# Cursed to Bless

# God Blesses People

Episode: 1

Passage: Genesis 1-2

Characters: - Host - Sam - Pastor - Ben - Pete - Ruth - Kate - Boss (Owner of new business) # full\_only

Authors: - Martin Olmos - Richard Utber

Language: en-AU

### Intro

**ATMOS**: Theme music 5 sec, Host background music below host’s volume

**HOST**: Hello, this is Mary, your host. Welcome to Cursed to Bless, the show that asks a big question: Why is life so hard, when God is so good? We hear God blesses us, but how? Money, health, happiness? The answers are found in *Jesus*, in who he is and what he’s done. We see this when we read the Bible as *one big story*, with Jesus as the hero from start to finish.

**HOST**: In this episode, we learn that God is our supremely powerful and good Creator who blesses us abundantly.

**HOST**: Listeners, remember to pause when you hear the sound, so you can read the passage and answer the questions. Our first question is: when was a time you really enjoyed nature? How did you feel? Pause and discuss now.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**HOST**: Thank you.

### Bible Study

**FX**: Flasback Outro

**ATMOS**: Host background

**HOST**: Listeners, let’s listen to the friends’ Bible study. They were all sitting at Pastor’s house…

**FX**: Flashback Intro.

**ATMOS**: House living room

**PASTOR**: Welcome everyone. Let’s pray so that -

**PETE**: (Interrupting, excited, shouts aloud)
Oh Yes!!

**PASTOR**: Pete, are you finding the Bible passage on your mobile already?

**PETE**: (A bit embarrassed)
Oh, I was … checking the news –

**BEN**: … for tonight’s game! I can see the headline –

**PETE**: (Irritated)
Hey!

**PASTOR**: (Cheerful)
Ha! Pete, I love football too, but we need to pay attention in our group, so we can help each other learn. OK?

**PETE**: Yes pastor, I’ll try.

**PASTOR**: Thank you. Let’s pray first: “Dear Father, please help us listen carefully to your Word now, and learn together. In Jesus’ name…”

**ALL**: Amen.

**PASTOR**: Let’s review our memory verse from last time: Luke chapter 24, verse 27. I will read it out loud. When I pause, say the word that comes next, without looking at your Bible:

**FX**: In each ‘…’ gap below, Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**PASTOR**: (Leave a 2 second pause where you see ‘…’ and say the answer word with emphasis.)
“And beginning with … *Moses* and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the … *Scriptures* concerning … *himself*.”

**TRANSLATOR**: Replace this with text from the local Bible translation. Pick the same significant words for the gaps, as much as possible.

**PASTOR**: Thank you! Today, we’re reading Genesis chapter one, up to chapter two, verse three. Let’s read it together now.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**FX**: Flasback Outro

**ATMOS**: Host background

**HOST**: (Whispering to audience)
Listeners, please pause the audio and read together Genesis chapter one, up to chapter two, verse three. Keep the passage open so you can check it.

**FX**: Flashback Intro.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**PASTOR**: Thank you. Ruth, what are the main ideas in this passage?

**RUTH**: Well, God creates everything, and everything he makes is good!

**PASTOR**: Sam, did you notice *how* God created?

**SAM**: Uhmm, he just speaks, I think.

**PASTOR**: Yes! He’s so powerful, that his words create everything out of nothing.

**PETE**: Well, maybe the angels were helping him.

**BEN**: It looks like it’s all God’s work to me, and it’s *good* work. Not like fixing your bike, Pete; the more you talk, the more it breaks! Ha ha!

**PASTOR**: (Cheerful)
OK, OK, let’s get back to the Bible. What are some of the things God created?

**BEN**: Light, heaven, …

**RUTH**: … oceans, plants …

**SAM**: … sun and moon, …

**KATE**: … animals, and -

**PETE**: (Interrupting loudly, angry)
Referee!

**BEN**: What?

**PASTOR**: (Rebuking tone)
Pete, are you checking on the game again, instead of reading the Bible?

**PETE**: (Apologetic)
Sorry pastor – it’s the referee’s fault, he –

**PASTOR**: Pete…

**PETE**: (Apologetic)
Mmmm, I better turn it off.

**PASTOR**: Thank you Pete, let’s focus on the Bible. I’d like everyone to keep the passage open, so you can keep checking it as we talk. Pete, what does God create *last*?

**PETE**: (Doubtful)
Ahh, was it … grass?

**ALL**: (Snigger)

**PASTOR**: Look at the Bible my friend. Why guess when the answer is right in front of you? Who can help Pete?

**KATE**: Is it people, pastor? Adam and Eve.

**PASTOR**: Yes. God makes Adam and Eve in his own image – what a special honour! And then God *blessed* them so much. He gave them the joy of filling, ruling and looking after the world. He gave them *every* plant for food to enjoy. God’s world is full of good things. What a great gift! God is *super powerful*, and *super good!*

**RUTH**: This story feels like a beautiful song. God is such a good creator - it’s wonderful!

**PASTOR**: Yes! We learn even more about God’s goodness in our second passage: Genesis chapter two, from verse four till the end. Let’s read it together now.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then page flicking for 3 seconds.

**PASTOR**: What do you think of this passage?

**SAM**: Uhm, it sounds like God creating again. I thought creation was completed in chapter one?

**PASTOR**: Ahh. Good thought. But you know when you’re watching a football game and there’s an amazing goal that you just want to watch again?

**PETE**: (Excited)
Yeah! That happened last weekend! The midfielder was way back, and he did a long pass to the left winger, who –

**PASTOR**: (Interrupting)
OK, OK, thanks Pete. You see, day six of creation is like that. And Genesis chapter two is like a zoomed-in, slow-motion replay, so we can enjoy God’s goodness in more detail.

**KATE**: That’s great, because there are so many good things mentioned in chapter two! All the food, the water flowing out of Eden, a wife for Adam. So much to be thankful for.

**PASTOR:** Yes! This shows us what God wanted life to be like. Adam and Eve are living in the place God made for them and enjoying the wonderful blessings of his good rule over them. This is *so important* for the rest of the Bible. The Kingdom of God is all about God’s *people* in God’s *place* enjoying the *blessings* of God’s *rule*.

**BEN:** Wow! So when Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God, we can picture life in the garden!

**SAM**: Excuse me pastor. If God is so good, and he has blessed us so much, why is my life so hard? I feel like I’m under a curse!

**PASTOR**: I understand Sam. I’m glad you asked. We will learn the answer in our studies – so keep coming!

### Questions to Pastor and Application

**PASTOR**: OK, what questions would *you* like to ask? As I said last time, I like it when you ask questions. It shows me you want to learn more about our great God.

**KATE**: What does it mean that we are made in God’s image?

**PASTOR**: Ahhh, great question! From the context, in chapter one, verses 26 to 28, we see that God gives people the responsibility of ruling over his world. People are different from the rest of creation. They are special. Only people are made in God’s image. God is still the supreme Ruler of course, so people are to rule the world under his authority.

**PETE**: What about the seventh day, when God rested from his work? Was he tired?

**PASTOR**: Another great question! No, God doesn’t get tired. But the idea is that when God finished his work of creation his goal was to enjoy what he’d made, and particularly us! People! And he made the seventh day holy, or special, so that we could enjoy life together with him, forever! The Sabbath Day reminds us of this.

**BEN**: Pastor, these are the first chapters of the whole Bible. Does that make them special or important?

**PASTOR**: Yes! These chapters are like the Bible’s foundation! They show us what God is like and what people were made for. The rest of the Bible builds on these things.

**RUTH**: You said the whole Bible points us to Jesus. How do these chapters do that?

**PASTOR**: To answer that… Ben, please read John chapter one, verses one to three.

**TRANSLATOR**: In some cultures, it is common for a group to read aloud the Bible passage together. Feel free to adapt the script so the readings happen like that rather than individual readers.

**FX**: Page flicking for 3 seconds.

**BEN**: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

**TRANSLATOR**: Copy the text for these passages from your own language’s Bible translation instead of translating this text.

**PASTOR**: These verses clearly teach that “The Word” created everything. “The Word” was God and was with God! And then in John chapter one, verses fourteen to eighteen he tells us that the Word was Jesus. Jesus is the Creator God of Genesis! Paul says the same thing in Colossians chapter 1. You could read that when you get home. Our passage today, Genesis 1 and 2, point us to Jesus!

**PETE**: If God is so powerful and good, why did the world go bad? Perhaps the devil is stronger sometimes. Or maybe God keeps back some of his goodness?

**PASTOR**: That’s an important question! We’ll answer it in our next study, so please come.

**KATE**: Pastor, how does this passage help us now?

**PASTOR**: Knowing that God, our creator, is super powerful and super good is very helpful. We can trust him whatever is happening in our lives. He is worthy of all our love and worship and obedience.

**PASTOR**: OK, let’s talk about our own lives now. How can we love God and Jesus more?

**KATE**: I love singing at church. Sometimes, the words seem just what my heart wants to say, but I didn’t know how to say it.

**RUTH**: Yes! I like how we sing *together*. My love for God grows when I see others praising him with me.

**SAM**: When I look at the beautiful nature around our city, it reminds me of God’s greatness. He really does deserve our honour.

**PETE**: I felt love for God when I got my first bicycle. I hope he can give me a motorbike soon.

**BEN**: I’ve started a habit of thanking him when I wake up, when I eat a meal, and when I go to bed. Being grateful grows my love for God, because it helps me see how good he is to me.

**PASTOR**: Thank you everyone. Let’s read our memory verse on the whiteboard: Revelation chapter 4, verse 11. Let’s read it together now.

**ALL**: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

**PASTOR**: Let’s memorise that for our next lesson. Now, let me pray. Good Father, thank you for making us and the world - it’s beautiful! We praise you for your great power. Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Please help us live as your people in your world, enjoying the blessing of your rule. Most of all, help us to appreciate the blessing of Jesus. In Jesus’ name…

**ALL**: Amen.

**PASTOR**: Thank you everyone, see you next time.

**ALL**: Goodbye pastor.

### Interactive Questions

**FX**: Flashback outro

**HOST**: Listeners, let’s answer some questions now. Say your answer aloud.

**HOST**: Let’s start with a couple of easy ones. I will say some sentences. For each sentence, say ‘True’ if you agree, or ‘False’ if you disagree.

**HOST**: True or False: God has blessed us abundantly.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: True. Genesis chapters one and two shows us God’s abundant blessing to us.

**HOST**: True or False: At the start, we were made as God’s people.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: True. We were made as God’s people, living in God’s place, and enjoying the blessings of God’s rule.

**HOST**: True or False: Jesus wasn’t involved in creation.

**FX**: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence

**HOST**: False. Jesus, the Word, was with God and was God. God the Son created everything.

**HOST**: Here’s another question. What is God our creator like? Is he … *powerful and good* or *angry and stingy*?

**FX**: Response prompt, then 5 seconds silence

**HOST**: Powerful and good. God is the supremely powerful and good creator who blesses us.

**HOST**: I will list a few words. Say ‘yes’ if the word is one of the created things mentioned in today’s passage:
Sun [FX: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence] Yes.
Birds [FX: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence] Yes.
Planets [FX: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence] No.
People [FX: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence] Yes.
Referees[FX: Response prompt, then 2 seconds silence] No.

**HOST**: Discuss this question: what are some of the blessings that Adam and Eve would have enjoyed? Pause now.

**FX**: Pause prompt, then 5 seconds silence

### Outro

**FX**: Flashback outro

**HOST**: Listeners, now we’ve heard about Sam’s day, listen to what he prayed before going to sleep…

**ATMOS**: Soft prayer background effect (e.g. chimes) fade in

**SAM**: Dear God, Thank you for creating our world, and blessing it. Please help me remember all your blessings, and to love you more. Amen.

**ATMOS**: Prayer background fade out

**HOST**: Thank you for completing this lesson. We learnt that God is our powerful and good creator, who blesses us. Will you join me for our next lesson? We will learn that our disobedience against God was a terrible act of rebellion and unbelief which brought God’s curse upon us. Please read Genesis chapter three before then. Now you can discuss how this lesson matters in your life: How can we love God and Jesus more? Goodbye.

**FX**: Theme music fade out.