus called Peter "blessed" when Peter saw Jesus for who Jesus really was. How does our view of Jesus affect our view of our resources? In other words, when we see all that God has, how will that help us talk ourselves into being a blessing based on God's real wealth?