

God's word

Blessed to be a blessing

It's easy to focus on the blessings we want for our family. We often appreciate the fact that God has blessed us in many ways without stopping to ask the question why. When we look deep into God's word we see that, most often, God blesses His people so that they, in turn, might be a blessing to others. His greater purpose in our blessing is for all the nations of the earth to be blessed.



Psalm 67:1–2 (NIV)

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us – so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations."

Study it

Share the account of Abraham in Genesis 12–13. As you read together, focus on Genesis 12:1–3. Identify specific ways that God blessed Abraham. Did God bless Abraham because he deserved it? For what greater purpose did God bless Abraham?

Experience it

- ▶ Look for ways that your family can actively bless others this week. Here are a few ideas, but be creative and think outside the box:
 - Donate clothing or blankets to a homeless shelter.
 - Make cookies and deliver them to your neighbors.
 - Volunteer to babysit for a single mom.
- ▶ As parents, begin the habit of speaking a blessing (like Numbers 6:22–27) over each of your children.

Discuss it

- 1 How has God blessed our family? How can we use these blessings to bless others?
- 2 Is it difficult to let go of things we have and enjoy? Why?
- 3 How does knowing God's purpose begin to change the way we view our lives?

Map it

Get a world map and hang it in a prominent area of your home. Stand in front of the map. Invite the children to point out specific countries and regions that they recognize. Pray that God would use your family to bless the families of the earth.