

garden TO city

A STUDY OF
GENESIS &
REVELATION

WEEK 3 | God Calls

Josh Raine

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TALK ABOUT IT

What does it look like to “bless” someone?

What do we discover about God that He is the source of blessing and we are His plan to bless others?

Who does God bring to mind when you ask the question “who can I bless this week?” Why do you think they come to mind?

LOOK AT THE WORD

Then the angel of the Lord told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.” The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” Genesis 16:9-10

- Why does God visit Hagar?
- What do we learn about God’s character and His promise to Abram, through His interaction with Hagar?
- If God is saving Hagar and Ishmael, why does God still say “his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him” (16:12)?

Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. Genesis 33:4

- Explore the story of Jacob and Esau from Genesis 25-33.
 - What details stand out?
 - What questions do you still have about their story and brotherhood?
- Why does God bless both brothers?

- What do we learn about the future of Israel through Jacob's story? His wives? His relationships to others in the promised land?

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name ... Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." ... Psalm 96:7-10

- What does it mean to "ascribe to the Lord"?
- What characteristics of God does the Psalmist point out in Psalm 96?
- If God has a chosen people, why does He want the nations to acknowledge Him?

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7

- Why would God tell His people to pray for the prosperity of a people who don't believe in Him or declare Him as Lord?
 - Why does God want Babylon to prosper?
- Jeremiah 29:11 is a popular verse. Why is it important to understand that it is spoken in the midst of exile?

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3

- Read Matthew 5:3-12.
 - Why does Jesus highlight these character traits?
 - What does it mean: "theirs is the kingdom of heaven"?
- What does it mean to be "blessed"?
 - Why is blessing important to the story of God?

LOOK INWARD

God does not have a mission for His Church. He has a Church for His mission.

- Why is it important to know that the church is God's tool for His mission?
 - What challenges does that create?
 - Why would God use people when He could, more effectively, do it Himself?

He is a God who calls us.

- What does it mean to hear the call of God?
- What are ways someone can recognize the voice of God in their life? And how can they confirm it is God's voice?

Josh said "You are not simply saved from sin. You are saved from sin, for _____."

- Why are we at risk of believing that being saved from sin is the only thing that matters?
- What do you believe God has saved you from sin for?

Josh reintroduced us to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who had ideas about grace. Costly grace includes obedience to the call, undivided love and trust in God's providence. Cheap grace makes Jesus' life and ministry all about us.

- Why does Jesus ask for 'obedience to His call'?
- What does it mean to have undivided love?
- How can it be costly to trust God's providence ("providing")?

LOOK OUTWARD

Josh called us to the attached "Who is my neighbour?" map.

- Do you know the names of your neighbours?
- How will you pray for them?
- How can you bless them?
 - Why is it important to acknowledge that you are uniquely gifted to bless the people in your life?
 - What do you think about that?

SO WHAT?

God calls us to Himself, not for our benefit but for others' blessing.

BREATH PRAYER

God, show me how to bless others.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Revelation For The Rest of Us Book Club

The *Garden to City* sermon series will include a guest speaker and co-author of a recently released book called *Revelation for the Rest of Us*. Register for the book club and come for weekly gatherings, starting at the end of May. We will explore the book together in small and medium groups, learning from the book and others' experience along the way. Register at trinitychurchkelowna.ca/courses

The Chosen

Each week, those looking for a new community group experience, gather from 5-7pm on the Trinity Church campus to explore the story of Jesus, as told through the creative

process of the popular streaming series. Join with others to study the Bible, explore the series and, most importantly, connect into community. Visit trinitychurchkelowna.ca/groups for more information.

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