CHARIS YOUTH

Series: The Blessed Life

Lesson 1: The Covenant of Blessing

About This Lesson

This series shows the youth that they are blessed when they are in a relationship with God through salvation. The series begins by highlighting that God's blessing is a covenant He made that He cannot and will not break. We cannot earn or deserve His blessings—that's grace.

Key Takeaway: God blesses because He promised to, not because you earn or deserve it.

Key Verse: Proverbs 10:22 *The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.*

Teaching Outline:

I. THE BLESSING OF THE LORD

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

A. You don't make blessings happen. God makes it happen!
   1. One of the greatest revelations in a Christian's life—you are BLESSED!
   2. God's blessing doesn't depend on how you feel. You might feel like a loser, have no direction, and not be where you thought you would be at this point in your life. Your relationship with God promises that He blesses you.

B. God blessed Abraham.
   Genesis 14:19 *And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth."*
   1. Based on Genesis 14:19, you can make this declaration: "I am blessed by the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth."

II. GOD LOVES YOU AND COMMANDS BLESSING ON YOU!

A. You are created for blessings.
Genesis 1:28–30 *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

[29] And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. [30] Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

1. God blessed Adam and Eve with an earth full of everything they needed to live there. These blessings exist for you and me, too.
2. The blessings need to be spoken! God spoke the blessings, and we should also.

B. The Lord commands blessings on us in Deuteronomy 28:1–14.
1. The blessing is commanded to OVERTAKE you!
2. Blessing is not dependent upon your location—no matter where you live, in a city or out in the country.

C. In Genesis 1:28–30, two of the things God commanded Adam and Eve have corresponding blessings in Deuteronomy 28:1–14.
1. Genesis 1:28 *"Be fruitful."* Living things were created to produce fruit! Deuteronomy 28:4 blesses fruit: children, produce from the ground, and herds and flocks.
2. Genesis 1:28 *"fill the earth."* People were to spread out. Deuteronomy 28:6 blesses you wherever you go to fill the earth, city or country.

III. GOD MADE A COVENANT BLESSING WITH ABRAHAM

A. A covenant is an unbreakable relational bond. God made an incredible covenant with Abraham.
Genesis 12:3 *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

1. People noticed the blessings! Abram wanted people to know that it was God who blessed him.
2. The covenant was given by God's grace. Abraham didn't do anything to deserve it, but he received it by faith.
   Genesis 15:6 *And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*
3. God's blessing makes things happen: Abram's riches, His righteousness, and his family prospered.

B. When we receive Christ as our Savior, we become part of Abraham's descendants and receive all of the blessings God gave to him.
   Galatians 3:13–14 *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), [14] that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

C. God loves to bless you!
   1. Psalm 112:1–4 shows God's desire to pour blessings on His children. The blessings overflow, impact your children, give us wealth and riches, righteousness, light, and grace and compassion.

IV. AVOID THE #1 DREAMKILLER

Deuteronomy 28:8 and 12 *The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. [12] The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.*

A. The LORD will bless all the work of your hand.

B. Speak blessings over your school work, house chores, and after-school job.

C. Set your hand to something! Work doesn't have to be paid work. You can help out at church or volunteer to help someone with yard work.

D. God doesn't bless laziness. Good things happen when you work!

Bottom Line:

When you are in relationship with God, you can't escape blessings because you are blessed by the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth! Your blessings aren't based on how others treat, see, or perceive you.

Small Group Time:

1. People might look at negative circumstances and think they are not blessed, but if you have a relationship with God—you are blessed!
   - What in your life makes it look like you're not blessed?
   - What in your life proves that you are blessed?

2. Genesis 5:1–2 says, "This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created." God blessed man and woman. Don't be confused. God's blessings are on male and female. There are only two genders God created and blessed.
   - How does it feel to know you are made in God's image and blessed?

3. Proverbs 10:22 says, "The blessing of the LORD makes one rich." Many Christians just wait for God to drop riches in their laps. Deuteronomy 28:8 and 12 remind us that God will bless the work of our hands. The work doesn't have to be paid work; you can volunteer and keep busy doing something. Develop the habit now of volunteering, helping others, and keeping busy so that God has something to bless!
   - What work are you doing that God can bless?

Declaration:

"I'm blessed and have everything I need to do everything God has called me to do!"

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What blessings from God have you seen in your life today?

- **Pray:** Thank God for the many blessings that you recognize in your life. Form the habit of immediately thanking God throughout the day for each blessing as you receive it.
- **Read:** Deuteronomy 28:1–14 lists the blessings that will overtake you when you obey God. Read the list each day and write down which blessings from the list you received each day. If you want to see what God's blessings save you from encountering, read Deuteronomy 28:15–68 to see that there are more curses than blessings.
- **Live It:** Blessed people don't complain because they see God's goodness in their lives. Catch yourself before you complain or say something negative, and turn it around and speak something positive that you've been blessed with.
- **Create:** You are blessed by God and should be a walking talking advertisement for the goodness of God through His blessings on your life. Make something that you can share with others to brag about God's love and blessings on His kids. You might want to create a song, artwork, poem, meme, or t-shirt with your declaration.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: If you could swap a day in the life of someone in the sports field, who would it be, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Have everyone gather in a circle. Toss a beach ball in the air and whoever is nearest the ball hits it to keep it in the air. The person hitting the ball names a blessing they've been blessed with, such as health, a car, a pet, an extra week on a project at school, etc. See how long the ball can stay in the air.

Opening Affirmation: "I am blessed by the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth. I don't earn or deserve the blessings. God loves and blesses me because of Jesus."

Giving Time: *Acts 20:35 And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

We serve a God who is able to bless and bring blessings to His children. We can waste our money on things that don't last or give to God's work and watch Him

bless what we give. It doesn't matter how little or how much we give—give so it can be blessed!

BEYOND –
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: This week, challenge the young people to look for generational blessings on their families. God blessed Abraham, and those blessings fell on his son, Isaac, and his son, Jacob, and on through the lineage. For youth not from a Christian home, or whose grandparents and previous generations were not believers, encourage them to talk with someone from the church (suggest families) who could share their family's blessings from God. Next week, have them share generational blessings on their families.

Biblical Worldview: People who don't use the Bible as their guidebook don't realize that God blesses His children. The youth should be walking advertisements of God's goodness and telling their friends that God is the source. The world works to earn good things. As children of God, the youth have a powerful testimony when they follow what the Bible says.

Outreach/Missions: God's blessings have always been on Israel, and this continues to cause problems today. The Arab/Israeli conflict goes back to Abraham trying to "help" God give him a boy through his servant. Ishmael was always jealous and hated Isaac, even though God gave him blessings also (Genesis 17:20). We are commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). Spend time praying for Jewish people to recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah and accept forgiveness of their sins.