

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - Open Topic
Topic - The Blessing (Numbers 6:22-27)

Date - 29-Sep-19
Speaker - Ps Dinah Lee

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. ***Aaronic Benediction (Misha Goetz)***
 2. ***This is Amazing Grace***
 3. ***Highest Praise***
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WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Grasp that God earnestly desires to lavish blessings on us, His children; and
2. Be God's blessing to others daily.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. The Aaronic Blessing bestows upon us the Father's favour and protection, the Son's delight and grace, and the Holy Spirit's presence and peace.
2. The Blessing has both collective and personal dimensions, and it marks us as belonging to the LORD.
3. God's people are blessed to be a blessing.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

We carry a very powerful tool with us, our words. It has immense power over people, bringing life or death. As believers, we have the authority to use our tongues to minister and to bless. 1 Peter 2:5 & 9 says that every believer is a priest, therefore we can boldly pronounce the (Aaronic) Blessing (Numbers 6:22-27) over the people in our lives. It is loaded with power and promise.

'The LORD' is the name that means "the I AM". It has a threefold repetition in the Aaronic Blessing (vs 24, 25 & 26) which denotes the triune identity: The Father is the Lord (Psalm 110:1), The Son is the Lord (Romans 10:9), The Spirit is the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:17).

1) The Meaning of the Blessing (vs 24-26)

- a. We have the Father's Favour and His Protection (vs 24).
 - In Genesis 1:28, God blessed Adam and Eve – so that they can be fruitful and subdue the earth, and have dominion over every living thing that moves. This shows God's favour upon us.
 - "To keep" is the same verb as "to guard" in Hebrew (shamar). In Psalm 91:11, God commands his angels to guard us in all our ways. God bestows His protection upon us. He promises to watch over us in the past, present and future.
- b. We have the Son's Delight and His Grace (vs 25).
 - God's light is shining on us, and it is an indication of God's approval, fellowship and presence. He does not repay us according to our iniquities (Psalm 103:10). We are believers in Christ and God does not turn His back against His children.
 - God chooses who he wants to be gracious to and to be merciful to (Exodus 33:19), there is nothing we can do to *make* him be gracious or merciful to us.
 - This blessing was pronounced right after Israel had disobeyed God by building and worshipping the golden calf. God extends His grace out of His Covenantal love for them and He wants to bless His people. There is a danger of us orchestrating things and situations to get God's blessings, but it is unnecessary.
- c. We have the Holy Spirit's Presence and His Peace (vs 26).
 - The Holy Spirit has an ongoing work in our lives to deepen our relationship with God and to strengthen our identity as children of God. We cannot flee from the Holy Spirit (Psalm 139:7 and 139:2).
 - His Shalom (wholeness, completeness, soundness) is also with us for eternity (Philippians 4:6-7). A multidimensional wholeness in our lives, that is peace.

2) The Nature of the Blessing (vs 22-23, 27)

- a. It has both collective and personal dimensions in the blessing.
 - We cannot go through life concerned about God's personal blessings. God is equally concerned for the total wellbeing of His people. It is not only about us and we need to trust God and not doubt His goodness.
 - In the blessing that God has for us, there is always a bigger picture and purpose.
- b. It marks us as His own (vs 27)
 - We belong to God and He wants nothing but the best for us. That is how He marks His people – with His blessings. He wants to lavish and invest in us.
 - God always purpose to bless us for our good. It is not our version of what a blessing should be, but His version.

Conclusion

- Only God alone can bless His people, and no one else can undo His blessings. Nothing worth having does He withhold from us.
 - A declaration of God's blessing on us is a constant demonstration of His grace and peace.
 - God's people are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).
 - When we carry the mark of God, we should live our lives that reveal His attributes.
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Discussion Questions

1. **Read Numbers 6:22-27. The Blessing came right after Israel had disobeyed God. Discuss any blessings that you received from God that you felt you do not deserve.** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a recap question for members to grasp the main sermon point that God earnestly desires to lavish blessings on us because we are His children, just as Israel is His people. It is not because we are good or deserving. Correspondingly it is also not because we are 'bad' that God does not bless us. Leaders can recap the meaning of the Aaronic Blessing as covered in the sermon: (a) the Father's Favour and His Protection; (b) the Son's Delight and His Grace; and (c) the Holy Spirit's Presence and His Peace. These blessings stand in contrast to earthly "blessings" or material prosperity which are temporary and can all be taken away. We must remember that God blesses us with what we need, not what we prefer. Leaders can bring the discussion further by asking if the 'undeserved' blessing led to something larger than the individual. This is to drive the point home that God not only blesses us personally for our individual good, but it will also fulfil a purpose of His in the bigger picture.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

We know that we don't have to do anything to get God's blessings, it is already given to us out of His great love for us. In turn, we should bless others although we may think that they are 'underserving'. As we share on God's blessings in our lives, we can also recall our journeys of faith from doubts and anxieties in our circumstances to faith and trust in God's goodness. The meaning of the Aaronic blessing can shape our understanding of God's character and His purpose for our lives.

2. **Most of the time, the Israelites missed (or were blind to) God's blessings for them. Share an experience in your life that led you to grumble to God or to doubt His character but on hindsight was actually a blessing.** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a relate and reflect question for members to think back on events that happened in their lives in which they thought were setbacks, but were actually blessings that they missed. Even events that looked coincidental (or they blame luck) might actually be a blessing. This is an opportunity to change their mindsets and expectations of how a blessing should be like. Everything has a purpose and happens for a reason.

It is also good to get them to accept what happened and know that it is in the past. In future, if anything terrible happened again, to be accepting and trust that it is part of God's plans to fulfil a larger purpose. See Philippians 4:6-7 and take courage by reading Romans 8:26-28.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

This is an exercise in learning to fully trust God and His goodness no matter what happens – see Proverbs 3:5-6. When we acknowledge God in all our ways, He will direct our paths. Remember that we have His blessing upon us!

3. **Ps Dinah mentioned that God blesses us so that we can bless others. One way that we can bless others is when we live out the attributes of His name. How then can you**

display God's attributes in your daily living? [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a response question for members to think about practical ways to live out our lives in the light of God's attributes and having these truths about God define priorities. They can think along the lines of speech, actions, behaviour and lifestyle. One way would be to pronounce the Aaronic blessing every day to your family members.

Here is an article on God's attributes: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/15-amazing-attributes-of-god-what-they-mean-and-why-they-matter.html>

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing The Discussion)

Leaders to conclude by reminding members that God blessed us to bless others because the Blessing has both personal and collective dimensions. Then pronounce the Aaronic Blessing upon members. Take your time to pronounce the blessing and allow your members to ponder on the words pronounced over them. Close with the prayers below.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. For us to deeply understand that God truly wants to bless us for we are His children
 2. For us to fully trust in God and His goodness
 3. For us to consciously bless others as God has blessed us
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Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.