Lesson 4: We Are Blessed

Overview:

Key Focus: Through Christ, we receive God's blessings.

Bible Story: Abraham's Generational Blessing

Scriptures: Galatians 3:8–9, 13–14; Genesis 12:2–3; Deuteronomy 28:1–14; 2 Corinthians 1:20

Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Painter's tape

Engage:

Name a variety of words and have volunteers call out the opposite.

small/big light/dark clean/dirty young/old in/out fast/slow messy/neat alive/dead friend/enemy fix/break good/bad curse/blessing

In the last lesson, we learned that Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the Law. We owed the price of our sin, but Jesus exchanged His life for ours and paid the price of sin for us. Because we no longer deserve the curse of the Law, we get the opposite—the blessings of God! Today we will find out just how blessed we are!

Memory Verse Activity:
Write the verse on the board and discuss the verse. Select a volunteer to erase a word of the verse, and everyone says the verse together. Continue this pattern of erasing a word and then saying the verse until all the words are erased or the activity time is finished.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

Bible Story:

In Bible times, the Jewish people had a word for all of the people who weren't Jewish—they were Gentiles. God's special people were the Jewish people. The Jewish people thought God only loved and cared for them so they assumed that salvation was only for the Jewish people. Does God only want Jewish people in heaven with Him? (No.) **Was salvation for all people, including the Gentiles?** (Yes.) **Last week we talked about how Jesus redeemed from the curse of the Law everyone who believes in Him as their Savior.**

Read Galatians 3:8–9 and 13–14. **Let's find out what blessings of Abraham also belong to us. When we learned about some of God's special names, we learned that He is Jehovah Jireh. What does Jehovah Jireh tell us about God?** (Jehovah Jireh tells us God will provide.) **God told this name to Abraham when God promised Abraham that all nations of the world would be blessed through him. What was the problem that made Abraham confused about this promise?** (Abraham was old and didn't have a child.) **Does God keep His promises?** (Yes.) **Many years later when Abraham was 100 years old, he and his wife had a son named Isaac. When Isaac grew up, he and his wife had twin boys, Jacob and Esau. Many years later, Jacob had twelve sons who we know as the 12 tribes of Israel, God's chosen people the Israelites. Abraham was blessed, his son was blessed, his son's son was blessed and his sons were blessed. God loves blessing people.**

Let's read the special blessing that God gave Abraham. Read Genesis 12:2–3. **Why did God bless Abraham?** (God blessed Abraham so that all the nations of the world would be blessed through Him.) **God also promised to bless anyone who blessed Abraham. How do you think someone might have blessed Abraham?** (Possible answers: Someone could give Abraham food; people said nice things to him and gave him things.) **What else did God promise?** (God promised to curse anyone who cursed Abraham.) **Here we see the opposites of blessings and curses. Which do you think Abraham wanted for his family?** (He would want blessings.) **We become God's children when we say "yes" and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior who paid for our sins. We are part of God's family, and we also get to join in Abraham's family who is blessed.**

Reread Galatians 3:14. **What blessing is promised in verse 14?** (God promised that the Holy Spirit would come to all people who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior.) **The Holy Spirit lives inside all believers of Jesus and helps us. What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit blesses you?** (Possible answers: The Holy Spirit helps me pray; He teaches me to be more like Jesus and reminds me of what Jesus said; He guides me to know God's truth; He gives "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" gifts.) **Our Memory Verse says we are blessed with spiritual blessings.** Say or read together Ephesians 1:3. **What are some of the spiritual blessings?** (Some of the spiritual blessings are salvation, becoming children of God, someday living in heaven, eternal life, and the Holy Spirit lives in us.)

Let's see what other blessings for us are mentioned in the Bible. Read Deuteronomy 28:1–2. **What do we do to get these blessings?** (We have to believe in Jesus.) **Notice that God isn't holding the blessings back and only giving one or two. God's many blessings come and overtake us. You can try to run but the blessings are faster and will catch you! As I read the list of blessings count them and let's see how many are listed.** Make a tally mark on the board for each blessing and afterward have them count the marks. Read Deuteronomy 28:3–14. **Several times God reminded the Israelites that they had to listen and respect Him. Which of these blessings would you like?** Allow time for responses.

Abraham was blessed so that everyone would know about God. God blesses us for the same reason. Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. **Why does God promise to bless us?** (God promises to bless us so that He gets the glory.) **God might bless you with a special honor at school, and then you tell everyone that God blessed you with the talent that won the honor. God gets glory when you brag about Him. The more you brag about God—the more He will want to bless you! How could you give God glory when He blesses you this week?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Questions:

- **In the Old Testament, who did God promise to bless?** (God promised Abraham that all people would be blessed through him.)
- **What are the opposite of blessings?** (Blessings are the opposite of cursings.)
- **How do we get to be part of the blessing of Abraham?** (Through Jesus Christ's death on the cross and forgiveness of our sins, we get the blessing of Abraham.)
- **What are some of the blessings mentioned in Deuteronomy?** (Check answers with Deuteronomy 28:3–14.)
- **What special blessing was promised to come upon us at salvation?** (We get the Holy Spirit living in us at salvation.)
- **What should we do when we are blessed?** (Answers will vary, but should include giving glory to God.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- In a large open space, use painter's tape or chairs to mark off a section across the middle of the area. Select one volunteer to be a "Blessing" and stand in the marked-off section. Gather everyone at one end of the open space and give a signal for them to run through the marked-off section to the other side. The "Blessing" can tag one person running through the section and that person also becomes a "Blessing." Have the rest of the children return to the other side. Continue giving a signal for children to run to the blessing side and each time more children become "Blessings." Play until all the children are blessed. Remind the children that in life it is wonderful to get caught by God's blessings.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  If you are unfamiliar with the children's action song "Father Abraham," look online. Sing together or play a video and have the children join the actions. Remind them that all of Abraham's blessings are theirs, so they should smile while they sing.

Craft Idea:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children choose to work together in a group making a poster of blessings or in a group making a song about blessings, or in a group. Give a signal when groups should share their creations.

Worksheet:
Have the children work in small groups and look up the verses to find the answers to the crossword puzzle. On the back of their papers, have them see how long of a list of blessings they have received from God.

Affirmation/Declaration:
God's blessings are chasing me.
I will let them catch me!

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
People often think they have worked and earned having something good happen to them. The reason God blesses us is not so we can hoard the blessing or think we earned it—God's blessings are to bless others and give Him the glory. Help the children see their role to constantly acknowledge God's blessings so that He gets the glory.

Missions Connection:
The Chinese culture believes, if they wear the lucky color of red or do certain things, they will be blessed. We understand that blessings come to us from God through Jesus' death on the cross. Have the children pray for different people groups around the world to learn the truth about blessings and want to become part of God's family.

Family Connection:
Talk about all the many blessings from God that your family has received. Spend time thanking God and talk about how God got glory through that blessing. Look online for videos of the song "The Blessing." If a country is special to your family, look for a version of the song sung by people from that country.

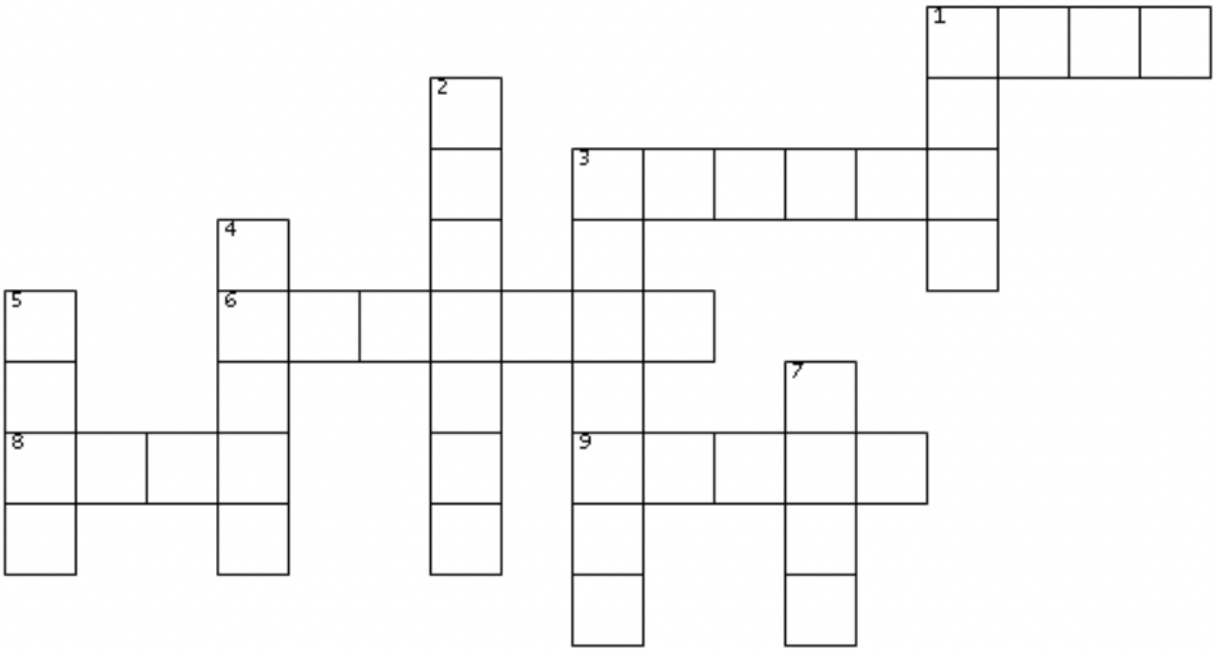
Prayer Points:

Have the children do “popcorn” prayers of thanks for the many blessings from God. Gather the children sitting on the floor and begin the prayer by thanking God for something. As children think of something, they pop up and say it and sit back down. Remind them that God can hear more than one person at a time, so they can pray while someone else is. When you sense it is time, close the prayer time.

Name _____

Lesson 4: We Are Blessed

Look in Deuteronomy 28:3-14 for the answers.



ACROSS

1. Blessed when you _____ in… (v.6)
3. Blessed shall be your _____… (v.5)
6. …_____ who rise against you are defeated… (v.7)
8. …He will bless you in the _____… (v. 8)
9. …enemies will flee _____ ways. (v.7)

DOWN

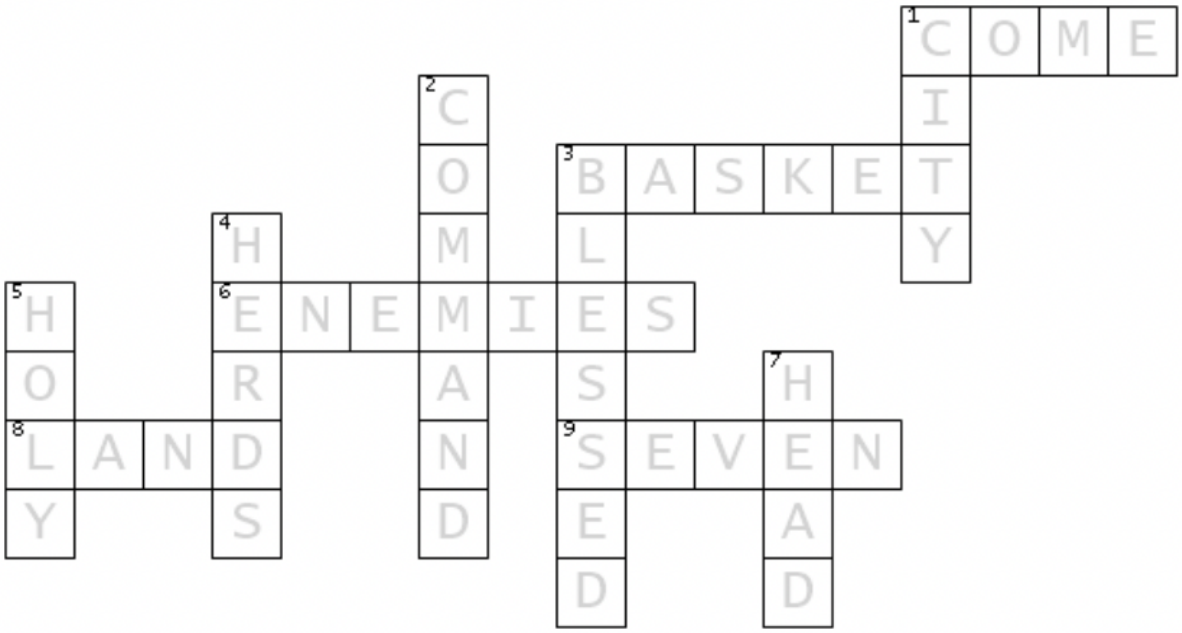
1. Blessed in the _____… (v.3)
2. The Lord will _____ blessings on you… (v.8)
3. _____ shall you be… (v.3)
4. …the increase of your _____… (v.4)
5. The Lord will establish you as a _____ people… (v.9)
7. And the Lord will make you the _____… (v.13)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, make a list of blessings they have received from God.*

ANSWERS:

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Look in Deuteronomy 28:3-14 for the answers.



ACROSS

1. Blessed when you come in… (v.6)
3. Blessed shall be your basket… (v.5)
6. …enemies who rise against you are defeated… (v.7)
8. …He will bless you in the land… (v. 8)
9. …enemies will flee seven ways. (v.7)

DOWN

1. Blessed in the city… (v.3)
2. The Lord will command blessings on you… (v.8)
3. blessed shall you be… (v.3)
4. …the increase of your herds… (v.4)
5. The Lord will establish you as a holy people… (v.9)
7. And the Lord will make you the head… (v.13)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, make a list of blessings they have received from God.*

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