

Sharing the Gift of Jesus B-L-E-S-S

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

God blessed his creation (Gen. 1:22, 28); Abraham (Gen. 12:2-3); all peoples of the earth through Abraham's offspring (Gen. 22:18). Blessed are those who take refuge in God (Psa. 2:12); whose sin is forgiven (Psa. 32:1-2); the nation whose God is the LORD (Psa. 33:12); who has regard for the weak (Psa. 41:1); whose strength is in God (Psa. 84:5); and the one God disciplines (Psa. 94:12). Jesus blessed the poor, mournful, meek, hungry, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers and persecuted (Matt. 5:3-11). The Jews have spiritual blessings (Acts 3:24-26) and Gentiles too (Gal. 3:8-9). There will be showers of blessing (Ezek. 34:26) poured out through Jesus and all who keep the words of the prophecy of the book are blessed (Rev. 22:7). Count your many blessings see what God has done. Make be a blessing to someone today. Your blessings are forevermore, you are so good to me.

All who are in Jesus Christ are blessed to be a blessing. We are not to be **reservoirs** but rivers (John 7:37-38).

1. Get on a **first** name basis with your neighbors
2. Pray for them by name
3. When we work, we work. When we pray, **God** works!
 - a. God please give **(your friend's name)** a deep desire "hunger and thirst" for who Jesus is and what He offers (John 6:35)
 - b. Dear Father would you draw **(your friend's name)** to Jesus (John 6:44)
 - c. Dear God please work in **(your friend's name)** 's life so he would come to Jesus, the Light (John 8:12)
 - d. Dear God please unblind **(your friend's name)** 's eyes to recognize "see" Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - e. Holy Spirit, convict **(your friend's name)** of sin and convince of the truth (John 16:8-11; 1 Thess. 1:4-5)

On Your Own (better with others)

1. What observation, insight or principle did you find helpful, troubling, or eye-opening?
2. Which is more likely to cause you to forget God's blessings? When life is easy? Or, when life is difficult? Explain.

What season of life are you currently experiencing?
3. In your group, go around the circle and have everyone mention one blessing (do not mention the same one twice) and see if you can count 100 blessings of God on your combined list.
4. Do you find the idea of blessing others, exciting or terrifying or somewhere in between?
5. READ Numbers 6:24-26. The Aaronic blessing was spoken over the children of Israel by the priests. What part of this blessing brings you comfort or encouragement?

Would it be a good idea to adapt this blessing prayer for your neighbors? Why or why not?
6. READ Mark 10:13-16. When Jesus blessed the little children, he welcomed those who could not do anything for him to pay him back. It was pure grace!

How is praying for your neighbors an act of God's grace through you to them?