

## The Gospel to Abraham

### WARM UP

1. Recall a time when you felt really blessed or honoured by someone (e.g. you were given a gift or word of encouragement, spent quality time, etc).
2. When someone blesses you, does that generosity make you want to receive more, or does it stir in you a desire to give to others, or both, or something else? Explain.

### WORD

Key Scripture: Galatians 3: 7-8

*Therefore, know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."*

Here's the Current Situation: The world we live in is constantly full of drama—watch the news for proof. Although hardship and trials are part of life on earth, God has good news for each of us while we face these hard times. This Sunday+ will discuss what this good news means to all of us.

#### 1.) BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS

*GALATIANS 3: 7-8 (Refer to verse above)*

God loves each one of us and He loves to bless His children. He wants all of us to enjoy the blessings he has given to us. However, God did not bless us so we could store up blessings and good things just for ourselves. He blesses us so that we can be a blessing to those around us. It honours and glorifies God when we bless others who are in need. More importantly, it allows us to be a channel of God's love.

#### 2.) GOD'S PLAN

*<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. - Jeremiah 29: 11*

God's scripture is not just a bunch of words but a 'script' for us on earth to follow. A script is used in movies, TV shows, plays, music videos, and commercials to lead the actors/actresses or musicians. The script when read beforehand, helps them see the wider picture as storyline comes to the conclusion. They follow the script or the guidelines it lays out. This same principle applies to us when we read and hear God's Word—The Bible, it is a script for our lives.

For us to fully experience God and the blessings He has in store for us, we must choose between either His plan or our plan. Our plans in life can easily be all about us, our family—we easily revolve around ourselves. Although, our plans in and of themselves may not be bad things (such as doing well financially, being successful in our profession, getting a house, etc.), we must ask ourselves, is there more to life than just fulfilling our goals to be blessed? Does God have a better and grander 'script' than ours?

*(Note to Leader: You can further explain to the CG that the first part of the word "Scripture" is 'script' if needed. God has set out 'scripts' for each of our lives. We too can have plans and ideas about what direction our life should take. Feel free to discuss and compare God's 'Script' for our lives versus our own 'Script'.)*

### 3.) JESUS IS OUR ULTIMATE BLESSING.

*<sup>10</sup>... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. – John 10: 10*

Before we can be a blessing to others and live out God's 'script,' we need to firstly come to Jesus. Then, we continually go back to Jesus to learn from Him, His life, and how we can be shaped to reflect His character and qualities more and more. We can have all the blessings in this life, but none of it will ever fill void we all experience when we think "more" or "better" will solve the problem (more food, more money, a better house, a better job, etc.).

Jesus tells us that a truly abundant life can only be found in Him. When Jesus becomes our greatest blessing and treasure, everything else will fall into a proper perspective according to God's 'script.' Without Jesus, there is only our 'script' and temporary blessings. However, in Jesus, we have all that we long for and need.

Here's **The Cycle of God's Blessing:** We are Blessed in Jesus → We are a blessing to others because of Jesus → Repeat Daily.

## APPLICATION

1. What stood out to you the most in this Sunday+ lesson? Why did it stand out to you?
2. What is God's 'script' for your life right now, in your present situation? (God has scripts for now and the future, but let's identify some scripts for now.)
3. Why does God want us to be blessed?
4. How can we be a blessing to others around us? *(some options: Tell them about Jesus, take them out for coffee, pray for them, seriously ask them how they are doing, etc.)*

## PRAYER

1. Surrender to God your current situation (current 'scripts') and ask God to give you joy, peace and satisfaction that can only be found in Him. Philippians 4:6-7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."
2. Ask the Holy Spirit (the Helper) to give you knowledge of God's Word and the power you need to follow God's 'Script' for your life daily. Pray the scripture: 2 Peter 1:3 "By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvellous glory and excellence."
3. Acknowledge that Jesus has provided the best blessing ever of adoption into God's family. What Good news that is! Pray for God to bless you so that you can be a blessing to others around you, especially to those in need.