
Worship in Spirit and Truth:
“Blessed and Sent by God’s Good Word”
Numbers 6: 22-27 and Romans 15: 13

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“We wonder, *What does worship have do with my work?* . . . The work we do together each week in gathered worship transforms and sends us into the work we do in our homes and offices . . . we are people who are blessed and sent; this identity transforms how we embody work and worship in the world, in our week, even in our small day.” - Tish Harrison Warren

“In the daily rhythms for everyone everywhere, we live our lives in the marketplace of this world: in homes and neighborhoods, in schools and on farms, in hospitals and businesses, and our vocations are bound up with the ordinary work that ordinary people do. We are not great shots across the bow of history; rather, by simple grace, we are hints of hope.” - Steve Garber

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” - C.S. Lewis

“The Benediction is not simply a conclusion but is also a reminder to God’s people that they start this new week with assurance of his Blessing. God will provide for them to accomplish all that he calls them to do. Christ’s grace is not merely for the context in the church, but for all of life unfolding before his people until God’s kingdom is on earth as it is in heaven.” - Bryan Chapell

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- After reading through the passage together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passages and why it strikes them.
- Bryan Chapell asserts that the Benediction is blessing rather than just a scripture verse with a nice sentiment to bookend the service. What’s distinction he’s making? Why is it important? What is the comfort and power of the Benediction for you?
- What is the significance of being blessed and sent by God into a new week? What is the logic of that order: blessed and then sent? What would be different if it was reversed?
- Tish Warren writes about the connection of our worship and our work. Where are you tempted to think that your work and daily, ordinary rhythms do not matter much? How does God’s weekly blessing and commissioning inform your everyday tasks?
- When have you experienced God’s keeping you, making his face shine upon you, giving you his peace?
- God’s last word for you every week is blessing - not scrutiny, judgment, or ambivalence. How does that embolden you to face the brokenness of the here and now and work for the Kingdom to come, the world for which you were made?