

Life Group Topic #20 – A Father’s Blessing

WELCOME: (15 minutes)

What is a favourite memory of your father or parent?

WORSHIP: (15 minutes)

Use whatever means possible to turn the group’s attention to the wonder and majesty of our God- including music, prayer, meditation on the Psalms, and other art forms.

WORD APPLICATION: (45 minutes)

Briefly read or paraphrase the following sermon summary before moving to the heart of this section: the discussion around the application questions.

God is revealed intimately as our Father through Jesus.

ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL WAYS GOD THE FATHER REVEALED HIS HEART WERE THE TWO TIMES HE HELD HIS SON IN HIS HEART AND BLESSED HIM.

God claims Jesus as his son at points in his ministry.

1. Jesus’ Baptism – the beginning

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.

At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, this is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. (Matthew 3:16-17)

2. Jesus Transfiguration - the turning point toward the cross

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, this is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5)

GOD THE FATHER MODELS FOR US AS FATHERS THREE POWERFUL BLESSINGS:

You are my Son...Blessing of Identity

Whom I love...Blessing of Affection

In whom I am well pleased...Blessing of Affirmation

It is interesting to note that these, including the Blessing of Affirmation, occur prior to Jesus doing anything. These blessings are empowering in life and ministry. They need to come first. Knowing who we are is important in knowing what to do.

GOD THE FATHER HAS DESIGNED IN THE SPIRITUAL DNA OF EVERY SON AND DAUGHTER’S HEART THE LONGING TO BE HELD IN THEIR FATHERS HEART.

Application Questions:

Please keep in mind that these questions are meant as catalysts designed to get the group talking about life application.

Why do we long for the love and affirmation of our biological parents?

To what degree is our identity innate? To what degree is it defined by relationships?

Do we believe that we already have these from God?

In what areas do we strive in order to receive affirmation?

Do we allow God's word to empower our actions?

How does our child to parent relationship with God impact life decisions?

How can we bless others as we have been blessed by God in this area?

WITNESS: (15 minutes)

This section is a vision-casting time designed to get the group strategizing and making concrete plans towards reaching outward to a lost world. Relational outreach always has the goal of ultimately enfolding those we reach into the Life Group.

How does this discussion of identity and blessing impact witness?