

DISCUSSION: [Numbers 6:22-27](#)

(Discuss the question cluster below - as much or as little as works for your group)

Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally

We're continuing a sermon series called, "The Life of the Church." In it we'll focus on what it means to be the church through Henri Nouwen's picture of the Christian life as being like the Lord's Supper or 'Communion': Chosen, Broken, Blessed, Given. We'll spend two weeks on each concept (Chosen, Broken, Blessed, Given) of that picture to help us know what it means to be the church and what the church is called to do in our world.

- I. This week, we started to look at the concept of blessing for the life of the church. Our passage ([Numbers 6:22-27](#)) helped us start to understand the nature and necessity of how God blesses his ppl. The points were: 1) A nature of God's blessing (v.23-27); 2) The necessity of it (v.23); and 3) How God blesses us (v.27). Through that we heard that God's blessing actually empowers us to have or be something new (it doesn't just encourage or affirm us). It's intended to give what it says about you. And from God's perspective this is a necessity for us - not just a nice to have. He commands it. And he gives it by marking us out as his own (putting his name on us). Let's discuss how these things impact our lives.*
 - A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?*
 - B. In what areas of life do you feel (or tend to feel) "curse" rather than blessing?*
 - 1. Where do you feel like you could really use a blessing (an empowering change) right now?*
 - C. If you do the imagination exercise the sermon had us do (close your eyes and imagine what it would be like to experience complete safety, where God is close to you, smiles when he thinks of you, gives you health and prosperity, family, etc.), what are some of the words that come to mind when you think about what that place looks like, feels like, sounds like (even smells like)?*
 - 1. How does that compare with your day to day environment right now?*
 - 2. What aspect of that place of blessing might help your day to day life?*
 - D. How does it impact your concept of God to know that he sees giving you a blessing like this as a necessity — a must have?*
 - 1. Do you tend to think God gives you blessings reluctantly — or only when show you're good enough?*
 - 2. What help from God would you need to open yourself to receiving a blessing from him like this?*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May is Volunteer Appreciation Month and each week we will be highlighting groups of volunteers at CTK to say thank you in the Reader. Please also join us after the service on Sunday, May 21st for a Thank-You luncheon to celebrate all our volunteers.