# Sunday School - "How We are Blessed by God"

### (Opening Prayer)

## 1. <u>Blessings – What are they?</u>

• **Definition of Blessing**: It can be a favor from God, a gift, or a benefit that enriches our lives; Glorifying God in the process.

# 2. Old Testament Examples

#### A. God's Promises to Abraham

- Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:1-3
  - Summary: God calls Abraham and promises to bless him and make him a great nation.
- **Discussion Question**: What does this promise tell us about God's desire to bless individuals and communities?

#### **B.** Provision and Protection

- Scripture Reference: Psalm 23:1-3
  - Summary: David describes the Lord as a shepherd who provides and leads him to safety and rest.
- **Discussion Question**: How have you experienced God's provision or protection in your life?

### C. Blessings of Obedience

- Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 28:1-6
  - Summary: God outlines blessings that come from obedience to His commandments.
- **Discussion Question**: In what ways can we actively seek to obey God and invite His blessings?

## 3. New Testament Examples

## **A.** Blessings in Christ

- Scripture Reference: Ephesians 1:3
  - o **Summary**: Paul states that God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- **Discussion Question**: What are some of the spiritual blessings you believe you have received in Christ?

#### **B.** The Beatitudes

- Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:3-12
  - o **Summary**: Jesus describes the characteristics of those who are blessed by God, often in unexpected ways (e.g., the poor in spirit, the meek).
- **Discussion Question**: How do these beatitudes challenge our understanding of what it means to be blessed?

## **C.** God's Blessings in Community

- Scripture Reference: Acts 2:44-47
  - Summary: The early church shares their possessions and lives together,
    highlighting the blessings of community and generosity.
- **Discussion Question**: How can we create a culture of sharing and community blessings in our group or church?

#### 5. Conclusion

- **Summary**: God's blessings come in many forms—through His promises, provision, obedience, community, and our relationship with Christ.
- **Final Reflection Question**: How can we be more aware of God's blessings in our daily lives and share those blessings with others?

(Closing Prayer)

# Biblical References:

Genesis 12:1-3 - The Call of Abram – "Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Psalm 23:1-3 - The Lord Is My Shepherd - "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Deuteronomy 28:1-6 - Blessings for Obedience - "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. <sup>3</sup> Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. <sup>4</sup> Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. <sup>5</sup> Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>6</sup> Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Ephesians 1:3 - Spiritual Blessings in Christ – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,"

Matthew 5:3-12 – "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons [a] of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Acts 2:44-47 – "And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.