

GENERATIONAL BLESSINGS

LEADER GUIDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BEGIN WITH PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Gather together as a Community in a comfortable setting (around a table, on the couch, the floor of a living room, etc.). Have somebody lead a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your time together.

BIBLE & DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Have somebody read Genesis 12:1-3

1. Take a few minutes to make a list of some of the blessings (traditions, scripts, relational patterns, habits, rhythms, values, etc...) from your family of origin you want to celebrate and continue?
2. If you are comfortable, share 2-3.
3. God's promise was to bless every nation on earth through Abraham's family. Why do we think families play such a key role in God's plan for the world? What does this say about how we do family in the church? And in this community?

OVERVIEW THE PRACTICE FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK (10 MINUTES)

After several weeks of working through our genograms, family patterns, and scripts we're going to transition from the past to the present and future. We've talked a lot about family and will continue to do so but it is important to note that family in this context does not only mean the biological family you were born into, nor does it simply mean children. At Redemption we're striving to invite everyone into the family of God which means we are all a part of each other's family. We can use the space tonight to think about our families of origin, our biological family and children, our spouses, and the family of God.

This week we'll be looking at various aspects of our life and family while prayerfully determining what things we want to continue, stop, and start. While we will be spending some time addressing the places in our stories we want to stop, the end goal is to find the stories that we want to start and continue. This is an opportunity to speak life into our own families and the families of others.

EXERCISE 1: CONTINUE

The first exercise is about identifying and celebrating the blessings that have come from our families of origin, thanking God for those, and thinking about what it means to carry those forward.

- Write out any patterns, scripts, traditions, and values from your family of origin that you want to carry forward to the next generation - your children, or just children you are in relationship with through family, community, church, etc.

If you can't identify a blessing from your family line, it's ok. The future is wide open before you. Let the Father start a new family line through your story. Take this time to pray in that direction.

EXERCISE 2: STOP

The second exercise is about identifying and naming any of the patterns from our family of origin that we want to stop with us.

- Write out any patterns, scripts, traditions, and values from your family of origin that you want to break or stop.
- These can be deep hurts, addictions, or they can be things like phrases that you've heard from your family that you find yourself repeating without thinking.

EXERCISE 3: START

Write out any patterns, scripts, traditions, and values that you want to start with your generation.

- It might be simple like, "The family that plays together, stays together." Or a fun tradition like always cutting down a Christmas tree the day after Thanksgiving. Or it might be a value for community or generosity or the practice of Sabbath. Anything goes here. Dream a little. Then see those dreams become reality.

WORK THROUGH THESE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (10-15 MINUTES)

1. If you had to summarize your family's "blessing" in one sentence, what would you say?
2. What is the main blessing you hope to pass on to your own kids? OR How can you pass on your blessing to the next generation? Is it through a niece or nephew, a child in your community, a student you mentor, a kid from church, or some other way?

CLOSE IN PRAYER (10 MINUTES)