



*Dig Deeper Series*  
**JAMES**  
*Thursdays • 6:30pm*  
*a verse by verse study*

The graphic features a dark blue background with a circular emblem containing a stylized tree with roots and a book. The text is centered and uses a mix of serif and script fonts.



CHRIST'S GOOD NEWS THAT TRANSFORMS YOU AND THE WORLD

*The*  
**GOSPEL-CENTERED**  
*Life*

BEGINS FEBRUARY 18TH  
9 & 11 AM

The graphic features a background image of a large, leafy tree with sunlight filtering through the branches. The text is overlaid on the image, with the main title in a large, bold, orange font.

# THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

THE STORY OF GOD - BLESSED  
EPHESIANS 1:1-6

WEEK 1

**Blessing God is the primary language of the Christian.**

My wife Rachel and I, maybe like you, find ourselves uplifted and renewed when we spend time near the ocean. The vastness of the volume of water and the power and rhythm of the waves crashing against the rocks seem to revive our souls. But there's so much more going on than what you see on the ocean's surface. The strength of the ocean is what's happening underneath in the thermohaline currents. When water melts from the Antarctic ice shelf, the denser water sinks, and the difference in temperature and water density creates thermal currents under the ocean surface that run throughout the earth. These currents start at Antarctica and eventually end there, taking 1000 years to complete their circuit. These currents are also called the ocean's conveyor belt because they transmit heat and other materials, regulating the ocean's temperatures to within 1 degree so that life can flourish above and below the surface. Really, the flow of these currents is what makes the ocean stable, strong, and flourishing with life.

In a way, this is also true for the Christian. The gospel-centered life is a life of flourishing that comes by living from the deep flowing currents of God's blessings. As these currents flow by faith in our life, we receive the needed blessings of God, through His grace, that lead to a spiritually rich life, regardless of the circumstances that may beset us.

## **(10 min) OPENING PRAYER**

Ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Pray for a deeper understanding and experience of God's blessings that He has poured into your life through Jesus.

## **(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER**

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. We have every reason to live our lives, blessing and praising God. Praise is the power of connection. By that, I mean praise is an expression of faith that connects you to God and what He has done for you. It enables you to receive the flow of God's blessings in a fresh and reviving way. Practice that by intentionally blessing and praising God for who He is and all He has done. Make a list of His blessings. Share with one another.
2. You are blessed with value through the Biblical truth that God has chosen you. Before God made a rock, shaped the sky, or formed a fish, He divinely desired you. Where does the world say your value comes from? Do you get your sense of value from these worldly things or from what God says about you in His word? Explain. What Scriptures root you in Biblical value? List them.
3. Someone once defined grace by the following acronym: God's Riches At Christ's Expense. According to Paul, God's grace has brought us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. In the Sunday Sermon, Pastor Derek described bringing our cup of need to the vast ocean of blessings supplied by God's grace. He said God's grace is so great it exceeds your demands. Your need will never exceed His supply! How do you access the supply of God's blessings so that your cup is full? How are you doing that today?

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **1 John 3:1** *"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him."*

**EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER:** Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Be prepared to encourage one another with a Scripture or a particular word God puts on your heart during this time. Pray for one another as the Spirit is leading you.

## **(5 min) LIVE IT**

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. This week, connect intentionally to God through blessing and praising His name. Receive by faith, as you praise God, the specific blessings mentioned in this week's study. As your heart is strengthened, recognize that the overflow of His blessings will touch those around you. Be prepared to reach others with Christ's love.