



"THE WAY OF BLESSING"

SPEAKER: BO STERN BRADY

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Discussion Questions

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

Gen. 1:22 & 28, 2:3. Deut. 30:11-14, 19; Luke 4:16-19; John 20:20-22; Numbers 6:22-27

Blessing is built into Creation. Even though our world is marred by the evil evident to anyone paying attention, we are still blessed and designed to be vessels of blessing. In this latest installment of the Follow series, Pastor Bo teaches a fuller understanding of blessing, a concept that has grown increasingly "thin" in recent times. She also instructs us on how we can be proponents of God's blessings, sharing with others what we receive from him.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What is one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for you?
2. How does it feel when someone does something particularly nice that results in goodness, truth, or beauty for you?
3. What's your favorite "most beautiful thing?"
4. What's one simple thing about the message that stood out to you — impacted you in a way that made you think twice?
5. How did you put a past week's teaching into practice since our group last met?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How did God comment on his Creation, and how does that assessment include you? What does that say about us as his creatures?
2. What responsibilities does God give the first humans, and how does he send them into that mission?
3. According to Deuteronomy 30, what kind of choice does God invite us into, and is there tension there? If so, what is it?"
4. In Luke 4, Jesus makes some particular claims about his mission. What are they, and how do you think they were significant then and are now?
5. John 20 and Luke 10 speak to us about receiving the Spirit into ourselves and moving into ministry with God's Kingdom near us. How do John and Luke record this? How are their texts similar? How are they different?
6. Read the blessing from Numbers 6 and note all it includes. What do you observe?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Is there anything in our culture that corresponds to the biblical idea of blessing? How does it rival the biblical concept?
2. Do you think most people in our culture believe they live in a “blessed creation,” and why or why not? If so, has that idea been distorted, or at least how has the way humans might respond to the idea been distorted in some way, and if so, how?
3. How does our culture relate to the idea of salvation, and why? How would it relate to the idea that salvation and blessing are related, and why?
4. Do you think that most people believe there is some kind of “divine spark” in all people, and if so, how might that be a point of contact with Christians for a conversation about Jesus? If so, is there both opportunity there for common ground and misunderstanding? How might we be open to having those spiritual conversations while remaining faithful ambassadors for Jesus the Messiah?
5. A significant portion of the message related blessing to forgiveness and releasing people from false burdens. How might our broader culture relate to the idea that there is a blessing in these?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How might your idea of “blessing” have been worn thin by more popular and less biblical ideas of blessing?
2. What might be keeping you from fully receiving and sharing the blessings of God?
3. Where in your life, right now, today, do you need the blessings of God to be made manifest?
4. Who do you know that needs to be blessed, and how might you be an agent of that blessing?
5. Pastor Bo talked about vision, wrestling, and resourcing. Where do you need those things in your life right now?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Ask God to reveal some burden or offense that may be blocking you from receiving or sharing God’s blessing. When he does, deal with it as the Spirit leads.
2. Take some time to soak in *The Blessing*, a song by Cody Carnes and Kari Job from Elevation Worship based on Number 6. It became popular during the Pandemic but receives less play now. It is an artistic interpretation of the famous blessing passage that focuses on the favor and love of God as a present reality. Often, art has a way of getting truth into our hearts in a way that other media lacks. Sit with the song and its lyrics, knowing you are blessed. Let the Lord, by his Spirit, lead your response. As Pastor Bo would say, “We’re not gonna boss that.”