

Count the Stars

“Strife”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: Thinking of the “Where’s the Beef” commercial, what’s something in life that looked big and satisfying on the outside—but when you experienced it, it turned out to be mostly empty?” (Examples: a purchase, a job, a goal, recognition, etc.)

Transition: *In the same way, our view of the Gospel can become ‘all bun, no beef’ when it’s centered on us instead of God.*

MAIN IDEA: ***The Gospel and Great Commission were proclaimed to Abraham, and in line with him, God blesses and calls us to glorify His name among the people groups of the world.***

GETTING THE POINT (Scripture references: Genesis 12:1-3/13/Romans 4/Galatians 3/Romans 15:20/Revelation 5:9-10)

1. Affluence & Perspective

How can affluence (money, comfort, success, stability) subtly shape the way we view ourselves, others, and God? Where do you see this in your own life?

2. Grace vs. Merit

In Genesis 13 and Romans 4, Abraham is blessed despite clear failures. Why is it important to understand that God’s blessing is not tied to our performance?

3. “Where’s the Gospel?” Lens

When you read Scripture, do you tend to look for what *you should do* or what *God has done*? How would your Bible reading change if you started by asking, “Where is God and His grace in this text?”

4. God’s Providence

In the separation of Abram and Lot, God is working behind the scenes. Can you think of a time when God used circumstances (even conflict or uncertainty) to guide or protect you for His name’s sake?

5. Blessed to Be a Blessing

God’s promise to Abraham was never just about him—it was about reaching all nations. What does it practically look like for you to live as someone “blessed to be a blessing to all nations”?

6. Mission & Obedience

The sermon emphasizes both “here and near” and “to the nations.” Which of those areas are you currently more engaged in—and which one might God be calling you to grow in?

APPLICATION CHALLENGE –

Let’s intentionally shift from a “me-centered” mindset to a “mission-centered” one:

- **Daily Ask:** “God, how can I be a blessing today?”
- **Personally:** Identify 5-6 people in your immediate circle (your “oikos”) who don’t know Christ—pray for them daily.
- **Action:** Look for one natural opportunity this week to pray over someone and share your faith.
- **Globally:** Spend time praying for Terang Nusa, the organization working in Indonesia among unreached peoples. Our Easter offering is being sent to support them, and the Missions Lead Team is considering a long-term partnership. They have six different regions with church planting teams across the country. They also have a team in Jakarta focused on millennial Muslims who have lost their cultural identity in the melting pot of the city.

Goal: Move from merely recognizing God’s blessings → to actively participating in God’s mission.