

“The Tree of Blessing”
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon
and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group.
For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority
to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group’s goal is to create an atmosphere that will
foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

I. Intro—

A. We need breakthroughs in 2022. I am calling it the “Year of Blessing.” We have passed through the time of curse and disappointment and unhappiness. God’s blessing is now coming upon his people. **PROPHETIC WORD: I am believing for a “miracle a month,” like the fruit on the tree of life in heaven. (12 manners of miracles, 1 per month)**

B. Think of blessing as a “tree.” Psalm 1 starts with *“How blessed is the man...He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Ps. 1:3)*

The curse comes upon a nation when the children are forgotten. The generation of the upright will be blessed, and our children will be mighty in the earth.

II. Five branches of the tree of blessing (Ps. 112)

A. **“Blessed CHILDREN”**: *“His offspring will be mighty in the land. The generation of the upright will be blessed” (v. 2)*

1. **FIVE GENERATION RULE:**

- a) **Generations of Jonathan Edwards** (president of Princeton University): 1 U.S. Vice-President, 1 Dean of a law school, 1 dean of a medical school, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 60 doctors, 65 professors, 75 Military officers, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers, 100 clergymen, and 285 college graduates.
- b) **Generations of Max Jukes** (42 inmates traced back to him). 7 murderers, 60 thieves, 190 prostitutes, 150 other convicts, 310 paupers, and 440 who were physically wrecked by addiction to alcohol. Of the 1,200 descendants that were studied, 300 died prematurely.

B. **“Blessed FINANCES”**: *“Wealth and riches are in his house.” (verse 3)*

- 1. The **“BABYLON”** system of debt, credit, and all intangible assets is failing. The **“ABRAHAM”** system of tangible assets is the new economy (cattle, silver, gold, etc.).

God is not opposed to people having riches—When you put money in the hands of the godly, you have good wealth. If you put money in the hands of the wicked, you have wealth that can be used for wickedness.

*God is going to bless tangible assets in 2022.
We don't need more affluence; we need more influence.*

C. **“Blessed RELATIONSHIPS”**: *“He is gracious, merciful, and righteous...he deals generously and lends.” (v. 4-5)*

1. **Ps. 133**: *“How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together IN UNITY...there the Lord commanded the BLESSING, even life forevermore.”*

God is going to cause our relational equity to be stronger than it ever has been.

If our relationships are not healed, encouraging, and collaborative, we can never experience these blessings.

Be quick to believe. Be quick to forgive. Be quick to repent.

D. **“Blessed EMOTIONS”**: *“The righteous will never be moved...he is not afraid of bad news. His heart is firm, trusting in the Lord” (v. 6-7).*

1. **“Casting the whole of your care, once and for all, upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Pet. 5:7)**

Worry and anxiety is destroying our emotions. You cannot be blessed if you’re living in fear.

E. **“Blessed PURPOSE”**: *“He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor” (v. 9)*

1. **All of our personal blessings (kids, finances, relationships, and emotions) are for one purpose: MINISTRY TO OTHERS AND CHANGING THE WORLD.**

- 2. Blessing does not stop with me. I am not a “bless me club.” I live to “make a difference.” God has called you to bless the world. This church is blessing the world in “three different lanes”: the prison Church Network, new church plants, and church expansion projects.**

I want a reason to get out of bed every day and to make a difference in the world.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Read Psalm 112 slowly and take notes of the promise for those who fear (reverently awe) the Lord.
2. Write down the areas of change or growth you are submitting to God for the year ahead.
3. If you have children, find time to pray and speak blessing over them each individually.

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1.** What are you hoping to shift in the year ahead?
- 2.** What position do you need to take in order to receive the blessing? What might be blocking your blessing?
- 3.** What is the significance of the five-generation blessing, as we trace it in the lives of Jonathan Edwards versus Max Jukes?
- 4.** After the last couple years of strain, how can we salvage our relationships? What will it take?
- 5.** Who do you need to forgive before the end of this year?
- 6.** Why do we need to be quick to believe, to forgive, and to repent? What will that benefit us?
- 7.** What does it look like for our emotions to be blessed, and how is that important for the “righteous to never be moved?”
- 8.** What choices do you need to make to create more margin and live with more health in your life?
- 9.** How does blessed purpose make the other four blessings worth it? Why do we need to live with a mindset of changing the world?