

Teen Devotion

Year C – Epiphany 6

Uncovered



One truth shared: The wisdom of the world is turned upside down, and the one we are to trust is uncovered.

But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Uncovered Blessings

It is all upside down.

We show up at school, and they try to make us smarter and give us more wisdom. They tell us that this will ensure our success in the future. “Just graduate from high school,” they say. “Just get a degree,” they tell us. “That’s the way to success.”

We’re told to surround ourselves with good counselors and advisors. We’re told to seek out trustworthy people to put in our corner. We’re encouraged to save up as much as we can for our financial future, have a strong security plan, and so on. We must make ourselves safe and sound.

That’s what we’re told by the people around us. But then God’s says something rather upside down. He tells us that it’s no good to trust in people or to draw our strength in flesh and blood. He says that this is the sure way to ensure we will *not* see prosperity.

Truth is, there’s nothing wrong with wisdom and learning, but we can’t count on it to protect us. There is nothing wrong with making good plans for our future, but those things dare not be our security. To lean on these things as if they were the ultimate thing is only to set us up for a downfall.

That’s why Jeremiah turns the tables for us so that we know where to find our blessing. He shows us that only when we trust in our God can we be sure that we will never face a downfall. Only when we trust in him are we rooted and grounded. Only when we trust in him are worries erased.

He is our Rock. He is our Savior. He is immovable. He assures us that when we trust in him, we cannot and will not lose. In him, all things are right again.

Prayer: Lord God, thank you for turning my attention to you. You are my Rock. You are my Savior. You are immovable. Help me to turn to and trust in you above all other things. Amen.

Foundations Teen Facilitators Guide

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Uncovered Blessings

Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- What would have to happen in your life for you to consider yourself “blessed”?

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they’ve looked at it.*

- Evaluate the “blessed” life you just described. What exactly made it so “blessed?” (For example: Education? Money? People? Stuff?)

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Read Luke 6:20-22. List the blessings. Hint: The blessings start with the word “for.”
- Identify the “blessed” people. What exactly does each one mean?
- Compare what you called “the blessed life” to what Jesus says is the “blessed life.”
- What does it mean to be “blessed”?
- Read Jeremiah 17:7-8. Why is it blessed to trust in the Lord?
- What sort of life does he promise to us? What can you expect in life when you trust in the Lord? Does this mean you’ll never face hard times?

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.*

- In Greek mythology, Atlas was condemned to carry the weight of the world on his shoulders. How does a greater trust that the Lord carries the weight for us connect to us experiencing a blessed life?