

Genesis 14 – How to Be A Blessing January 12, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



HOW TO BE A BLESSING

- HELP THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED
- EVEN IF THEY DON'T DESERVE IT
- ILLUSTRATE FAITH AND WORSHIP
- REVEAL THE ONE TRUE GOD

Questions:

1. Can you remember a time when someone did something for you that greatly encouraged you? What did they do and how did it impact you?
2. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). What in the sermon challenged you? Do you have any questions to bring up?
3. Read Matthew 25:14-30
 - a) What excuse did the third servant give for not investing his talent?
 - b) How did the master respond to this?
 - c) With what talents or resources has God entrusted you?
 - d) In what ways can you be a "good and faithful" servant?
 - e) What should you do if you fear that you are falling short? (for a healthy perspective, see Romans 8:1, 1 Peter 5:6-7, Ephesians 6:19-20, Colossians 1:29)
 - f) What resource do you need to commit to Christ's use at this time in your life?
4. Read Matthew 25:34-40
 - a) According to this passage, what are some practical ways that we can serve people's physical needs?
 - b) In what ways do you see Christians serving people's needs in this way?
 - c) In what ways do you think we can do better?
 - d) How can we minister to people's emotional needs? (see 1 Thessalonians 5:14-19)
 - e) How can we minister to people's spiritual needs? (see 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)
5. Read Jonah 1:1-3. Jonah is being sent to the Assyrians, a brutal and wicked people.
 - a) Why do you think Jonah ran from the Lord?
 - b) Now read Jonah 4:1-2. Jonah is not happy about God forgiving the Assyrians in Ninevah. Why is he upset?
 - c) Are there people that you feel that God should never forgive? Why or why not?
 - d) Read Jonah 4:10-11. What was God's perspective of the Ninevites?
 - e) How do you think God feels about the people of Iran? What about people who are members of ISIS?
 - f) Read Acts 7:59-60. How was Stephen able to have the perspective that he did?
 - g) How can we better develop God's heart for the people of this world, even if we see them as enemies?
6. Read Acts 16:22-25
 - a) How do you think Paul and Silas were able to behave the way they did in their situation?
 - b) How do you think the other prisoners were impacted by their example?
 - c) How can we get better at complaining less and praising more?
 - d) Now read Acts 16:26-34. What was the result of Paul and Silas' witness?
7. Share prayer requests and pray together. Pray for a heart for the poor and needy around you. Pray for God's perspective of those you tend to dislike. Ask for His power to use your gifts to serve Him.