

	Blessed to be a Blessing
 BIG IDEA	Faith was never meant to stop with you. You are not blessed by God so you can hold on to it, you are blessed so it can flow through you to someone else.
 ICE BREAKER	1. What is something you were taught as a kid that you didn't really understand or believe until you were older? 2. As a teenager, what did you think "freedom" meant? How has your view of freedom changed as you've gotten older? 3. Who is someone who has been a "blessing" to you, someone whose time, help, or generosity changed something in your life?
 MAIN POINTS	Growing up teaches us that maturity has a deeper payoff. As kids, freedom means no rules, grow up, and you learn freedom is earned through trust, over time. As kids, we avoid anything hard, grow up, and you learn nothing good comes without pain. As kids, friendship is about who's fun, grow up, and you learn it's about truth-telling and giving more than you get. The childish view always has a shallow payoff; the mature view is where the life we're chasing actually is and the same growing up has to happen in our faith. Consumer Christianity treats faith like a marketplace. Because we live comfortably, with little cost to following Jesus, it's easy to slide into what Shan called Consumer Christianity asking "what am I getting out of this?" instead of "what is God asking of me?" Church becomes a product to be reviewed and switched rather than a mission to submit to. It may look like faith, but it will never lead to the life we're chasing. You are blessed to be a blessing, not to accumulate and sit on it. In Genesis 12, God tells Abram, "I will bless you... and you will be a blessing." Abraham was never the destination of God's blessing, he was the delivery system. Picture a bucket versus a pipe: a bucket that just sits full grows stagnant, while a pipe lets blessing keep flowing through. Jesus modeled the pipe, coming "not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). The question that changes everything: what can I give, not what can I get? Disciples ask "what can I give?" time, resources, forgiveness, faith instead of "what can I get?" Jesus said whoever loses their life for Him will save it (Luke 9:23-25). Someone is waiting on the other side of what God has already given you, which is exactly what Central's MOHI child-sponsorship partnership offers a way to act on.
 DISCUSS	1. Of the three examples freedom, pain, and friendship which "grown-up" lesson has been hardest for you to actually live out? 2. What does a "childish" versus a "mature" understanding of faith look like in real life? 3. Where have you noticed consumer Christianity creeping into your own thinking? 4. Are you more of a bucket or a pipe right now with the blessings God has given you? 5. What is one thing God has given you that He might want you to give away to bless someone else?
	Jesus First: Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Mark 10:45 this week, and ask God: "What does God

 NEXT STEP	want from me, and who has He given me to bless?" Being blessed was never meant to end with you. People Always: Look for one specific way this week to give away something God has given you your time, your resources, your forgiveness, or your faith with someone who needs it. Made for More: Take a next step in generosity, starting with sponsoring a child through MOHI. Visit outreach@centralaz.com or ask a Central team member how to get involved.
 SCRIPTURE	Genesis 12:1-3 Mark 10:45 Luke 9:23-25
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next weekend as Pastor Cal kicks off a brand-new series digging into the book of James. Over the next two months, we'll unpack what it looks like to live out a faith that's practical, tested, and real. Invite someone to join you and don't miss the journey ahead!

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com