



- Key point 1. **Do we know we are blessed?** (Numbers 6:24-26)
 - We have been blessed beyond measure in Christ. He wants us to know his favour and peace amidst all the challenges we face. God's heart is to bless. If we don't experience this, we need to keep coming back to the person of Jesus who is perfect theology - he never turned anyone away who humbly came asking for a blessing.
- Key point 2. **Do we know we have authority?** (Numbers 6:27)
 - As God's royal priesthood we inherit the authority that was reserved for the Levitical priesthood under the old covenant. We are to be heralds of God's kingdom blessings, not just accepting things as they are. Let's not sweep everything under the carpet of 'it's just God's will' - we are asked to pray 'your will be done on earth as in heaven' because it has not yet been fully realised.
- Key point 3. **Do we know want to pray blessings?** (Ephesians 1:3)
 - We are blessed with every spiritual blessing and we are to share that blessing with the world. God has called the church to be a blessings machine.

Questions:

Conversation Starter

1. What would you say is the biggest blessing to your life right now?

Start thinking

2. Is there a difference between the world's understanding of blessing and the Biblical view. What might this be?

Start sharing

3. Do you feel you are confident in praying blessings for others, especially those who don't yet know Jesus. If not, what is the biggest barrier? (e.g. trusting God's heart to bless, disappointment in unanswered prayer, fear about offering it to others?)

Start praying

4. Heavenly Father, thank you have blessed us more than we could possibly know. Thank you that we are blessed to know you. Help us to trust your heart to bless and grow in our confidence and authority to pray your words of blessings to the people and communities around us.

Start doing

5. Is there one person, outside of the church, this Christmas season that you could offer to pray a blessing for? Practice through what you will say beforehand, but remember it's not the words but the faith behind them that give them spiritual power in Jesus!

Prayers of Blessings worksheet

Invitation: “Could I pray a short prayer of blessing for you?”

Prayer: “I bless you in the name of Jesus. May you know God’s blessing over your...”

Body—health, protection, strength [renewal for our physical wellbeing]

Labour—work (paid or unpaid), security [God’s care and concern for how we spend our days]

Emotional—joy, peace, hope, freedom from anxiety [for fullness of wellbeing]

Social—love, marriage, family, friends [for the communities we are in]

Spiritual—salvation, faith, grace [God desires to renew us in the patterns of our thinking about Him, our purpose in the earth and our future hope. Whoever we are—God wants us to discover who we are in Christ.]

Material from Godwin, Roy; Roberts, Dave. The Way of Blessing: Stepping into the Mission and Presence of God (p. 162). David C Cook.

Other tips:

- Keep it short (it’s the faith behind them rather than the exact words you use that are powerful)
- Look at the person rather than closing your eyes (especially if they are not a Christian as they won’t be closing theirs!)
- Encourage them that you will continue to be praying for them (and try to remember!)