CHARIS YOUTH

Series: The Blessed Life

Lesson 2: The Blessings Rub Off

About This Lesson

The young people probably know very little about the tribe of Levi, which God chose to be set apart as the priestly line. This is important to their lives because, through Jesus Christ, we are part of the royal priesthood, ministering to God and making blessings in His name. If the young people understand that they are blessed by God's covenant with Abraham and part of the royal priesthood, they will want to live holy and be around others who are blessed, so the blessings continually rub off on them.

Key Takeaway: Jesus has made believers in Him a kingdom of priests! We are blessed and can bless others!

Key Verse: Numbers 6:24–26 *The Lord bless you and keep you; [25] The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; [26] The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.*

Teaching Outline:

I. GOD'S BLESSING

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.*

A. God made a covenant with Abram. God's promises can't be broken or changed.

1. God reaffirmed His covenant of blessing on Abram's descendants by renaming him Abraham, meaning father of many nations.

Genesis 17:5 *No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.*

B. God's covenant blessing on Abram and his descendants has never been broken and remains today.

C. 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.*

II. THE PRIESTLY BLESSING

Genesis 14:18–20 *Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.* [19] *And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;* [20] *And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.*

A. Abram's nephew, Lot, had been taken captive. Abram went and attacked and recovered all. Afterward, Melchizedek came and anointed him.
   1. Although Abram was blessed by God (Genesis 12), he still had difficulties in life, but he was blessed with deliverance that came from God.

B. God anointed priests who would bless others. Melchizedek was a priest before Aaron and the Levitical priesthood.
   1. The Old Testament application of oil is the Hebrew word mâshach, means to smear or to rub. The priest anointed by smearing the oil on the person.
      a. Choose to hang out where the blessing is so it will rub off on you—go to church.
      b. Choose to be where the atmosphere oozes the anointing of the blessing!

C. Melchizedek blessed Abram by speaking the blessing.
   1. Blessings are meant to be spoken over people.
   2. This confirmed God's blessing (Covenant) on Abram's life.
   3. This was a reminder that deliverance comes from God. Even when you are blessed, there will be times when you need God's deliverance.

D. Abram responded to the blessing by giving.
   1. He was blessed, then gave a tithe of ALL.
   2. We give because we are blessed!
   3. It is important to give! Abram's tithe was 10%. Tithe means 10%.

E. Abram knew where his blessing came from —God!
   Genesis 14:21-24 *21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." 22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'— 24 except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."*
   1. Abram didn't want the king to think he had made Abram rich.
   2. Important to realize that it is God who blesses you. It is God who makes you rich.

III. AARON AND THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD

A. The three duties of the Levitical priesthood:
   Deuteronomy 10:8 *At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day.*
   1. Bear the ark of the covenant.
      1 Chronicles 15:2 and 11–13 *Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever. …And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.*
      a. The ark of the covenant was holy because it contained items that remembered God's love and faithfulness: a jar of manna, Aaron's budded staff, and the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments on them.

2. Stand before the Lord to minister to Him.
   1 Chronicles 23:13 *The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses; and Aaron was set apart, he and his sons forever, that he should sanctify the most holy things, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him, and to give the blessing in His name forever.*
   a. We often get excited about worshiping God through song because of how it makes us feel—but our worship ministers to God.

3. Bless in God's name.
   Numbers 6:22–27 *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: [23] "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: [24] "The LORD bless you and keep you; [25] The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; [26] The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.' [27] So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."*
   a. Bless is the Hebrew word, barak, meaning to kneel down. God will adorn you, like a king taps with a sword to make someone a knight. When you pray and worship, you can bless God, and He blesses you. He adorns you.
   b. Keep you: shamar means to guard, to protect, and to set a hedge around you.
   c. To Shine: owr means to become light, to shine brightly, to set on fire, and to be glorious.
   d. To be gracious: chanan means to show favor and make favorable.
   e. Peace: shalom means completeness, soundness, welfare, health, prosperity, peace, safety, tranquility, and peace in covenant relationship.
   f. Name: shem means reputation, fame, glory, memorial, and monument.
   g. "God wants to make you a walking advertisement for how He treats His kids." -Mark Hankins

IV. JESUS – OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

A. Jesus is our great High Priest.
   Hebrews 4:14–16 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. [15] For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
   1. Jesus offers for us to come boldly to the throne of grace.

2. In the Old Testament, priests offered sacrifices daily. When Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice, that was it! The perfect, eternal sacrifice means no more daily sacrifices.
   Hebrews 7:22–28 *By so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. [23] Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. [24] But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. [25] Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*
   [26] For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; [27] who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. [28] For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.
   a. The Levitical priesthood changed. When a priest died, someone else took his place. Jesus never changes, and no one can take His place!

B. Jesus has made us part of the royal priesthood, priests unto God.
   1 Peter 2:9, *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light!*
   1. Jesus has made believers in Him a kingdom of priests! We are blessed and can bless others!

Bottom Line:
Ephesians 1:3 says, "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." I am blessed by Jesus Christ, my great High Priest!

Small Group Time:

11. Go around the group and read Numbers 6:24–26, inserting each young person's name in the verses and looking directly at them.
- How did you feel when a blessing was spoken over you?
- What other blessings have been spoken over you?

- What blessing could you speak over your family?
- What blessing could you speak over someone at school this week?

2. Aaron and the Levitical priests were set apart by God to live holy lives. They didn't compromise and do what the majority of Israelites were doing. They lived for God and were blessed by Him. Through Jesus, we are part of the royal priesthood called to be different from the world.

- How would your daily life be different if you genuinely believed you were part of the royal priesthood, set apart for God?
- The priests lived and worked together in community. How are you participating in community with other believers? How could you improve in this area?

Declaration:

"I am blessed, and I bless others in His name."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** Who are your blessings rubbing off on? If you're blessed and anointed by God, people around you should see those blessings as you tell them God is the source of those blessings.
- **Pray:** Ask God to show you who He wants you to minister to and give a blessing in His name, someone who needs encouragement and needs to know God loves them.
- **Read:** Ephesians 1 and 2 discuss many of the spiritual blessings we have been blessed with. Make a list of the things you recognize in these chapters that are blessings to you.
- **Live It:** Plan a get-together with some Christian friends. Your time together should bless and bring glory to God.
- **Create:** Make a blessing to read over yourself. Ask God to show you what He wants you to speak over yourself. Look through the Bible for promises and verses of hope.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What would you do if you could be invisible for one hour?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Play the song "The Blessing" that is quoting Numbers 6:24–26, the blessing spoken by the priests.

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: Genesis 14:19–20 *And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; [20] And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.*

God blesses us, and we show that we are blessed by giving back to God. Abram totally embraced the fact that the Lord Most High blessed him, Possessor of heaven and earth, which is everything. When you know the Possessor of everything blesses you, you give extravagantly. Abram didn't notice any lack when he gave everything—he kept receiving more from God!

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: This week work together or individually to make a video using "The Blessing" showing the people at school, home, in your neighborhood, or a mission field that you want to share this blessing with and speak over them. Share the video with the youth group next week.

Biblical Worldview: People without a biblical worldview don't understand why anyone would want to be set apart, minister to God, and speak blessings in His name. Challenge the young people to talk about how God has blessed them and speak blessings, not curses, on people. As they live their biblical worldview and see themselves as royal priests of God, they can help their peers see that God is real, He blesses, and He loves them!

Outreach/Missions: Look online for one of the versions of "The Blessing" done in another language or sung by people from another country. Choose one of the countries where your church has missionaries. Play the song and then have young people pray for the missionaries of that country to boldly speak God's blessings and help people want to trust Jesus as their Savior.