



SMALL GROUP LEADER

Blessing

Blessing

SCRIPTURE READING: James 3:1-12

Group leaders should:

- "Set the table" for interaction and group discussion by (4 minutes):
 - explaining the idea of the week's theme
 - explaining the context of the main passage(s) to be discussed
- **Debrief from weekly reading (8-10 minutes)**
- *Facilitating, Discipling, Guiding, Shepherding* **(30 minutes)**

Leader Discussion Prep

Blessing = Life. This is what God's people must learn. Jesus is life and when He speaks, He speaks words of life. When God speaks, life is created, life is restored, the broken is made whole, barren wombs are opened, the sick are healed, the dead are raised, and the discouraged are filled with hope and strength.

We bless with our words. Blessings are spoken throughout the Bible! These blessings are spoken to impart goodness and favor from God. The power of blessing can only come from God. We see this when:

- God blesses man. (Gen. 1:28; Gen. 35:9)
- Man blesses God. (Ps. 103)
- Man blesses man. (Gen. 48)

In the Old Testament, the blessing of God comes with physical rewards. Families grow, the people of blessing multiply, land and wealth grow, and victory is accomplished over human enemies. These physical blessings, while real, point to the deeper, concrete spiritual blessings in Jesus. Today when someone trusts in Christ they are brought into a new family (church), they are made rich in the spirit realm as they become co-heirs with Christ Jesus, they have the power to be victorious over the enemy, and they become a part of God's kingdom work spreading to the ends of the earth.

Our words matter. Blessings are words of life and cursing are words of death. Words of blessing are a matter of life and death. James 3:1-13 makes it clear that if we speak words of death instead of words of life, words of cursing instead of blessing, if we gossip about someone in the Body of Christ or tear down another believer with our words or if we discourage a church family member with our words, it is a contradiction of our relationship with God. You rob yourself and them of the life-giving power of blessing.

Sphere of Blessing

Old Testament

Physical Foreshadows

Family

- Spouse
- Children

Fight

- Israelites against neighboring nations (Phil., Amorites, etc)

Fortune

- Promised Land
- Cattle & Crops

Fruitfulness

- God creates a nation through Abraham

New Testament

Spiritual Realities

Family of God

- Church

Spiritual Warfare

- Satan
- Principalities
- Rulers of darkness

Joint Heirs w/Jesus

- Matthew 5:3-12
- Romans 8:17

Kingdom of God

- God creates a new nation from all nations through Jesus

Blessing

Small Group Questions:

- 1. What ways have you experienced words of life (blessings)? What are some examples of words of death that you have experienced in church life (gossip, lies, criticism, anger, etc.)?**
- 2. What does it feel like when you receive a word of blessing from God's word or a fellow Christian? How does it feel when you give a word of blessing?**
- 3. When do you struggle the most to speak words of blessing and not speak words of cursing?**
- 4. How is the Spirit of God leading you to change the way that you speak so that you are speaking the blessings of God?**

Exercise

- 1. After question 3 ask the members of your group to write down their obedience plan for the coming week. Ask them to share with the person sitting beside them or with their table what they wrote on their paper.**
- 2. Ask everyone to get into small groups and draw out their insights from this week on an empty 3 Circles framework.**

