



#59138

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
A Christian Growth Workshop

PROPOSED AGENDA

9:30 - 10:00	Registration / Fellowship	
10:00 - 10:15	Opening Devotion	Page 2
10:15 - 11:00	SESSION I What are blessings and why are they important to us?	Page 4
11:00 - 11:15	Break	
11:15 - 12:00	Sketch: "Blessings for Betty - Part I"	Page 13
	SESSION 2 Blessings we can count on.	Page 6
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch	
12:45 - 1:30	SESSION 3 Can "bad" things be blessings?	Page 8
1:30 - 1:45	Break	
1:45 - 2:30	Sketch: "Blessings for Betty - Part II"	Page 15
	SESSION 4 How can YOU be a blessing?	Page 9
	Closing Devotion	Page 12

(Guidelines for the leader begin on Page 17.)

OPENING DEVOTION

ADORATION

Sing: “I Am In Love With The King” or
“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful” *TLH 361, LW 274*

PSALM 138 *(Read responsively)*

Leader: I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

Group: I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your Name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your Name and your word.

Leader: When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.

Group: May all the kings of the earth praise you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth.

Leader: May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.

Group: Though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.

Leader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me.

Group: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever - do not abandon the works of your hands.

CONFESSION

Father, we come before You today with repentant hearts. We acknowledge that there are far too many times when we fail to “count our blessings.” Forgive us, Father. We confess that sometimes we even look upon our blessings as burdens - the times we complain about housework when we should give thanks for the roof over our heads - the times we moan about having to get in the car again when we should be grateful that we have means of transportation. Forgive us, Father. For the times we fall short on our prayers of praise and thanksgiving. For the times we choose to ignore Your calls to service. Please, Father, accept our confession, forgive our sins and keep us close to You today and forevermore. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Sing: “Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”

TLH 344, LW 204

PSALM 118:19-29 *(Read responsively)*

Leader: Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

Group: This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

Leader: I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

Group: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

Leader: The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Group: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success.

Group: Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Leader: The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

Group: You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

SUPPLICATION *(Pray together)*

Dear Father in heaven, we ask for Your blessings upon us today. We pray that You will lead us to the peace and joy that can be found in acknowledging and accepting Your blessings for us. We ask also that You would show us how we can each be a blessing to the people around us. Finally, Father, please be with the women who could not be here today. In Jesus’ precious Name we pray. Amen.

SESSION 1
What are blessings and why are they important to us?

A. **Definition of “Blessing”**

1. Webster’s Dictionary gives us the following definitions:

BLESS: 1. To hallow or consecrate by religious rite or word
 2. To make the sign of the cross upon or over
 3. To invoke divine care or protection for
 4. Praise, glorify
 5. To confer prosperity or happiness upon

BLESSED: 1. Holy
 2. Of enjoying happiness

BLESSING: 1. Act of one who blesses, approval
 2. A thing conducive to happiness or welfare
 3. Grace said at a meal

2. Which of these definitions best apply to Christians?
3. What does it mean to you personally to be blessed?

B. **In the beginning...**

1. What blessings do we read about in the following passages:
 a. Genesis 1:22
 b. Genesis 1:28
 c. Genesis 2:3
2. What is the opposite of blessings?
3. According to Genesis 3:6, what occurred to bring curses upon God’s creation?
4. Who and/or what were cursed as a result?
 a. Genesis 3:14-15
 b. Genesis 3:17-18

C. **God's Covenant Blessings**

1. God made several different covenants in the Old Testament. With whom did He make covenants in the following passages?
 - a. Genesis 9:8-11
 - b. Genesis 12:2-3
2. Why are blessings important?
 - a. Genesis 25:29-34
 - b. Genesis 27
3. Why was it so important for Jacob to get Isaac's blessing?
4. What does Hebrews 12:16-17 tell us about Esau's attitude toward the blessing?

D. **What about us?**

1. Blessings for obedience are listed in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 and the corresponding curses for disobedience are listed in Deuteronomy 28:15-44. What relevance do these blessings/curses have for us today?
2. What do the following verses say about this?
 - a. Romans 4:13-17
 - b. Galatians 3:6-9
3. What is most important for us to have to be sure of receiving God's blessings?

**Believers
Learning to
Enjoy
Sinner's
Salvation
In the
Name of
God's
Son**

SESSION 2

Blessings we can count on.

Consider: Do Christians and non-Christians share in the same blessings?

A. **Spiritual Blessings:** Working in groups of 2 or 3, identify some of the blessings reserved for Christians in the following passages.

1. _____
Romans 10:11-13 / John 3:36

2. _____
Ezekiel 34:25-26 / Psalm 29:11 / John 14:27

3. _____
Psalm 32:1-2 / Acts 10:43 / Ephesians 1:7-8

4. _____
John 14:15-17 / Romans 8:9-11

5. What other spiritual blessings can you think of?

6. As time permits, share with your small group some of the ways these blessings are apparent in your own life.

B. **Material Blessings**

1. What does Scripture say about God providing for our material needs?

a. Matthew 6:25-34

b. 1 Timothy 6:17-18

2. Share if you experienced times when you didn't know how your material needs might be satisfied. How were they?

3. Describe times when you continue to experience worry. Why do you suppose we have such difficulty in trusting God to provide for us?

C. **Fairness in Blessings?**

Many non-Christians seem to receive abundant material blessings while many Christians do not. How do we explain this? What does the Bible say about this?

- a. Malachi 3:14-18
- b. Psalm 1
- c. Proverbs 23:4-5
- d. Proverbs 28:20

D. **People as Blessings**

In addition to the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the material blessings with which we are provided, many of us can identify people whom we would count among our blessings. What particular person comes to mind who has been a blessing in your life? (*Group sharing is optional.*)

E. **Counting Our Blessings**

1. If you started to list every blessing you ever received from God, you'd probably run out of paper and ink! Just for practice, list a few below. Be sure to include spiritual, material and "people" blessings.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- .
- .
- .

9,999.

2. How will you become more aware of taking time to thank God for your spiritual and material blessings?

3. Share with the group any special methods you have for "counting your blessings."

SESSION 3
Can “bad” things be blessings?

A. Are You Sure These Are Blessings?

1. Many things happen in our own lives and the lives of others which we would probably not consider to be blessings, for example, natural disasters, illness and financial misfortune.

Some people may feel that these things are punishment for sins. What would you say to someone who expressed such an opinion? What explanations for negative experiences are found in the following passages?

- a. Luke 23:40-41
 - b. Hebrews 12:1-13
2. How do we reconcile these types of events with God’s love for us?
 - a. Matthew 5:3-12
 - b. Philippians 4:11-13
 - c. Romans 5:1-5

B. Blessings in Disguise

1. Sometimes we experience a disappointment or misfortune and are then later able to look back on the experience as a positive one.

In groups of 2 or 3, identify the people in the following verses who might have had such experiences. What was the initial situation? How/when did it become a blessing?

Luke 15:11-20 / Acts 16:16-34 / Acts 9:1-19

2. When did you personally experience a “blessing in disguise”? Perhaps a job change, a move, etc. When were you able to identify this event as a “blessing”?

C. **Unexpected Blessings**

1. Sometimes we receive unexpected blessings. What would most people call this? When we give God the credit, what term is used to describe this? The word “serendipity” is sometimes used. It is defined as “the gift of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.”
2. Think of times you have enjoyed unexpected blessings. Share with the group.

SESSION 4
How can you be a blessing?

A. **Sharing Our Blessings**

God has showered us with countless blessings. He doesn't expect us to keep them all for ourselves. According to the following verses, what are we expected to do with our material blessings?

- a. Malachi 3:8-10
- b. Acts 20:32-35
- c. Romans 15:26-27

B. **Blessing Others**

1. Working in groups of 2 or 3, complete the following chart:

Scripture	Groups of people to whom you could be a blessing	List some of the ways this could be done.
1. Proverbs 31:28 1 Timothy 5:8 1 Corinthians 7:12-14		
2. Romans 12:13 Galatians 6:9-10 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15		
3. 1 Peter 3:1-2 Matthew 25:34-36 Colossians 4:5-6		
4. Romans 12:14 Matthew 5:44-45 Luke 6:27-28		

2. What blessings do we receive as a result of being a blessing to others?
3. You can be a blessing in someone’s life through “little things” as well as “big things.” Take a few moments to complete the chart below by listing people to whom you could be a blessing and jotting down some notes as to how you might do so.

I can be a blessing to:	By:

4. How are you a blessing to others through your service in the LWML?

Bountiful
 Lovely
 Everlasting
 Soul-
 Saving
 Immortal
 Never-ending
 Grace-full
 Satisfaction

SUMMARY

We’ve looked at blessings of many kinds; spiritual blessings and material blessings; blessings received and blessings shared. We’ve learned that blessings play an important role in both this life and the next. To summarize the key points:

- We share the same covenant blessings that God promised to Abraham because we share in the same faith as Abraham. (Galatians 3:6-9)
- As Christians, we can count on spiritual blessings such as eternal life (John 3:36), peace (Psalm 29:11); forgiveness (Acts 10:43) and the presence of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11).
- God will provide for our material needs in this world. (Matthew 6:25-34)
- Blessings may not always be apparent to us. (Romans 5:1-5)
- It is important to share our blessings (both spiritual and material) with those around us (both friend and foe). (Acts 20:35)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Try Your Hand At It...

List a blessing
which begins with
each letter in the
word "BLESSINGS."

**B
L
E
S
S
I
N
G
S**

CLOSING DEVOTION

PSALM 121 *(Read responsively)*

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?

Group: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber;

Group: Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Leader: The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

Group: The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life;

Group: The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Sing: “My God, Accept My Heart This Day” *TLH 336*

Prayer: *(Read together)*

Father, we thank and praise You for the many, many blessings you have showered upon us. We thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, who is our Savior and also our friend. We thank You for Your boundless grace and mercy. We thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit who guides and protects us. Father, we are grateful too for Your Word which is such a comfort to us when our blessings seem to be few and far between.

We can never repay our debt to You. In faith and hope, we will serve You. We commit our lives to You with confidence, knowing that not only will You continue to bless each of us, You will also use us to deliver Your blessings to those around us. Thank You, Father, through Jesus. Amen.

Sing: “Go, My Children, With My Blessing” *Hymnal Supplement 98, 887*
 “ Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing” *TLH 50, LW 218*

BLESSINGS FOR BETTY

- Betty:** A wife, mother and homemaker - needs some clothes to fold, a radio, pen and paper, grocery list, shopping cart.
- Good Voice:** Betty's conscience - could be dressed all in white.
- Bad Voice:** Betty's sinful nature - could be dressed all in red or black.
- Narrator:** No props needed.
- Radio Voice:** Can be played by same person as narrator.
- Shopper:** Can be played by same person as narrator.
-

PART I

- Narrator:** Some of us may recognize a bit of ourselves as we look in on our friend Betty as she goes about her daily chores. We find Betty folding what seems like the 100th load of laundry for the day, and it's only 10 o'clock in the morning. Since she's home alone all day, she has plenty of time to think about her situation, although she's not as alone as she might think. Her sinful nature and her conscience regularly join her. Let's join them.
- Betty:** (*Folding clothes*) Boy, am I tired of doing laundry; it seems as if that's all I ever do anymore. Burt is always spilling something on his clothes, and Bobbie can't seem to manage to wear anything more than once without throwing it in the hamper. They just take it for granted that they'll have clean clothes anytime they want!
- Bad Voice:** That's right, Betty. Why should you have to go through all this? Keep up that self-pity!
- Good Voice:** (*To Bad Voice*) Wait a minute! You leave her alone. What kind of attitude is that? (*To Betty*) Betty, don't you listen to that rubbish. Your family loves you and appreciates you **very** much.
- Betty:** (*Holding up a shirt*) Oh, **great** - just **great**. I didn't see this stain on Bobbie's new shirt and, of course, he didn't tell me about it. I'm going to have to put it through the wash **again**. Just wait until he gets home from school...
- Bad Voice:** (*To Betty*) See, Betty, what did I tell you? They think you're just the maid around here. They don't care a bit about all the work you do.

Good Voice: *(To Bad Voice)* That is just **not** true! *(To Betty)* Betty, it's not like Bobbie put that stain on his shirt on purpose. You know how little boys are. Besides, he was picking flowers for you and just happened to wipe his hands on his shirt after they got dirty.

Betty: Well, I guess I can't be too angry with a 6-year-old boy for getting dirty. After all, that's what they're all about. Burt, on the other hand, is a grown man - I don't know what his excuse is! *(Sighs)* Finally, this load is done. Guess I can take a coffee break. It's about time for the morning news. *(Turns on radio)*

Bad Voice: *(To audience)* Great! What an opportunity. I'll just turn this dial to that program where all the advertising promises glitz and glamour...that ought to get her self-pity level to a new all-time high.

Good Voice: *(To Bad Voice)* Don't you **dare** touch that radio! *(Bad Voice backs away from radio and gives Good Voice a dirty look.)*

Radio: ...and in our local news, a house fire at 2142 Main Street has left a family with nothing but the clothes on their backs. A spokesman for the Red Cross has issued a request on behalf of the family for clothes for their two young sons, ages 6 and 8. We'll have a phone number for more information right after this word from our sponsor...

Bad Voice: *(To Good Voice with evil look)* You **knew** that news story was coming on, didn't you? *(Good Voice to Bad Voice smiles and nods slowly.)*

Betty: Oh, my, that's so sad, and one of those little boys is the same age as my Bobbie. Surely I can round up some clothes for them. Where's my pen? *(Picks up pen and paper)*

Bad Voice: *(To Good Voice)* Now look what you've done. I was just getting ready to join in on one great pity-party and you've ruined it! *(To Betty)* Come on, Betty, snap out of it! You have better things to do.

Good Voice: *(To Betty)* Don't listen, Betty. I know you get to feeling low sometimes, but I also know that you appreciate your many blessings - especially your family.

Radio: ...If you can donate clothing for boys sizes 6 and 8, there is the Red Cross phone number. It is 222-3311.

Betty: *(Writing down phone number)* There. I'll call just as soon as I finish the laundry. I'm so thankful for Burt and Bobbie and our home. What a fool I am to complain about doing **laundry!** I should be thankful that we have a

roof over our heads and clothes to wear. Guess I'd better get going so I can get these clothes over to the Red Cross.

Narrator: It looks as if Betty's conscience prevailed during this battle. It won't be the last one, though. We all need to keep in mind that there is a daily war going on over our very souls. The best way to insure that we won't be a casualty of that war is through a close, personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PART II

Narrator: As we look in on Betty again, she has made the delivery of Bobbie's old clothes to the local Red Cross office and has stopped at a grocery store to pick up a few items on her way home. It appears that her companions have come along for the ride...

Betty: *(Pushes shopping cart, looks at list)* Let's see, that recipe said "one can of Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup." Hmm, I see cream of everything else, but no mushroom. Well, I could try that other brand - but I always use Campbell's.

Bad Voice: *(To Betty)* Isn't that how it always goes, Betty? Every time you need something in a hurry, the store doesn't seem to have it. Now your whole day is ruined.

Good Voice: *(To Bad Voice)* Excuse me. We're talking about a relatively insignificant can of mushroom soup here. It's not exactly a life or death situation. *(To Betty)* Betty, the other brand will do very well.

Betty: Well, I'm just going to have to get this other brand. I don't have time to run over to the other grocery store. I just hope it doesn't ruin the recipe. *(Looks back at list)* What's next? Macaroni. Surely, I can find that...

Bad Voice: *(To Betty)* Ha! Don't count on it!

Good Voice: *(To Bad Voice)* Will you just stay out of this?

Betty: *(Pushes cart to next section, looks intently at shelves)* I can't believe it! They don't have Creamettes macaroni either! This just isn't my day. Sometimes I wonder why I bother to try to fix decent meals at all.

Bad Voice: *(To Betty)* Now you're talking! You just **know** another brand won't be the same.

Good Voice: *(To audience)* This is **really** getting out of hand.

Shopper: Excuse me, I need to get to the generic spaghetti...

Betty: *(To audience)* My goodness, why would anybody buy that stuff?

Shopper: *(Moving on)* Thanks...it seems to be all I can afford these days, but at least it's food on the table.

Betty: Oh. *(Slight pause)* Here I am having a fit over which brand of macaroni the store carries and that poor woman isn't sure where her next meal will come from.

Bad Voice: *(To audience)* Here we go again...it looks as if "Saint Betty" has arrived on the scene.

Good Voice: *(To Betty)* Think about it, Betty; you've never been hungry a day in your life, have you?

Betty: I've never been hungry a day in my life. I sure do get bent out of shape over some ridiculous things. There can't be that much difference from one brand of macaroni to another. I'll just get this one *(Picks up box off shelf and puts in cart)*. I think I'll pick up a few extra groceries to drop off at the food bank on my way home, too.

Narrator: Once again, in Betty's life, good triumphs over evil. And since I'm sure you're wondering, her new recipe turned out great. Let's check in on Betty one more time today as she says her bedtime prayers...

Betty: *(Kneeling or sitting at table)* Dear Father, thank You for this day and the lessons it brought to mind. Thank You so much for Burt and Bobbie. Help me to remember how precious they are. Thank You, too, for our home, our clothes, and the way the new recipe turned out. I ask You, Father, to be with that family whose house burned down and the woman in the grocery store. Please provide for their needs as abundantly as You have provided for mine. Through Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

Bad Voice: *(To audience)* This is hopeless. I'm outta here!

Good Voice: *(To Betty)* Well, Betty, I'm not going anywhere. I'll be here all night and will see you in the morning. Sleep tight and God bless you.

LEADER'S GUIDE

SESSION 1: What are blessings and why are they important to us? (45 minutes)

A. Definition of "Blessing"

1. Webster's Dictionary definitions
2. Which of these definitions best apply to Christians?
3. What does it mean to you personally to be blessed?

B. In the beginning... (15 minutes)

1. What blessings do we read about in the following passages?
 - a. Genesis 1:22 - creatures of sea and air.
 - b. Genesis 1:28 - male and female
 - c. Genesis 2:3 - 7th day, day of rest
2. What are the opposite of blessings? (Curses)
3. According to Genesis 3:6, what occurred to bring curses upon God's creation? (Sin)
4. Who and/or what was cursed as a result?
 - a. Genesis 3:14-15 - the serpent
 - b. Genesis 3:17-18 - the ground

Footnote on 3:14 - The serpent, the woman and the man were all judged, but only the serpent and the ground were cursed - the latter because of Adam. (vs.17)

C. God's Covenant Blessings (15 minutes)

1. God made several different covenants in the Old Testament. With whom did He make covenants in the following passages?
 - a. Genesis 9:8-11 - Noah
 - b. Genesis 12:2-3 - Abram
2. Why are blessings important?
 - a. Genesis 25:29-34 - the birthright - bekorah
 - b. Genesis 27 - the blessing - berakah
3. Why was it so important for Jacob to get Isaac's blessing?

4. What does Hebrew's 12:16-17 tell us about Esau's attitude toward the blessing?
Footnote on 12:16 - He had no appreciation for true values and was profane in his outlook on life. He "despised his birthright" by valuing food for his stomach (immediate gratification) more highly than his birthright.

D. **What about us?** (15 minutes)

1. Blessings for obedience are listed in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 and the corresponding curses for disobedience are listed in Deuteronomy 28:15-44. What relevance do these blessings/curses have for us today?
2. What do the following verses say about this?
 - a. Romans 4:13-17
 - b. Galatians 3:6-9
3. What is most important for us to have to be sure of receiving God's blessings? (Faith)

Believers
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SESSION 2: Blessings we can count on. (45 minutes)

Consider: Do Christians and non-Christians share in the same blessings?

A **Spiritual Blessings** (15 minutes)

1. Eternal life (Romans 10:11-13 / John 3:36)
2. Peace (Ezekiel 34:25-26 / Psalm 29:11 / John 14:27)
3. Forgiveness (Psalm 32:1-2 / Acts 10:43 / Ephesians 1:7-8)
4. The Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17 / Romans 8:9-11)
5. What other spiritual blessings can you think of?

6. As time permits, share with your small group some of the ways these blessings are apparent in your own life.

B. **Material Blessings** (10 minutes)

1. What does Scripture say about God providing for our material needs?
 - a. Matthew 6:25-34 - do not worry
 - b. 1 Timothy 6:17-18 - hope in God who provides, not in things
2. Share if you experienced times when you didn't know how your material needs might be satisfied. How were they?
3. Describe times when you continue to experience worry. Why do you suppose we have such difficulty in trusting God to provide for us?

C. **Fairness in Blessings?** (10 minutes)

Many non-Christians seem to receive abundant material blessings while many Christians do not. How do we explain this? What does the Bible say about this?

- a. Malachi 3:14-18
- b. Psalm 1
- c. Proverbs 23:4-5
- d. Proverbs 28:20

D. **People as Blessings** (5 minutes)

In addition to the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the material blessings with which we are provided, many of us can identify people whom we would count among our blessings.

What particular person comes to mind who has been a blessing in your life? (*Group sharing is optional.*)

E. **Counting Our Blessings** (5 minutes)

1. If you started to list every blessing you ever received from God, you'd probably run out of paper and ink! Just for practice, list a few below. Be sure to include spiritual, material and "people" blessings.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 9,999.
2. How will you become more aware of taking time to thank God for you spiritual and material blessings?

3. Share with the group any special methods you have for “counting your blessings.”

SESSION 3: Can “bad” things be blessings? (45 minutes)

A. **Are You Sure These Are Blessings?** (20 minutes)

1. Many things happen in our own lives and the lives of others which we would probably not consider to be blessings, for example, natural disasters, illness and financial misfortune.

Some people may feel that these things are punishment for sins. What would you say to someone who expressed such an opinion? What explanations for negative experiences are found in the following passages?

- a. Luke 23:40-41 - worldly laws
 - b. Hebrews 12:1-13 - fatherly discipline
2. How do we reconcile these types of events with God’s love for us?
 - a. Matthew 5:3-12 - The Beatitudes
 - b. Philippians 4:11-13 - God works in us through suffering
 - c. Romans 5:1-5 - secret of contentment

B. **Blessings in Disguise** (15 minutes)

1. Sometimes we experience a disappointment or misfortune and are then later able to look back on the experience as a positive one.

In groups of 2 or 3, identify the people in the following verses who might have had such experiences. What was the initial situation? How/when did it become a blessing?

Luke 15:11-20 / Acts 16:16-34 / Acts 1-19

2. When did you personally experience a “blessing in disguise”? Perhaps a job change, a move, etc. When were you able to identify this event as a “blessing”?

C. **Unexpected Blessings** (10 minutes)

1. Sometimes we receive unexpected blessings. What would most people call this? (Luck) When we give God the credit, what term is used to describe this? (Blessing) The word “serendipity” is sometimes used. It is defined as “the gift of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.”

- Think of times you have enjoyed unexpected blessings. Share with the group.

SESSION 4: How can you be a blessing? (45 minutes)

A Sharing Our Blessings(10 minutes)

God has showered us with countless blessings. He doesn't expect us to keep them all for ourselves. According to the following verses, what are we expected to do with our material blessings?

- Malachi 3:8-10 - (emphasis on v. 10b)
- Acts 20:35
- Romans 15:26-27

B. Blessing Others (20 minutes)

- Working in groups of 2 or 3, complete the following chart:

Scripture	Groups of people to whom you could be a blessing	List some of the ways this could be done.
1. Proverbs 31:28 1 Timothy 5:8 1 Corinthians 7:12-14	Children / Family	
2. Romans 12:13 Galatians 6:9-10 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15	Other Christians	Encouragement, teaching
3. 1 Peter 3:1-2 Matthew 25:34-36 Colossians 4:5-6	Non-Christians	Share Gospel, help with material needs, acknowledge God as source of blessings
4. Romans 12:14 Matthew 5:44-45 Luke 6:27-28	Enemies	

- What blessings do we receive as a result of being a blessing to others?
- You can be a blessing in someone's life through "little things" as well as "big things." Take a few moments to complete the chart below by listing people to whom you could be a blessing and jotting down some notes as to how you might do so.

I can be a blessing to:	By:

4. How are you a blessing to others through your service in the LWML?

- Bountiful**
- Lovely**
- Everlasting**
- Soul-**
- Saving**
- Immortal**
- Never-ending**
- Grace-full**
- Satisfaction**

SUMMARY

We've looked at blessings of many kinds; spiritual blessings and material blessings; blessings received and blessings shared. We've learned that blessings play an important role in both this life and the next. To summarize the key points:

- We share the same covenant blessings that God promised to Abraham because we share in the same faith as Abraham. (Galatians 3:6-9)
- As Christians, we can count on spiritual blessings such as eternal life (John 3:36), peace (Psalm 29:11), forgiveness (Acts 10:43) and the presence of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11).
- God will provide for our material needs in this world. (Matthew 6:25-34)
- Blessings may not always be apparent to us. (Romans 5:1-5)
- It is important to share our blessings (both spiritual and material) with those around us (both friend and foe). (Acts 20:35)

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

TRY YOUR HAND AT IT..

List a blessing
which begins with
each letter in the
word "BLESSINGS."

**B
L
E
S
S
I
N
G
S**

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS - *Written by* Candy Habich
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