



**8-WEEK STUDY ON
COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD
PHRASES AND BIBLE VERSES**

**WEEK 5
BLESSED**



TWISTED

WEEK 5

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Ephesians 1:3-8

Secondary text from this week: Matthew 5:1-12

Read ahead for next week: John 14:6-11; Colossians 2:9

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To properly understand how Jesus and the New Testament writers understood and applied the idea of being blessed.

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What is the most memorable gift you've ever received?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the things in our American society that people often consider blessings?

2. What are some examples of things in your life that you would consider blessings?

3. As you reflect on this week's message, what did you agree with? What did you disagree with? What was challenging?

4. In this week's message, Pastor Doug mentioned four primary ways in which the nation of Israel understood God's blessing: (1) fertility and crops, (2) land and possessions, (3) protection and military victory, (4) physical strength, health, wisdom, and honor. Read the following verses and discuss which of these four categories are represented:

Genesis 1:28
Job 42:12

Genesis 26:12
Psalm 67:6

Deuteronomy 7:13
Proverbs 3:13

Deuteronomy 33:29
Proverbs 10:22

1 Chronicles 4:10
Malachi 3:10

5. Pastor Doug also emphasized that Jesus and the New Testament writers treated the idea of blessing differently. Look up the following verses and discuss how they point to the presence and ministry of Jesus as our greatest blessing:

Matt 16:15-17
Titus 2:13

Luke 1:42
1 Peter 3:14

Romans 4:6-8
1 Peter 4:14

Galatians 3:8-9
Revelation 19:9

Galatians 3:14

6. Do you think it's correct to refer to the "good things" that happen to us as blessings? Why or why not?

7. How might this new understanding of "Jesus as the ultimate blessing" change the way you view what it means to be blessed?

