

York St Small Groups

Sermon Based Studies

SUNDAY 6 December 2020

Christmas is Coming – The Blessing
Matthew 5:1-12



These studies are designed to be explored after hearing the Sunday sermon and also to be accompanied by a time of prayer/sharing.



YORK STREET
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GETTING STARTED

Q1. What do you feel is a blessing in your life?

Q2. At Christmas time we hear stories about being "naughty or nice" and our reward for this. Are our blessings dependent on our actions, or is it something different altogether?

INTO THE WORD

Read Genesis 12:1-3

Q3. God offers a blessing to Abraham in these verses - upon him and others. This also acts as a promise and prophecy of what is to come. Acts 3:25-26 speaks of the fulfilment of that prophecy but adds that there is a blessing in “turning from your wicked ways”. What do you think the blessing is in both Genesis and Acts?

Read John 12:20-26

Q4. While Jesus fulfills the prophecies in Isaiah (11:10), He also speaks of the need to become like him as we draw closer to him, serve him, follow him and be with him. How does the idea of a blessing fit with being with Jesus, or becoming like Him?

GOING DEEPER

Read Matthew 5:1-12

Q5. Jesus describes what it is to be blessed, and lists a number of character traits and states of the heart. In this we see that if we allow space for growth in our life rather than filling it with our own desires then we can be molded by God. In addition, if we are formed in the image of Christ with our thoughts and actions, then we see the world as God intended it, and in doing so we are blessed as we align with His will for His world. Is there a particular part of this passage that stood out to you?

Q6.

How can you become more like Jesus this Christmas, and in doing so be blessed and also bless others?

Pray

Heavenly Father, as we approach Christmas, we remember the greatest blessing ever given in your son Jesus. May we be eternally grateful for this gift, may we never take it for granted nor forget what you did for us. Help us to become more like Him, and as disciples may we be formed by your hands into the men and women you wish for us to become. In doing so, may we see the world through your eyes, act as you wish for us to act, think with your thoughts and love how you loved. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen