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– Uttalt velsignelse skaper
forvandling

GROUP LEADER
GUIDE



Jeg vil velsigne dem GROUP LEADER GUIDE
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TILGANG TIL VIDEOSERIE

Link: proklamedia.no/video

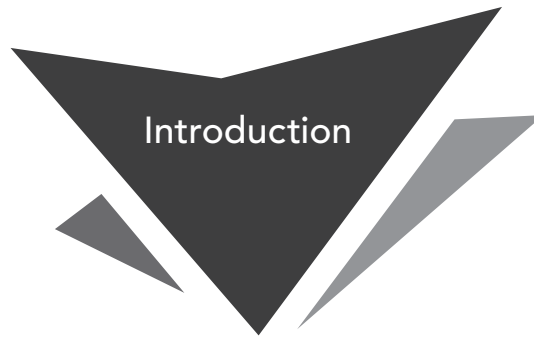
Tilgangskode: VelsigneDem



Skann koden med mobilkameraet

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YOUR GUIDE TO LEADING THE BLESSINGS COURSE SESSIONS

Welcome to your role as a group leader for the Blessings Course!

You may be relieved to hear that you are not supposed to be the person with all the experience or the answers to every question!

Your role is to:

- seek to be in a clean and clear relationship with God and ask for His help
- read through the written material for each session carefully and prayerfully prior to meeting—this will only take a few minutes but will really help you.
- pray privately beforehand for each group member, that they may sense God's love for themselves
- guide everyone through the outline of each session
- access the appropriate video and have it on standby, playing it where indicated
- welcome each person's comments and responses non-judgementally
- stick to the contents of each session and do not get side-tracked
- encourage each participant to meet for every session
- record the stories, experience and testimony of blessing from every session as a later reminder for them, and for yourself

The goal of the Course material is to see each participant:

- moving deeper into the consciousness of God's love and acceptance of them
- knowing that they are not only secure, but are called into personal ministry
- understanding the fundamentals of the ministry of spoken blessing
- learning and practicing with each other within the group
- putting blessing in Jesus' name into practice outside of the group
- incorporating spoken blessing firmly into their daily lives

Having completed the Course, pray about how you personally are going to put everything into practice for the rest of your days, as you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Who Should Be in Your Group?

It may be that people are assigned to your group. Otherwise, you should learn to become comfortable with the Blessings Course by taking committed Christians through it first.

You could move on towards leading it with a group where two thirds are committed Christians and the other third are not. Then towards a group where only you and a colleague are already believers.

Then progress to a group where no-one except you and an assistant are committed Christians. In this case, you need to add a very simple introductory session for those who are invited. Keep it extremely relaxed, avoiding all religious-sounding language and vocabulary.

Simple Outline for an Informal Introduction to the Course

- Welcome the other participants.
- Introduce yourself briefly, giving them an opportunity to see that you are OK.
- Demonstrate what a simple blessing sounds like.
- Demonstrate it on someone who has agreed to it—never jump on someone unexpectedly.
- Ask if anyone would like to receive a blessing and—bless them. Offer to bless their spouse, if they are there, or their homes. If their spouse is absent, or it's for their home, say that you will gladly make a ten-minute appointment with them in order to bless their life situation.

Demonstrating a Blessing

Keep such a blessing brief and clear. Like the participants, you will learn more about blessing as you work through the material and videos with them. For the present: eyeball to eyeball,

“I bless you in Jesus’ name, that God’s gift of love, joy and peace may touch you now. May he release everything that you need in order to live the best and most purposeful life that you can possibly have”

is enough for a person.

For a home, keep it simple and brief. Eyes wide open (you are speaking a blessing, not a prayer)

“I bless this home in the name of Jesus, that it may be filled with his presence. May it be a place of love, joy, acceptance, forgiveness and peace.”

No more is necessary at this stage.

What you are praying for internally is that as many of those present will say yes and receive a blessing. God will touch them, and they will discover that there is no weird incantation, or strange religious vocabulary. In short, that there is nothing to be afraid of.

Explain the Framework of the Sessions

Scripture

Prayer

Video—Roy Godwin

Review—what struck about what was said

Reflect—other insights the participants may have

Key insights—bringing together the main items from video and group reflection

Prayer

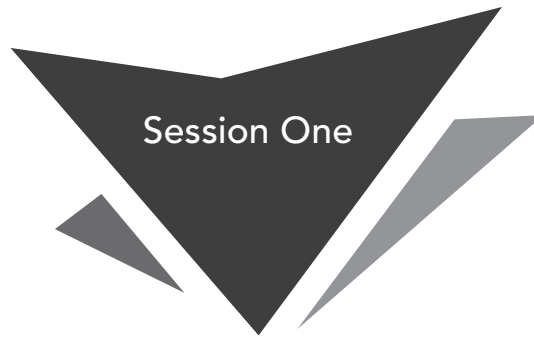
Suggested at-home activities—including prayer and reading

Other Key Thoughts

Consider how you will encourage every participant to participate in some way.

Encourage feedback of participants’ experience of practising these Blessing ideas between each session.

The instructions in this Group Leader Guide are often the same for each session, but will always have small but important details for each session that are different each time. We encourage you to read the instructions for each session rather than relying on your own memory.



THE GOD WHO BLESSES

Welcome the Group

- Remind them that they may want to have a pen ready for note taking.
- Let them know that during the *Review*, *Reflect* and *Prayer* sections they are under no pressure to share but their contributions will be welcome.
- Read or communicate the short introductions in the course outline as you progress through it.

Scripture and Prayer

To settle everyone down you may want to read the initial scripture.

The prayer is an old hymn. Your group may feel comfortable singing it. Or you could read it. When you are preparing it if you think of someone else who would read it well, then ask them beforehand. Another possibility is to ask for four volunteers to read one verse each. Suggest that everyone else close their eyes and savour the words.

Play Video

SESSION ONE

Have this ready so you can just press the button—it helps keep people focused. Introduce it using the words suggested in the book (or participants booklet).

Review and Reflect

10 to 12 MINUTES AS A GUIDELINE

Take short, headline notes of what people say, with an emphasis on their insights into the character of God and why He wants to bless His creation and all within it. You will use these during the *Focus* part of the study. Feel free to participate with your own insights but place an emphasis on contributions from several in the group.

Focus

10 to 12 MINUTES MAXIMUM

You may want to read the Going Deeper material found at the end of this session's outline, before the meeting, as a background to this aspect of the study and to inform your own thinking.

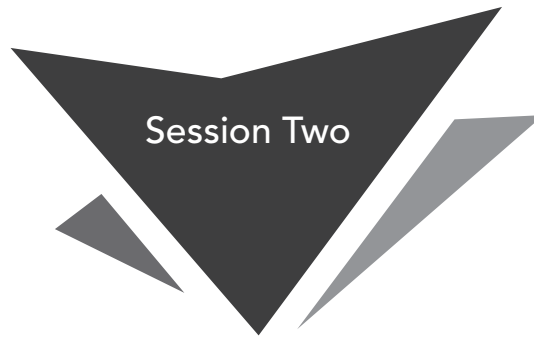
At this point you are seeking to offer a summary of the contributions from the *Focus* and *Reflect* sections. The *Key Insights* material then provides supporting scriptures and a deeper look into the content of this session. You might find that several of the following points have already been mentioned in your group discussions. You could put a small tick beside those as they are mentioned and then when you have reminded people about them, share the other points that have not been mentioned.

Pray

You read the lines in lighter text, asking the whole group to declare together the bold lines.

Wait until you are ready to close the study before highlighting the *Life Activity*—send people out with this as a commission for the next few hours or over the days until you meet again.

Remind people to read the Going Deeper material during the next few days.



BEING BLESSED

Welcome the Group

- Remind them that they may want to have a pen ready for note taking.
- Let them know that during the *Review*, *Reflect* and *Prayer* sections they are under no pressure to share but their contributions will be welcome.
- Read or communicate the short introductions in the course outline as you progress through it.

Play Video

SESSION TWO

Have this ready so you can just press the button—it helps keep people focused. Introduce it using the words suggested in the book (or participants booklet).

Review and Reflect

10 to 12 MINUTES AS A GUIDELINE

Take short, headline notes of what people say, with an emphasis on their insights into the character of God and why He wants to bless His creation and all within it. You will use these during the

Focus part of the study. Feel free to participate with your own insights but place an emphasis on contributions from several in the group.

Focus

10 to 12 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Here you are seeking to offer a summary of the contributions from the *Focus* and *Reflect* sections. *Key Insights* material provides supporting scriptures and a deeper look into the content of this session. You might find that several of the following points have already been mentioned in your group discussions. You could put a small tick beside those and then when you have reminded people about them, share the other points that have not been mentioned.

Key Insights

You will cover many of these from your notes. Just reading them out is not suggested as some will start to be less attentive.

Pray

You or someone you have asked should read the **Psalm 103** passage if that is the option you choose. Then encourage the people to pray. At the right time conclude with a final prayer.

Wait until you are ready to close the study before highlighting the *Life Activity*—send people out with this as a commission for the next few hours or over the days until you meet again.

Remind people to read the Going Deeper material for this chapter as part of their reflection on the discussion they just took part in.



CALLED TO BLESS

Welcome the Group

- Remind them that they may want to have a pen ready for note taking.
- Let them know that during the *Review*, *Reflect* and *Prayer* sections they are under no pressure to share but their contributions will be welcome.

Guide them as you transition from one activity to another—this helps people feel secure in the small group context.

Scripture and Prayer

It will often help if you read the first scripture. It starts your time together in a familiar way. Check the prayer suggestion and be ready to guide the group. Clear instruction helps people feel secure.

Play Video

SESSION THREE

Have this ready so you can just press the button—it helps keep people focused. Introduce it using the words suggested in the book (or participants booklet).

Review and Reflect

10 to 12 MINUTES AS A GUIDELINE

Take short, headline notes of what Roy says in the video and what people say in the discussion, with an emphasis on their insights into our mission in the world as partners in the mission of God. You will use these during the Focus part of the study. Feel free to participate with your own insights but place an emphasis on contributions from several in the group.

Focus

10 to 12 MINUTES MAXIMUM

Here you are seeking to offer a summary of the contributions from the *Focus* and *Reflect* sections. The *Key Insights* material provides supporting scriptures and a deeper look into the content of this session. You might find that several of the following points have already been mentioned in your group discussions. You could put a small tick beside those and then when you have reminded people about them, share the other points that have not been mentioned.

Key Insights

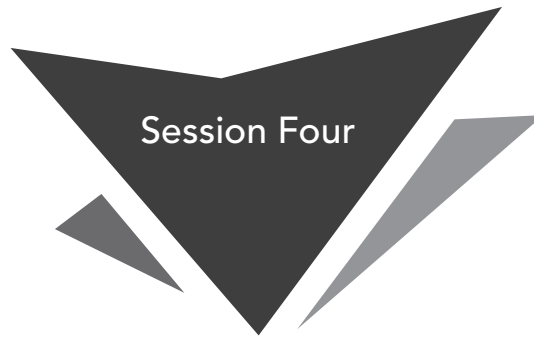
These may be mentioned in the points that are covered under the *Focus* heading. Suggest people read them slowly at a later time.

Pray

If you use the prayer then lead the group in saying it together.

Wait until you are ready to close the study before highlighting the *Life Activity*—send people out with this as a commission for the next few hours or over the days until you meet again.

Encourage the group to read the Going Deeper material during the week ahead to affirm and flesh out what they have just learnt.



BLESSING THE PERSON IN FRONT OF YOU

Welcome the Group

- Remind them that they may want to have a pen ready for note taking.
- Let them know that during the *Review*, *Reflect* and *Prayer* sections they are under no pressure to share but their contributions will be welcome.
- Give direction throughout as to the next activity.

Scripture and Prayer

It will help if you read the first scripture. It starts your time together in a familiar way. Check the prayer suggestion and be ready to guide the group. Clear instruction helps people feel secure.

Play Video

SESSION FOUR

Have this ready so you can just press the button—it helps keep people focused. Use the suggested introduction in the course book. This helps people start to organise what they are hearing in a coherent way.

Review and Reflect

10 to 12 MINUTES AS A GUIDELINE

Take notes of key points in the presentation from Roy. Take short, headline notes of what people say in the *Review* and *Reflect* segments. You will use these during the Focus part of the study. Feel free to participate with your own insights but place an emphasis on contributions from several in the group.

Focus

10 to 12 MINUTES MAXIMUM

You may also want to read the Going Deeper material, before the meeting, as an aid for this section.

Here you are seeking to offer a summary of the contributions from the *Focus* and *Reflect* sections. The *Key Insights* material provides supporting scriptures and a deeper look into the content of this session. You might find that several of the points have already been mentioned in your group discussions. You could put a small tick beside those and then when you have reminded people about them, share the other points that have not been mentioned.

Key Insights

These are a guide for you and the participants. It can be read more reflectively by them at a later time.

Bless

The activities for this study need an introduction—read carefully before the study so you are comfortable with what you need to outline.

Wait until you are ready to close the study before highlighting the *Life Activity*—send people out with this as a commission for the next few hours or over the days until you meet again. Suggest that if they go out on a blessing walk, as part of their response they take their manual with them as a reminder of how they might bless.

Remind people to read the Going Deeper material to aid their understanding of what they have just reflected on.



BLESSING COMMUNITIES, REGIONS AND NATIONS

Welcome the Group

- Remind them that they may want to have a pen ready for note taking.
- Let them know that during the *Review*, *Reflect* and *Prayer* sections they are under no pressure to share but their contributions will be welcome.

Scripture and Prayer

It will often help if you read the first scripture. It starts your time together in a familiar way. Check the prayer suggestion and be ready to guide the group. Clear instruction helps people feel secure.

Play Video

SESSION FIVE

Have this ready so you can just press the button—it helps keep people focused. Use the suggested introduction to help orientate people to the subject today.

Review and Reflect

10 to 12 MINUTES AS A GUIDELINE

Take short, headline notes of what Roy and the people in the group say, with an emphasis on their insights into what the Bible says about His work in people, areas and nations. You will use these during the *Focus* part of the study. Feel free to participate with your own insights but place an emphasis on contributions from several in the group.

Focus

10 to 12 MINUTES MAXIMUM

You may want to read the Going Deeper material for this session before the meeting as a background to this focus material.

Here you are seeking to offer a summary of the contributions from the *Focus* and *Reflect* sections. The *Key Insights* material provides supporting scriptures and a deeper look into the content of this session. You might find that several of the following points have already been mentioned in your group discussions. You could put a small tick beside those and then when you have reminded people about them, share the other points that have not been mentioned.

Key Insights

These need not all be read out—although some are worth mentioning if not covered in the Reflection section.

Pray

Wait until you are ready to close the study before highlighting the Life Activity—send people out with this as a commission for the next few hours or over the days until you meet again.

Use the following instructions in italics to guide the group through the group prayer activity for this session.

Ask the group if any have a connection with the places listed in the Life Activity section and get them to share briefly.

Use the blessings in the Life Activity section that are relevant. Encourage people to speak their own blessings into different aspects of the life of the place in question. They could mention named places, specific people or people with responsibilities such as schoolteachers, policemen or women, judges or those working in social services.

Remind people to read the Going Deeper material in their own private reading this week to gain further insight and understanding.



BLESSING PHYSICAL GROUND

Welcome the Group

- Remind them that they may want to have a pen ready for note taking.
- Let them know that during the *Review*, *Reflect* and *Prayer* sections they are under no pressure to share but their contributions will be welcome.

Play Video

SESSION SIX

Have this ready so you can just press the button—it helps keep people focused.

Review and Reflect

10 to 12 MINUTES AS A GUIDELINE

Take short, headline notes of what people say, with an emphasis on insights into how God desires to bless and restore the creation order, not merely those who inhabit it. You will use these during the *Focus* part of the study. Feel free to participate with your own insights but place an emphasis on contributions from several in the group.

Focus

10 to 12 MINUTES MAXIMUM

You may want to read the Going Deeper pages for this chapter as a background to this aspect of the study.

Here you are seeking to offer a summary of the contributions from the *Focus* and *Reflect* sections. The *Key Insights* material also provides supporting scriptures and a deeper look into the content of this session. You might find that several of the points have already been mentioned in your group discussions. You could put a small tick beside those and then when you have reminded people about them, share the other points that have not been mentioned.

Key Insights

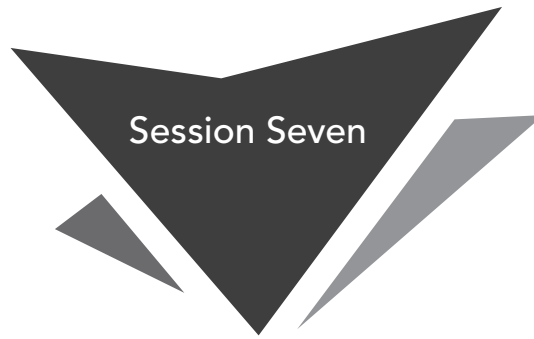
These are for your reference and the participants. You do not need to read all this material out but encourage people to read the insights in their own private reading.

Pray

You read the lines in lighter text, inviting the whole group to declare together the bold lines.

Wait until you are ready to close the study before highlighting the *Life Activity*—send people out with this as a commission for the next few hours or over the days until you meet again.

Remind people to read the Going Deeper material for this chapter during the next few days.



A NEW LIFE AND A NEW COMMUNITY

Welcome the Group

- Remind them that they may want to have a pen ready for note taking.
- Let them know that during the *Review*, *Reflect* and *Prayer* sections they are under no pressure to share but their contributions will be welcome.

Scripture and Prayer

It will often help if you read the first scripture. It starts your time together in a familiar way. Check the prayer suggestion and be ready to guide the group. Clear instruction helps people feel secure.

Play Video

SESSION SEVEN

Have this ready so you can just press the button—it helps keep people focused. Use the instruction found in the book.

Review and Reflect

10 to 12 MINUTES AS A GUIDELINE

Take short, headline notes of what people say, with an emphasis on their insights into the new creation community. You will use these during the *Focus* part of the study. Feel free to participate with your own insights but place an emphasis on contributions from several in the group.

Focus

10 to 12 MINUTES MAXIMUM

You may want to read the Going Deeper pages for this chapter to help you summarise what has been gleaned from the video and the discussion.

You might like to make your own notes—in brief sentences—of material that is relevant to this study about both community and the extent of the salvation gift that Jesus bought.

Here you are seeking to offer a summary of the contributions from the *Focus* and *Reflect* sections. The *Key Insights* material provides supporting scriptures and a deeper look into the content of this session. You might find that several of the following points have already been mentioned in your group discussions. You could put a small tick beside those and then when you have reminded people about them, share the other points that have not been mentioned.

Key Insights

These are mainly for reference and to illustrate the biblical foundations of all that we are covering in these studies.

Pray

The prayer activity may take you out of your comfort zone! Read the instructions carefully and you will be fine.

In Closing

Congratulations on leading participants through the Blessings Course.

Please encourage every participant to go through the Course again. It is amazing to hear from so many people that they learn so much more the second time around.

Please consider gathering another group of people together soon and lead them through the Blessings Course. You are growing in experience and faith every time you do it. You are a fellow-worker for the Kingdom of God! (Colossians 4:1).