

March 08 / Sunday

Surprise the World: Bless

Read [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#) / [Acts 16:30](#) / [John 12:3](#)



09 / Mon – Habit #1 and the challenge | Read [Genesis 12:2-3](#)

This *Surprise the World* series will suggest five habits you could incorporate to help you live a life that invites questions. Habit #1: *bless others*. Challenge for this week: *bless three people*. Are you wondering where to start? Think of how you've been blessed, by God and by others. What did they do? Then figure out a way to pass it on. Just for fun, choose people who would never expect it.

10 / Tue – Bless why? | Read [John 13:3-5 and 12-17 and 21-27](#)

Jesus showed us an example of blessing others by doing the unexpected. Foot-washing duty was unpleasant and usually reserved for the lowest servant in the household. The disciples were taken back by Jesus' actions and they questioned him. What was his response? When you bless someone unexpectedly, it could open the door for a conversation. What will you say if you are asked why you did what you did? Note: knowing Judas would betray him, Jesus still washed his feet. Why?

11 / Wed – Bless how? | Read [Hebrews 3:12-14](#)

Words of affirmation or encouragement are one of the easiest ways to bless another person. They build people up in a world that consistently tears them down. Acts of kindness show others that you notice them, that they matter. An unexpected gift can send the message that you care about and value that person. And don't forget about the children in your life; a card in the mail can make their day! What are some other ways you can bless the people who cross your path daily?

12 / Thu – Bless who? | Read [Luke 6:27-28 and 23:34](#)

It might be easier to bless people we like or someone we meet in passing. But what about others, those who are crabby or sarcastic or unfriendly or you might even consider as enemies? Is there someone in your life like that? Maybe it helps to think about what Jesus expressed on the cross. People don't always understand how their actions affect us but God's word is specific regarding how we are to treat them. What is more surprising than blessing those who don't 'deserve' it?

13 / Fri – Bless regardless of the outcome | Read [Luke 6:32-36](#)

Have you ever blessed someone and had them misunderstand or not appreciate your efforts? It happens. In fact, it happened many times to Jesus while he walked on earth. Did he let that stop him from blessing everyone he could? God knows exactly who needs encouragement today. If you obey His promptings, God can use your words or actions to positively impact a person's life. You might not see the good that happens but you will still be a part of it. What a thought!

14 / Sat – Keep on blessing | Read [Matthew 7:12](#)

Who did you bless this week? _____

What did you do or say? _____

What was their response? _____

How did these experiences impact you? _____

Will you take the challenge to make this a weekly habit for the next five weeks and record the results? Start thinking of three more people you can bless next week and see what happens!