



Life Guide/Closer Look

applying God's Word to life

God's Blessing for You June 15-17, 2019

A. God as Father on Father's Day

1. Happy Father's Day! I've put one minute on the clock. How many father-son pairs or father-daughter pairs can we come up with from the Bible? Shout them out! **Let's take 1 or 2. What do you remember about that story?**

2. What are some ways that God is like a father? **Love, give, protect, forgive, watch out, strong, comfort.**
Fathers are a blessing. God's going to give us a blessing.

(Numbers 6:22-27)

²² *The LORD said to Moses, ²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:*

²⁴ "''The LORD bless you, and keep you;

²⁵ *the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you;*

²⁶ *the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. '''*

²⁷ *"So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."*

B. Our Perspective on Blessings

3. We love to pride ourselves: "I am responsible for good in my life." We grumble "Someone else is responsible for the bad." How did the Israelites display that attitude in Numbers? (<https://bit.ly/1Og3Qgl>)
They complained that Moses put them in danger and that God didn't take care of them. They tried to figure out their own way to get good things.

4. How have you seen that thinking in modern days? **American dream, pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Work hard and you'll get good things.**

5. How does Numbers 6:22-27 turn that thinking around? **God makes it clear that HE gives blessings, even when we don't deserve it. God blesses us because not because we are so good, but because he is so good. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of the heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17**

"my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities... richly and daily provides clothing and shoes, house and home, land, cattle and all I own." What would you add to the list?

C. What A Blessing Is (Want to be nerds for a bit?)

6. Re-read v. 23-26. What is this? **Not a question, not a statement, not a wish, not a command. Illocution (linguistics). It's an act of speaking which in itself effects the intended action, e.g. ordering, warning, marriage. Things are different afterward than they were before.**

7. What words say is different than what they do. "Do you want to go get a beer with me?" What do they say? I think we should go to the bar. One morning I had a fight with my dad and I said mean things. We both knew we needed to apologize and put it behind us. That night I walked up to my dad and said, "Do you want to go get a beer with me?" What did I do? I apologized.

What do the words of the blessing say? **God wants to give you good things and keep you safe and he loves you. You know how the Israelites acted in their journey through the desert. You know how you act!**

8. What do these words do? **Reassure us of God's love. Forgive us. Encourage us. What does that mean for you practically?**

D. "So they will put my name on the Israelites"

9. We want to answer the question: "What does it mean that God put his name on us?" To start, what's something that has your name on it? Why?

Bible, it's a special and you value it.

Drivers license, it identifies you.

A jersey, you are a part of a team.

A second grader's gym shoes, they belong to him and no one else. If someone comes up and tries to take his shoes, what's going to happen?

Adopting a child is a change of status.

10. How might you imagine God putting his name on you?

Tattoo, sticker, name tag, jersey, marriage

11. Picture God's name on you. What are the implications for how you picture, think about, and talk to yourself? **You do not have the right to do what you want with your mind and body. Even if you don't like yourself on a given day, the Lord does.**

12. Picture God's name on other people. What are the implications of how you picture, think about, and talk to them? **You mess with them you mess with God. God loves and treasures them. "I treat you in the decisive way God has already treated you in Christ."**

13. Why does this make a great blessing to end a worship service?

You leave knowing what God is doing for you throughout the week.

14. If there's a lull in the conversation at lunch and you want to share something we talked about this morning, what will you say?