



We all know the power of blessing “down” – giving our blessing to the next generation. But why should we bless “up”? Why should we rise up and call blessed those who have gone before us? Because of the grace of God that led to Christ...and you.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

**Group Ice-Breaker:**

- (1) What do you like most about family reunions?
- (2) How does your family handle “squirrels” in the family tree?

**THE BEAUTY OF MOTHER’S DAY.**

Reflect on the joy of a day to celebrate mother’s and motherhood. Why is this a good thing? (Hint: it IS!)

**THE TRUE STORY OF FAMILY TREES.**

Every family tree has a few nuts and squirrels. But for some, their direct relationships (parents, grandparents, etc) left much to be desired, making Mother’s Day difficult. Can you relate to the difficulty of finding “blessing” when ones past was less than optimal? Discuss.

**JESUS’ FAMILY TREE. Read Matthew 1:1-16.**

Pay attention to each name in this list. How many of these names are associated with scandal at one time or another? Abraham lied (Gen 12:10-20). Jacob swindled (Gen 27-29). Judah was a hypocrite (Gen 28). How David and Bathsheba met is a story you didn’t tell in polite company (2 Sam 11:2-3). Rahab was a harlot (Josh 2:1). Manasseh was a monster (2 Kings 21:6). What does this teach us?

**GOD BRINGS BLESSING AND PROMISE TO THE FLAWED THROUGH THE FLAWED. Read Galatians 3:14.**

The promise to Abraham (a flawed character) is now a promise to us (flawed characters). All because of the perfect Son of God. Discuss.

**CALL BLESSED ALL THROUGH WHOM GOD’S GRACE HAS EXTENDED. Read Luke 1:48.**

Mary does not consider herself blessed because of her character, but rather her vocation. How is this true about all who went before her as well? Discuss.

**BLESSING IS ULTIMATELY ABOUT LORDSHIP, NOT LINEAGE. Read Luke 11:27-28.**

How does Jesus change how we view our place and role? Where is true blessing found?

**THE CALL TO BLESSING IS FOR EVERYONE. Read Matt 25:34, 1 John 2:2 & Rev 22:17.**

God wants every nut and squirrel to belong. How does this change our view of others?