



Blessed to be a Blessing

Bible Study

[Please provide: Bibles and copies of the first four pages of the Bible study for attendees; a copy of pages 5-10 for the leader.]

Make a list of all the physical blessings that you have been given by Your Creator God. Share with the entire group.

During this Bible study, we will look at our God – Father, Son, and Spirit – Who blessed Abraham and blesses us both physically and spiritually. He has blessed us in the past, blesses our present, and will bless us eternally in the future. Our God promises that we, His redeemed people, will be a blessing to those around us through the power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. All praise and thanks to God!

Opening Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, You are our awesome God! You have made each one of us with great care. You daily sustain our lives here on earth. You have made us Your children through Holy Baptism. We are sorry for the times when our sin has separated us from You and we praise You for sending Your Son to redeem us and re-create us once again by forgiving our sins for His sake. You have made us unique with unique gifts and talents. Help us to use these blessings by the power of the Spirit and help us to be a blessing to others in our unique circumstances. Send Your Spirit today as we study Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessed!

Read together **Genesis 12:1-3:**

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This passage indicates God's covenant with Abraham to bless him and make him a blessing. Look up the following Bible verses to see how God specifically blessed Abraham and made him a blessing to those around him:

Genesis 13:2

Genesis 13:14-17

Genesis 14:18-20

Genesis 17:1-8

Genesis 18:1-5

Genesis 18:32-33

Genesis 22:11-18

Genesis 24:1

Hebrews 11:8-12

Ephesians 1:3 states, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.* Ponder about how the Lord has blessed you spiritually. Look up and identify specific examples in the following Bible passages:

Psalms 103:8-13

John 1:1, 14

Romans 6:3-5

Ephesians 2:8-9

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Titus 3:4-7

1 Peter 3:18

1 Corinthians 10:16

Be a Blessing!

God blessed Abraham (“exalted father”) with faith. He became a blessing to those around him, as well as the exalted father of many and, ultimately, the line from which Jesus Christ was born. Abraham was blessed to be a blessing. By faith in Jesus, believers are daughters and sons of Abraham, and thus receive the same promise which God made to him. God’s Church on earth will be a blessing to the world! See **Galatians 3:7, 9, and 14**.

As **Romans 1:16** boldly proclaims, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power [Greek: “dunamis” or “dynamite”] of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* Throughout the years, God’s Church on earth has been blessed with the gift of God’s true Word, and with martyrs and preachers who have not been ashamed to share the Gospel. They have been steadfast and have used their God-given gifts to spread the Good News of Jesus to a world that needs to hear it.

Read **Ephesians 4:11-12, 16b**. Why does the Spirit provide spiritual leaders to His Church?

According to **Romans 12:4-8**, who is the body of Christ? How does this body work together?

List the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in **Galatians 5:22-23**. (Note: The word “fruit” is singular; the Spirit gives each believer in Christ the entire fruit package.)

Identify which are weaknesses and which are strengths for you.

Faith Talk: Share with a partner or the small group if time permits.

Read **1 Peter 3:14-15**. What are believers in Christ asked to be ready to do?

What practical advice is given in God’s Word for ways that His children can be a blessing to one another and to the world around us? See **Colossians 3:12-17**.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* **Titus 3:1c** urges Christians to ... *be ready for every good work.* Compile a list of “good works” that could be among those that God prepared in advance for people to do.

Faith Talk: How can your group (or church) specifically be a blessing in your church and community?

Faith Walk: Identify how the Lord has gifted you for service. Prayerfully make a list of things that you can personally be involved in for the spread of the Gospel – in your family, in your church, in your community ... and into the world.

Closing Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us time in Your Word and for blessing our fellowship. You have blessed us with gifts and talents so that we can be a blessing to others. We ask that You daily continue to forgive us when we have done wrong for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit, embolden us to daily tell the Good News of salvation to a hurting and needy world, as we use the blessings He has given to us. We pray in the name of Jesus, who showed His radical love for each of us all the way to the cross! Amen.

Closing Litany

[Psalm 1:1-2; 119:12; 28:6; 32:1; 18:46; 34:8; 33:12; 68:35; 66:20; 41:13; 144:15; 106:48]

Leader: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

Group: Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes!

Blessed be the Lord! For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation –

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage!

Awesome is God from His sanctuary; the God of Israel – He is the one who gives power and strength to His people. Blessed be God!

Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, “Amen!”

All: Praise the Lord!

Blessed to be a Blessing
Written by Shari Miller, East Helena, Montana
Published by Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 2017



Blessed to be a Blessing

Leader's Guide
Bible Study

Leader's Note: Please adapt materials provided to your time frame.

Make a list of all the physical blessings that you have been given by Your Creator God. Share with the entire group.

- Answers will vary. Encourage all to participate. Could include: air we breathe, family, friends, home, food, clothes, government officials and workers, peace in the homeland, gadgets that make life easier.

During this Bible study, we will look at our God – Father, Son, and Spirit – Who blessed Abraham and blesses us both physically and spiritually. He has blessed us in the past, blesses our present, and will bless us eternally in the future. Our God promises that we, His redeemed people, will be a blessing to those around us through the power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. All praise and thanks to God!

Opening Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, You are our awesome God! You have made each one of us with great care. You daily sustain our lives here on earth. You have made us Your children through Holy Baptism. We are sorry for the times when our sin has separated us from You and we praise You for sending Your Son to redeem us and re-create us once again by forgiving our sins for His sake. You have made us unique with unique gifts and talents. Help us to use these blessings by the power of the Spirit and help us to be a blessing to others in our unique circumstances. Send Your Spirit today as we study Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessed!

Read together **Genesis 12:1-3:**

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This passage indicates God's covenant with Abraham to bless him and make him a blessing. Look up the following Bible verses to see how God specifically blessed Abraham and made him a blessing to those around him:

Genesis 13:2 - Rich in livestock, silver, and gold, possessions

² Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Genesis 13:14-17 - Land, property

¹⁴ The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."

Genesis 14:18-20 - Enemies were defeated.

¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)

¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"

Genesis 17:1-8 - Old age, father of nations, everlasting covenant, many descendants

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴ "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

Genesis 18:1-5 - The Lord ate with him.

¹And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree ⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

Genesis 18:32-33 - The Lord granted Abraham's request to save Lot and family.

³² Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³ And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Genesis 22:11-18 - The Lord provided the sacrifice for Abraham, innumerable descendants.

¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." ¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Genesis 24:1 - Old age, all things

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

Hebrews 11:8-12 - Blessed with faith.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Ephesians 1:3 states, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.* Ponder about how the Lord has blessed you spiritually. Look up and identify specific examples in the following Bible passages:

Psalm 103:8-13 - Forgiveness, mercy, grace, love, compassion – all from the Lord

⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.⁹ He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

John 1:1, 14 - Jesus Christ – true God and true Man; our Savior

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Romans 6:3-5 - Baptism; resurrection, eternal life

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - Faith

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 - The inerrant, living, and saving Word of God

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Titus 3:4-7 - Salvation through Jesus, the Holy Spirit, eternal life

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1 Peter 3:18 - Christ suffered and died for the unrighteous.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit ...

1 Corinthians 10:16 - The Lord's Supper and the assurance of sins forgiven

¹⁶ *The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?*

Be a Blessing!

God blessed Abraham (“exalted father”) with faith. He became a blessing to those around him, as well as the exalted father of many and, ultimately, the line from which Jesus Christ was born. Abraham was blessed to be a blessing. By faith in Jesus, believers are daughters and sons of Abraham, and thus receive the same promise which God made to him. God’s Church on earth will be a blessing to the world! See **Galatians 3:7, 9, and 14**.

⁷ *Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.*

⁹ *So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*

¹⁴ *so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.*

As **Romans 1:16** boldly proclaims, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power [Greek: “dunamis” or “dynamite”] of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* Throughout the years, God’s Church on earth has been blessed with the gift of God’s true Word, and with martyrs and preachers who have not been ashamed to share the Gospel. They have been steadfast and have used their God-given gifts to spread the Good News of Jesus to a world that needs to hear it.

Read **Ephesians 4:11-12, 16b**. Why does the Spirit provide spiritual leaders to His Church?

- They are given to share the Gospel, to prepare God’s people for works of service, and to build up the body of Christ. The Gospel motivates and energizes us for service.

¹¹ *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹⁶ ... when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

According to **Romans 12:4-8**, who is the body of Christ? - All believers in Christ How does this body work together? - Each has different gifts which complement one another.

⁴ *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,*

⁵ *so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

List the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in **Galatians 5:22-23**. (Note: The word “fruit” is singular; the Spirit gives each believer in Christ the entire fruit package.)

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

²³ *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Identify which are weaknesses and which are strengths for you. - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

Faith Talk: Share with a partner or the small group if time permits.

- Answers will vary. Encourage all to participate.

Read **1 Peter 3:14-15**. What are believers in Christ asked to be ready to do? - Be ready to share the Good News of the Gospel with those around you.

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ...

What practical advice is given in God's Word for ways that His children can be a blessing to one another and to the world around us? See **Colossians 3:12-17**. - Be compassionate, kind, humble, meek, patient, put up with one another, forgiving, loving, peace of Christ rule in your hearts, thankful, teaching, admonishing in wisdom, singing, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* **Titus 3:1c** urges Christians to ... *be ready for every good work.* Compile a list of "good works" that could be among those that God prepared in advance for people to do.

- Answers will vary. Encourage all to participate. List could include: visiting the sick or impoverished; visit and serve those who are grieving; visiting and praying with another sister in Christ; raising children in a God-fearing way; listening to a co-worker and sharing the hope you have in Christ; telling friends and family about Jesus; giving your time, talents, and treasure in the spread of the Lord's Gospel message; helping keep up the church property; helping in the church office; supporting missionaries; praying for one another daily.

Faith Talk: How can your group (or church) specifically be a blessing in your church and community?

- Answers will vary. Encourage all to participate.

Faith Walk: Identify how the Lord has gifted you for service. Prayerfully make a list of things that you can personally be involved in for the spread of the Gospel – in your family, in your church, in your community ... and into the world.

- This activity is intended to be something that the participant would do on her own – homework.

Closing Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us time in Your Word and for blessing our fellowship. You have blessed us with gifts and talents so that we can be a blessing to others. We ask that You daily continue to forgive us when we have done wrong for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit, embolden us to daily tell the Good News of salvation to a hurting and needy world, as we use the blessings He has given to us. We pray in the name of Jesus, who showed His radical love for each of us all the way to the cross! Amen.

Closing Litany

[Psalm 1:1-2; 119:12; 28:6; 32:1; 18:46; 34:8; 33:12; 68:35; 66:20; 41:13; 144:15; 106:48]

Leader: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

Group: Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes!

Blessed be the Lord! For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation –

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage!

Awesome is God from His sanctuary; the God of Israel – He is the one who gives power and strength to His people. Blessed be God!

Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, “Amen!”

All: Praise the Lord!

Blessed to be a Blessing

Leader's Guide

Written by Shari Miller, East Helena, Montana

Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2017