

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of March 7th, 2021**

**Sermon Series: Psalms**

**Sermon: The Blessing**

**Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette**

## **Icebreaker**

- What did you name your first car?

## **Conversation Starters and Sermon Review**

- What stands out the most to you from this sermon? Is there anything that you have questions about? Explain.
- How do you currently define the word “happiness”? What feelings and emotions does it bring to you?

### **I. Blessing Blockers**

Have your group read **Psalm 1:1**.

- What is your definition of the word “blessing”? How did Pastor Mike’s discussion of the Hebrew word *Esher* confirm or challenge your definition?
- When you’re struggling, who do you normally turn to for counsel? What kind of advice or help do you receive? Is it helpful?
- How are you managing what influences your life, like your relationships, what you watch on television, hobbies, etc.?
- How can you witness to others without being influenced by the “wicked” and the “scoffers”? What kind of boundaries do you have or need to establish?

## II. Blessed By God

Have your group read **Psalm 1:2**.

- What gets in your way when it comes to your reading and meditating on The Word? How can you fight these distractions?
- What are some practical ways that you can become more intentional about honoring God throughout your day?
- When do you delight in the Lord? Is it a block built into your life or is it the entire structure that you have built your life on? What's your cornerstone?
- How do you react when you are stressed, upset, or overwhelmed? How can you still delight in the Lord in unpleasant circumstances?

## III. Blessed Life

Have your group read **Psalm 1:3 and Acts 2:42-47**.

- In what ways are you deeply planted in the Lord and seeing good fruit in your life? What areas are you noticing unhealthy fruit? What can you do to become healthy all around?
- Have you ever been through a "spiritual winter" where you felt like you were growing but not bearing fruit? How did you make it through? Share with the group.
- When discerning if where you're planted is good soil, even if you're not in a season of bearing fruit, a good sign could be the people around you. How can the passage Acts 2:42-47 help you measure this?

## IV. Risk

Have your group read **Psalm 1:4-6** and **Titus 1:5:16**.

- Does your life resemble the tree or chaff? What needs to change in order for your life to be like the tree?
- Think of a time in your life where you got a little bit off course, and before you knew it, you were completely off track. What did it look like to repent and turn back to God? Please share.
- What's the risk of doing life with people as described in Titus 1:10-16? What's the benefit to having people in your life like those described in Titus 1:5-9?

### Act On It

**Encourage:** The God we serve is so good to us and for us. His heart is for us to be truly blessed, not with material items, but with contentment, happiness, and a centeredness that we can only get from Him and being connected to His family. It's not too late! His invitation is always there for us, and anyone else, even if we veer off course and get a little lost.

**Ask:** Pray for God to help you find joy and contentment in the blessings that He's given you and for trust that He knows exactly what you need. Ask God for discernment to identify both the good and bad influences in your life. Ask for strength and growth in the areas of your life that are aligned to Him and for the willingness to let go of the things that are pulling you off track from God.

**Challenge:** Make your relationship with God and His people a priority. If you need help, your small group is a great place to find accountability partners. Come up with practical steps, like Pastor Mike's sticky note illustration, on how you can stay the course with God. Evaluate how your life shows that either you're living in His blessing or in your own results by checking the following:

1. Consider your influences.
2. Commit to delighting in God.
3. Let the Lord plant you.
4. Pray for others.
5. Repent, turn to God.

## **Prayer Request and Prayer**

Lord, thank you for this living, breathing word. Thank you for the invitation to be a loving, intimate relationship with you. God, we want to receive true blessings from you, not those that are temporary or that can be stolen from us - Blessings that nourish us from the inside out. Lord, let the relationship we have with you direct and lead every decision and step that we make. Let us not get discouraged if we're not seeing what we want to see when we want to see it, but help us to be patient and have trust in your timing. Thank you for this small group, for helping us find a place of encouraging, life-giving community that will help and encourage us to stay on the right path. Help our hearts desire to delight in you, be blessed people, and to share all that you are with everyone that we meet. We thank you and we praise your name, Amen.