PSALMS

A SERMON SERIES

So That...

PSALM 67



When you ask God to bless you, what are you hoping will happen?

PSALM 67:1-2 NIV

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
2 so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

A prayer with a purpose

SO THAT...

TWO WORDS THAT WIDEN THE PRAYER

God’s goodness has somewhere to go.

NUMBERS 6:24-26 NIV

24 The LORD bless you
and keep you;
25 the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
26 the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

Where have we heard this blessing before?

A blessing is a gift of God's goodness that can grow into recognition of its Giver.

The gift arrives in a moment.
Its meaning can keep growing.

MATTHEW 5:44-45 NIV

44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for
those who persecute you, 45 that you may be
children of your Father in heaven.
He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good,
and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

God's kindness reaches across the divide

MATTHEW 5:46-48 NIV

46 If you love those who love you, what reward
will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?
47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you
doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?
48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly
Father is perfect.

Love that reaches beyond being loved

LUKE 6:27-28, 36 NIV

27 But to you who are listening I say:
Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
28 bless those who curse you,
pray for those who mistreat you.

36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The Father’s mercy becomes our way of life

BECOMING A BLESSING

A blessing can help someone recognize God.
Becoming a blessing helps us resemble him.

What might our neighbors discover about God through the way they experience our love?

A MOMENT THEY MAY REMEMBER

Who helped you recognize what God is like?

Whom could you offer that kind of moment?

PSALM 67:3-5 NIV

3 May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
5 May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.

The center of the prayer is their joy in God

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23 NIV

22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak.
I have become all things to all people so that
by all possible means I might save some.
23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel,
that I may share in its blessings.

Purposeful effort while relinquishing the outcome

PSALM 67:6-7 NIV

6 The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
7 May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

The harvest brings us back to “so that”

OUR RESPONSE

Plant with purpose.
Entrust the growth to God.

One person. One act of goodness.
Keep loving beyond the response.