

# WE VALUE \_\_\_\_\_.

## PART 5: BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Genesis 12:1-5, Jeremiah 29:4-14**

#### Introduction:

Every person lives by a set of values...those values guide your behaviour.

We Value *Blessing Our Community*

If Bethel Church disappeared off the face of the planet one day, would our community miss us?

*BIG IDEA: God has called us to be a people of blessing who make the world a better place. We take every opportunity to serve sacrificially and practice radical generosity all for the glory of God*

#### 1. What is God's Blessing?

It began with the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-5): "...I will bless you...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you..."

Galatians 3:29 - "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Ephesians. 1:3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

The Spiritual blessings found in Christ are a deeper, longer lasting blessing than physical, material blessings.

#### 2. How Can I Be Blessed?

Jeremiah 29:4-14

- v. 7 "seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."
- v. 11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

"Prosperity" = Shalom: Total peace and wellness is every aspect of life.

We are to seek the peace and prosperity of our city even if we disagree with it, or are persecuted by it.

Matthew 5:3-12 "...Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

1 Peter 3:14 "But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed."

Our blessing does not come from seeking our own blessing. Our blessing comes as a side effect of us seeking the blessing of others.

#### 3. How Can I Be A Blessing?

"The Church does not exist for us. We are the church and we exist for the life of the world" ~ Craig Groeschel

### **Four ways you can bless someone today:**

- 1) Words: Encouragement, prayer.
- 2) Deeds: Serving, volunteering.
- 3) Resources: Generosity, giving.
- 4) Spiritual Blessings: Forgiveness, grace, sharing the gospel.

### **Conclusion:**

### **Life Group Discussion**

1. Reflect on Sunday's message. Did anything stand out as interesting? Intriguing? Confusing? Frustrating?
2. Warm up: What do you think it means to be "blessed"? What does a blessed life look like?
3. As a church we are asking ourselves, "If we disappeared off the face of the planet, would our community miss us?" What do you think? What would it take to become a "missable" church?
4. Our call to be a blessing started with the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12:1-5. Read that now. What stands out to you about that passage? Now read Galatians 3, which is a commentary on the Abrahamic Covenant (specifically note v. 9, 16 & 29). What does this mean?
5. What is the difference between physical blessings and spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3)? Do you have a story to share about how God has blessed you physically or spiritually?
6. Take a look at the "Four ways you can bless someone today." Brainstorm some ideas together that you can attempt before you meet again.

### 7. Pray together:

- a) Pray for the wisdom and boldness to be a blessing to our community
- b) Pray for our community to be blessed
- c) Other requests:
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