

Name _____

Introduction to the series:

A Life Transformed (1 Peter) – Weeks 5-8

We live in a culture where you are your own boss, and you do what you want. Peter's first letter shows us another way to live – *A Life Transformed*. In this next section of the series, Peter wants us to know that this transformed life has a different way of honoring authority and that we demonstrate God's authority over our lives by submitting to the earthly authorities. Peter encourages us to transform the way we honor authority in all of society as well as in our marriages. This transformation will allow us to live a life where we are blessed because we are a blessing. It is my prayer that you will allow your life to be transformed as Paul wrote to the church in Romans 12:2: *"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."*

Bendiciones, David Spalding

Campus Pastor – Calvario



A Life Transformed

(1 Peter)

Week 7

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.

4G Series - 2021 - www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html

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Using The 4G Guide

Each week is divided into four sections:



Gathering Time

God calls us to worship together. On Sunday mornings we gather (in person or online) to worship, hear God's message, and be challenged to apply His word. This booklet includes weekly sermon guides.



Group Time

We learn from one another! Each week, either on Sundays or at various other times, 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet features weekly Group Time outlines simple enough for anyone to facilitate. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page. *



God Time

Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we have written five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once the devotional time is finished, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day.



Family Time

Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple, once-a-week devotionals just for families. In addition to the weekly outline, video or story guide links may be posted on our 4G web page* to help get the conversations flowing.

* 4G Groups, video links, resources, and 4G Guides are posted weekly on our 4G web page: www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html



The 3-Step Encouragement Process

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Choose partners. Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, triplets are OK, but you need to work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	1) "Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?"	These are "Yes" or "No" questions.
	2) "Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?"	Any hesitations or "Well..." responses are circled "No."
	3) "Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or discipled. • If not, leave the line blank.
	4) "Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?"	
	5) "Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week?" (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other. No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!



Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Be A _____

- How Will You _____?*

- _____
- _____
- _____

[illegible]

WEEK 7: BE A BLESSING



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 / Date: _____

Y / N Y / N _____

_____ _____

LOOK BACK:

Point: *If I give up something temporary to help people find eternity, everyone wins!*

- Review last week's lesson. What did you decide to apply? How were you blessed?

Question: Look up the definition of *benevolent*. If you were made king of the world, what is the first thing you would do as a benevolent king? (Enjoy the music while you discuss.)



LOOK UP: Watch this week's Group Guide video on our 4G web page.

Recap: As Jesus' ambassadors, it is our job to change the world. One way we can do this is by being a blessing to others. To do this takes attitude, action, and focus.

The right attitude requires unity, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind – sounds like Jesus. The right actions mean that we don't give people what they deserve, we give them what we need, what Jesus gave us – forgiveness and grace. The right focus involves every part of our lives – thoughts, words, and deeds – working together to bless others. A lifestyle of right attitude, action, and focus promises a blessed life.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- When serving with a mission or ministry, how did your attitude towards those you were serving change over time? Did it change from judgmental to blessing?
- Go around the group and list some of your gifts and skills that could be used in mission or ministry to bless our community.
- List some mission or ministry activities that your group could do to be a blessing in our community.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *To be blessed, be a blessing!*

Be A Blessing To Someone today!

- A list of the gifts and skills in our group:

Name

Gift/Skill

- List of mission or ministry activities we can do to be a blessing:

- Pray over these lists this week and next week decide on a mission or ministry activity you can do as a group this month.

Pray for one another to prepare to be a blessing.

WEEK 7: BE A BLESSING

God Time Day 1 – How to Change the World God's Way



Many conflicts between people are over HOW to make the world a better place. Even when finishing our Pledge of Allegiance – with liberty and justice for all – we might be thinking, “at least for my people.” Peter speaks to this struggle from his experience as a Jewish man who lived his whole life under Roman oppression. Before we look at what Peter says, let’s look further back in God’s word:



Read Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God reminds us that our ways and thoughts are not His ways and thoughts – they’re not even on the same level as His. And He wants us to recognize that His way is better.



Read Proverbs 14:12 (also in 16:25)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Everyone who advocates for a better world has their own idea of the right way to accomplish it. Underline what this verse in Proverbs says is the result (*end*) of human ways?

In our efforts to make things better, we will be tempted to use human logic, science, economics, and other arguments to pressure others to do things our way.

God has a different – higher – way to change the world. That way is by being a blessing.

This week we will look at how to be a blessing. An approach that relies not on wielding power, but on gentleness, kindness, and love. We will see how we are meant to be like Him and meant to be a blessing!



Write a prayer expressing your willingness to follow God’s way of changing the world when you are tempted to use power instead of blessing others.

God Time Day 2: Qualities of Blessing



When we turn away from using the world’s methods to force change, we can choose the ways of blessing.



Read 1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Peter lists five qualities we need to have. Each of them reflects the way of blessing and stands in contrast to the world’s ways. Read about each of them. You might also look up the other verses provided for each quality:

1. *Unity of mind* – we are not all the same, but we all seek the same blessing (see Psalm 133:1)
2. *Sympathy* – we put ourselves in someone else’s place, to understand how they feel (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-5)
3. *Brotherly love* – we care for each other like family (see Romans 12:10)
4. *Tender heart* – we open our heart to others (see Ephesians 4:32)
5. *Humble mind* – we put others ahead of self (see Philippians 2:3)

Think back to a time when someone attempted to force, nag, or manipulate you to change your beliefs or behavior.

Do you feel that their attempts reflected the five qualities listed above?

What was the result of your interaction with them? Did you change anything?



What if they had exhibited the five qualities listed above towards you? Would you have been more open to their opinions or instruction? How different would your interaction have been with them?

Which of the five blessing qualities will you work on this week? How will you do so?

WEEK 7: BE A BLESSING

God Time Day 3 – Action of Blessing



Read 1 Peter 3:9 NIV

⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Underline how we are to “repay evil.”



Circle the result of this different way of living.

It is so easy to express normal human reactions: when someone yells at us, we tend to yell back; when they talk bad about us, well – you get the idea. As we learned in Proverbs 14 from Day 1, this cycle of revenge leads to death and is not at all effective at making the world a better place.



Think about that person you know who is always making nasty comments. Prepare a response that would bless them. For example, you might offer to pray for them or their situation.

God Time Day 4 – Attitude of Blessing



Read 1 Peter 3:10-12

¹⁰ For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

An attitude of blessing takes work in this evil world. The following sayings highlight the progression from our thoughts to our destiny and the power of our words.

Watch your thoughts, for they become words.

Watch your words, for they become actions.

Watch your actions, for they become habits.

Watch your habits, for they become character.

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.



Pray, asking God to focus your thoughts on being a blessing.

God Time Day 5 – Reward of Blessing



Read 1 Peter 3:13

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

A casual reading of this verse might raise objections about how many people have been harmed for doing good. God is not promising that nothing hurtful will happen to those who pursue good and seek to be a blessing; the point of the verse is that there is no power greater than God and no permanent (eternal) harm can come to those who are following His ways – not even if they are killed.

Another verse (Romans 8:31b) says the same thing another way: *If God is for us, who can be against us?*

When we remember that no power can prevent God from blessing His people, it leaves us free to focus on how we can bless others and trust God to bring about transformative change in the world.

Blessing through Giving: What gifts can you share with others for their benefit – time, skills, finances?



Write one gift you will share this week:

Blessing through Encouragement: Examples of ways to encourage others:

- Emphasize something good you see in someone.
- Share how God brought you through a similar challenge.
- Share a Bible story about God’s blessing in hard times.

Write the name of one person you will encourage this week:



How you plan to do so (review the five qualities from Day 2)?

Whether through words or actions, being a blessing always points others to Jesus.



Family Time

Main Idea:

Be a blessing.



Key Verse: 1 Peter 3:8-9 NIV

⁸ Finally, I want all of you to agree with one another. Be understanding. Love one another. Be kind and tender. Be humble. ⁹ Don't pay back evil with evil. Don't pay back unkind words with unkind words. Instead, pay back evil with kind words. This is what you have been chosen to do. You will receive a blessing by doing this.

Set it Up:

Does anyone know what the word blessing means? It means "something promoting or contributing to happiness, well-being, or prosperity." Those are a few big words. Let us watch this video to help us understand better what a blessing is.



Watch: Week 7 Video

This week's video is on the playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link under the Family Guide section.



Discuss:

Based on what we just saw, what is the answer to the question: What does the word *blessing* mean? God wants us to bless others. What are ways we can bless each other in our family? How can we bless people who are not in our family? How can we bless people we do not know?



Family Activity:

We have the opportunity to be a blessing to others by making blessing bags today. This has been a tough year for so many.

Blessing Bags, also known as Necessity Bags or Care Kits, include a variety of items for people who are homeless, hungry, and in need of basic items. We can keep these bags in our cars to offer when we see someone asking for help.

Below are some ideas of items you can get to make the blessing bags. After you get everything, set it out on a table and form an assembly line. Then stock your car(s) with them.

Always ask someone first if they would like a bag. (Maybe it goes without saying, but please don't toss it out your car window at anyone.)

- Socks
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush + Toothpaste
- Comb/brush
- Shampoo
- Lip balm
- Face/body wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Bottled water
- First-aid kit with single-dose packs of Advil, band-aids, and antibiotic ointment.
- Peanut butter crackers
- Applesauce
- Granola bar
- Mints
- Gallon-sized zip-top bags to hold everything.

