

April 25 The promise of blessing Numbers 6. 22-27 Life Group questions

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.'

So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

- 1 Read the words of the blessing over each other, slowly, than spend some time in silence, letting the blessing soak into your spirit.
- 2 If you wish, share how this blessing communicates God's intimate favour towards you, personally.
- 3 In 'The Way of Blessing', page 133, Roy Godwin writes: *The desire of God to bless us is made explicit when God tasks Aaron to declare his blessing over the people. The fruit of the blessing and favour of God that flows from it is grace, mercy, protection and peace. There will be concrete outcomes. This is not a blessing for nice feelings - it is a blessing for the nitty-gritty realities of life.*

What does it mean for you, to receive God's grace and mercy, his protection and his peace in 'the nitty-gritty realities of life'?
- 4 What does it mean, for the Lord's face to shine upon us? What effect should that have on us? Turn to 2 Corinthians, and read chapter 4 verses 4-6, then chapter 3 verse 18, and finally chapter 5 verses 16-20. Trace the stages: we see the glory of God in the face of Jesus; the more time we spend time in his presence, the more we should reflect that glory; this changes how we view other people, and makes us 'Christ's ambassadors', seeking to bring others to him. Is this our experience? How can we encourage each other?
- 5 We are blessed to be a blessing. How can we be a blessing, practically, 'in the nitty-gritty'?

You might like to end by listening to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quPGSZ1xEnQ>