NEEK 3

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON WEEK 3 Deuteronomy 28:1-68

DAY 1 The principles of blessing and cursing • Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 13-15, 20

READ

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 13-15, 20

EXPLAIN 🕑

The truth of Deuteronomy 28:1–2, 13–15, 20 We all want to be blessed, but how do you find blessing? Don't look to yourself or to the world's ideas for blessing, because God is the one who blesses and curses (28:1, 20; Isa 45:7). Also, don't expect blessing if you are being disobedient. Even though salvation depends wholly on God's grace, you will not feel the *blessings* of salvation unless you obey God's commands by faith (Deut 28:1-2, 13–14). That's because *happiness*, success, and good gifts from God are the natural result of submitting to God (30:20). But if you disobey, you will get *curses* instead of blessing (Deut 28:15, 20). Sadness. failure. and trouble from God are the natural result of trying to live in a way you were not designed to live. It's like trying to use a tool for something it wasn't made for: it doesn't work and things break. But if you belong to God, even the curses are a blessing. God's curses help you see the horribleness of sin and life without Him, so that you run back to God (30:1-3; Hos 6:1-3).

ASK 🕜

- Who is the one who blesses and curses? God does. He blesses to show His goodness to His people, and He curses to restore them to Himself.
- 2. What does obedience lead to? Obedience leads to blessing.
- 3. What does disobedience lead to? *Disobedience leads to curses.*
- 4. Is your salvation based on your obedience?

No. Salvation depends on God's grace alone. But we don't feel the joy of salvation when we are disobeying.

DISCUSS 🦕

- 1. What are some wrong ways people in this world try to find happiness?
- 2. How does God use your parents to bless you for obedience or curse you for disobedience?

DAY 2

God blesses obedience • Deuteronomy 28:1-14

READ

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

EXPLAIN $\boldsymbol{\Theta}$

The truth of Deuteronomy 28:1-14

If Israel obeyed, they would become greater than all other nations (Deut 28:1). Israel would enjoy power, leadership, and independence among the nations (28:13). They would experience many physical blessings: victory over enemies (28:7), successful work (28:8), wealth, fruitfulness, and plenty of rain (28:11–12). They would also enjoy spiritual blessing: they would be God's holy people (28:9), and their good reputation would honor God (28:10). One day this will come true when many nations come to the Jews in order to meet Israel's God (Zech 8:23). Some of these blessings relate only to Israel as God's special nation, but many also apply to you if you are a Christian. While success on earth is not guaranteed, obedience often leads to earthly success (Prov 16:3). Also, as you obey by faith, you will surely enjoy the spiritual blessings of holiness (1 John 1:7), closeness to God (John 15:10), and heavenly reward (Eph 6:8). And like Israel, your light will shine so that others glorify God (Matt 5:16).

ASK 🕜

1. What are some physical blessings God promised if Israel obeyed?

Power, leadership, independence, victory, good work, land, children, animals, and food.

2. What are some spiritual blessings God promised if Israel obeyed?

Honor, holiness, and closeness to God.

3. Can you expect these same blessings? Some aspects only apply to Israel. But we can expect the blessings of holiness, closeness to God, heavenly reward, and the opportunity to honor God, and often success on earth too.

DISCUSS 🦕

- 1. Make a list of blessings you or your family have experienced, and thank God for them.
- 2. Read Matthew 5:16 and identify how obedience glorifies God.

DAY 3

God curses disobedience • Deuteronomy 28:15-68

READ

Deuteronomy 28:15-68

EXPLAIN 🗿

The truth of Deuteronomy 28:15-68

Disobedience strips away blessing in every area of life (Deut 28:16–19). Fruitfulness turns to poverty, honor to shame, victory to defeat, and redemption back to slavery in Egypt. These horrible curses show that it is a really bad idea to turn away from the God of life. But in these curses there is still hope. A few Israelites would survive, and one day a remnant will turn to God with all their heart (30:1–2). They will be forgiven, restored, and given new hearts and new life (30:3–6; Rom 11). They will be like dry, cracked ground renewed by gentle rain (Hos 6:3). This applies to you too. When you lose sight of your redemption in Christ, you begin living as if you were a slave of sin again (Gal 5:7, 19–20). You create needless trouble (Prov 13:21; Jas 4:1–3) and do not enjoy God's presence (Isa 59:2). Not all suffering is the result of sin (Job 1:1), but when it is, you must repent quickly. If you never turn from your sin, you do not belong to God at all (Gal 5:21).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

VEEK 3

ASK 🚱

1. What are some ways God promised to curse Israel's disobedience? He would take away children, animals, food, health,

rain, victory, land, life, reputation, and freedom.

- 2. Sometimes it seems easier to disobey. But in the end, is disobedience really easier? No. Disobedience leads to a miserable, cursed life.
- 3. How does God curse disobedience today? When we disobey, we cause needless trouble, we stop enjoying God's presence, sin gains power over us, and if we never repent, we will not go to heaven at all.

DISCUSS 🤄

- 1. Can you think the last time you were unhappy? Was it at all because you were disobedient, either in your attitude or your actions?
- 2. Is suffering always the result of sin (Job 1:1)?

DAY 4

Jesus offers true happiness • Matthew 5:1-12

READ

Matthew 5:1-12

EXPLAIN Θ

The truth of Matthew 5:1–12

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus preached the Beatitudes, or Blessings. He offers true happiness. He's not talking about the shallow kind of happiness that comes or goes depending on your circumstances. He's talking about the inward happiness, joy, and contentment that stays with you even when things around you seem to go wrong (Phil 4:11-13). But at first, the Beatitudes don't seem to make sense. Is the happy person really the one who is poor, mourning, giving up his rights, longing, caring for others instead of himself, denying his lusts, not fighting back, and suffering persecution? Aren't the happy ones those who are rich, look good, do what they want, and get their way? Jesus turns the world's thinking upside down. His way to happiness, which is the only way to true happiness, requires much more than a changing your circumstances or even your behavior. Do you want true happiness? Then you need a new heart, a new birth, and new life that only Jesus can give (John 3:3). Yes, obedience leads to blessing, but true obedience can only come from a heart made new by God.

ASK 🕜

- 1. What kind of happiness does Jesus offer? Happiness that lasts and does not depend on what happens around us.
- 2. Why do not the Beatitudes make sense at first? The person they describe doesn't seem happy. He is mourning and suffering!
- 3. Who does the world think is happy? The world says that people who seem to have it all figured out are happy.
- 4. How can you get real happiness? Only by being born again. You must cry out to God, because only He can do that.

DISCUSS 🧐

- 1. What are some things that you or your friends want? Do these things make you happy? What kind of happiness do these things bring you?
- 2. Read Luke 18:10–18. Is the happy person the one who seems to do everything right, or the one broken by sin and trusting God's mercy?

DAY 5

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law • Galatians 3:10-14

READ

Galatians 3:1-29

EXPLAIN 🕑

The truth of Galatians 3:10-14

When Moses said that blessing comes from obedience, many Jews thought that meant that a person was saved based on his own obedience. But from the beginning salvation was based on faith in God's grace, not on obedience to the law (Gal 3:14). Abraham was declared righteous before he was commanded to be circumcised and more than 500 years before God revealed His law to Israel (Gen 15:6). So Abraham was not saved by obeying the law. Also, if salvation comes through obeying the law, then everyone is cursed, because no one can obey it (Deut 27:26). So if you try to get saved by working hard enough or being good enough, then you will be cursed like the legalistic Jews, because you cannot keep the whole law (Jas 2:10). Then how can you be saved and enjoy the blessings God promised to Abraham (Gal 3:14)? By believing that Jesus took upon Himself the curse that you deserve for disobeying the law (3:13). Don't depend on your works. Depend only on Christ's work for you, for your salvation rests in God's grace alone (Rom 4:16).

ASK 🕜

- 1. Was Abraham justified by faith or by the law? By faith. Abraham was declared righteous before he was commanded to be circumcised and before God revealed His law to Israel.
- 2. Why does the law bring a curse? Because no one can keep it perfectly.
- 3. Why is salvation by faith alone? Because this is the only way it can depend on God's grace alone, not on our works.
- 4. What did Jesus do to redeem you from the curse of the law?

He bore our sin on the cross and died in our place.

DISCUSS 🧐

- 1. Have you ever thought, "I just need to be a better person, then I will be saved?" What is wrong with that thinking?
- 2. How would you explain to your friend what faith is?

NEXT WEEK

God calls Joshua to be His servant Joshua 1:1-9

