

5. How does the pursuit of the real blessed life inform our mission?

6. Share where you either experienced or observed God's flavor and color through the blessings of others.

7. Which part of the BLESS practices does your group need to pursue to bless others on mission?

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Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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### **The Mission**

"Living a Life that Matters"

Matthew 5:13-16

Our mission is to declare with words and demonstrate with works the good news of God's grace in Christ in our everyday lives.

"Charmed is a pagan word, a magical word, a word from fairy tales. To be charmed is to be magically held apart from harm, endowed for a time with a bubble of prosperity and power. [...] Youth is a charm. Beauty is a charm. Your natural abilities are a charm." (Andy Crouch)

We have a \_\_\_\_\_ problem.

The problem is not in the charmed life; the problem is confusing charms with blessing and then the all-out \_\_\_\_\_ of the charmed life.

"We are convinced that happiness is possible for everyone but ignore the person who instructs us in the way it comes." (Eugene Peterson)

**If we want to be "flavor and color" and make an impact in our world, we need to:**

1. Define the \_\_\_\_\_ blessed life.

The poor in spirit: humble and \_\_\_\_\_.

Those who mourn: they suffer and take on \_\_\_\_\_ suffering.

The meek: gentle and \_\_\_\_\_.

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: they consume God instead of \_\_\_\_\_.

The merciful: they don't condemn or blame; they \_\_\_\_\_.

The pure in heart: they don't pursue \_\_\_\_\_; they pursue God.

The peacemakers: seek to love, not \_\_\_\_\_.

The persecuted: \_\_\_\_\_ mercy and justice, walking the narrow road.

2. Fight the pursuit of the charmed \_\_\_\_\_.

The blessed life is a \_\_\_\_\_, inward life that serves and pursues God, not the approval and rewards from others.

3. Fight the pursuit of charmed \_\_\_\_\_.

### Three ways to pursue the true blessed life

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Works Consulted and Resources Recommended:

- Sittser, Gerald L. Water from a Deep Well: Christian Spirituality from Early Martyrs to Modern Missionaries. IVP Books, 2010.
- Crouch, Andy. The Life We're Looking For: Reclaiming Relationship in a Technological World. Convergent Books, 2022.

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Read Matthew 5:13-16. What does Jesus mean when he calls his followers salt and light?

3. What are the implications of differentiating the blessed life and the charmed life?

4. What are ways we feel pressured to settle for charms rather than the blessed life?