

From EPIPHANY to the TRANSFIGURATION

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL



Week 6
13 - 19 February 2022

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

Epiphany to Transfiguration (6 Jan – 27 Feb)

- Week 6:** 13 February Blessings and woes
- Week 7:** 20 February Love for enemies and judging others
- Week 8:** 27 February The Transfiguration



Week 6



13 February BLESSINGS AND WOES

Epiphany Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Blessings and Woes	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26



Praise and Worship: Jon Guerra - Kingdom of God

<https://youtu.be/rq6sa7NCYFc>

Luke 6:17-26 New International Version – UK **Blessings and woes**

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. ²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said: ‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³ ‘Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. ²⁴ ‘But woe to you who are rich for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Reflection On the Scripture by: Yvonne Roberg

We all know what it is like to live in a polarized world filled with opposites. There is night and day, winter and summer, small and big, junior and senior! Opposites are used to teach people how to compare two different things and help people develop a more concrete understanding of a specific concept. In this reading, Jesus is described as going down with the crowd onto a level place where he miraculously pours out healing and deliverance to all those who are suffering. It is in this context that Jesus then delivers the sermon on the plain.

Jesus’s sermon is filled with opposites: blessings and woes! He pronounces blessings on believers who are poor, hungry, distraught and hated and he pronounces woes on those who are unbelievers who are greedy, satisfied and happily living favored lives in this world. Why does he do this? I believe Jesus teaches us about blessings and woes in order to prepare us and help us understand that the Kingdom of God is countercultural to the world that we live in. God’s kingdom is not of this world! What this world deems as success, often holds very little value in God’s kingdom. Money, status, external beauty and intelligence are highly prized attributes from a worldly perspective. In God’s kingdom giving and sharing our money with others, being humble, being beautiful as a person, and possessing Godly wisdom are prized. How opposite! How counterintuitive is God’s call on our lives!

Yet, Jesus makes it abundantly clear that those who live according to God’s ways will ultimately be blessed and those who live according to the ways of this world will be condemned. Scripture is clear that one day we will face our maker, and either be blessed with the “crown” that is eternal life (Jas 1:12) or be condemned to an eternity separated from God. So, what are we to do? Friends live your lives knowing that we live in a world now that is transient, but also one that we as true followers of Christ do not really belong to. Live in the “here and now”, knowing that your words and actions determine whether you receive blessings or woes from Jesus, for eternity.

QUESTIONS

Small Group Questions:

1. How do you feel about a time when all our words and actions are bought before God?
2. How will this truth impact how you live in the “here and now”?
3. Is there any specific sin that you would like to confess and repent of in light of the truth that blessing or woes await us when we meet Jesus again?



Daily Bible reading, memory verse and prayer:

MONDAY, February 14, 2022: [Psalm 120](#); [2 Kings 24:18-25:21](#); [1 Corinthians 15:20-34](#)

Memory Verse: Psa 120:1, *“I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me. Save me, O LORD, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues.”*

Prayer: Oh, Lord help me to guard my tongue and be so careful of the words that I speak knowing that you hear everything.

TUESDAY, February 15, 2022: [Psalm 120](#); [Ezra 1:1-11](#); [2 Corinthians 1:12-19](#)

Memory Verse: 2 Cor 1:12 *“For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.”*

Prayer: Father, please bless me with your wisdom which is from above.

WEDNESDAY, February 16, 2022: [Psalm 120](#); [Jeremiah 22:11-17](#); [Luke 11:37-52](#)

Memory Verse: Luke 11:41, *“But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.”*

Prayer: Father, please change my heart so that I can love and care for the poor like you do.

THURSDAY, February 17, 2022: [Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#); [Genesis 43:16-34](#); [Romans 8:1-11](#)

Memory Verse: Psa 37:3, *“Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.”*

Prayer: Father I do trust in you, keep me safe as I enjoy your faithfulness.

FRIDAY, February 18, 2022: [Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#); [Genesis 44:1-17](#); [1 John 2:12-17](#)

Memory Verse: Psa 37:4, *“Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*

Prayer: Jesus I delight in you and love you.

SATURDAY, February 19, 2022: [Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#); [Genesis 44:18-34](#); [Luke 12:57-59](#)

Memory Verse: Psa 37:5, *“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this”*

Prayer: Father help me through the power of your Holy Spirit to commit all my ways to you!



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR

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Sunday 13 February Week 6

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:17-26

Activity/Family Moment:

Have you ever had a bad day? What happened? Why was it bad?

In today's scripture story, Jesus is speaking to those of us who are having those kind of days. He's also talking to those of us who have entire lives that feel that way. And, he's telling them that God is with them.

Basically, this is what Jesus is saying in today's passage:

- "Is the world against you? God is with you."
- "Is everyone mad at you? God is with you."
- "Do you feel all alone? God is with you."

Maybe it's enough just to know that God is with us on our worst days. But, God also wants to help us move through these worst days in ways that are best for us.

Jesus shows us how to invite God into our daily lives so that no matter how our day is going, we know how to listen for and follow any instructions or reminders that God is offering us.

And, when we receive God's help, then even our bad days have hope. But if we're not having a bad day, and we're choosing to receive God's help, then we might see and understand how to help those who *are* having one of those really bad days.

So when you having a bad moment, remember that God is with you. You can ask for help.