



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 6: Blessed

Suggested Week of Use: April 7, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 30:25-34,41-43

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### News Story Summary

An internet search of the phrase “pay it forward” yields rich results. Whether it is through grassroots efforts or formal campaigns, our culture seemingly embraces the idea of counting our blessings and then paying them forward by trying to bless others as we have been blessed. Examples of pay-it-forward activities range from buying a meal for the next random person in the fast-food line to blessing boxes erected in communities for easy distribution of food.

Last summer the hit film “Sound of Freedom” sold \$26 million in tickets through a pay-it-forward option that encouraged filmgoers to purchase tickets so other theatergoers could see the movie for free. The movie grossed more than \$250 million, making it the tenth highest grossing movie of 2023. The pay-it-forward tickets accounted for about nine percent of those sales. While the film and the pay-it-forward option sparked controversy in some circles, distributor Angel Studios has adopted the pay-it-forward model for other projects, including “The Chosen” TV series and the forthcoming film “Cabrini.”

For more about this story, search “Box office hit pay it forward.”

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, write the phrase “Pay it forward” on the board. Place adults into teams of two or three and invite the teams to create a definition of the phrase. After a few minutes, allow volunteers to share their definitions. Encourage the group to share times when they have engaged in a “pay it forward” activity or benefitted from one. Summarize the story about the pay-it-forward option exercised by Angel Studios. Allow the group to share their perspectives about the idea. Ask: **Is this a smart way to market a movie? Why or why not?** Note that today’s study focuses on ways we can appreciate our blessings and examines the ethics of garnering more material wealth.

### Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, ask the group to list some of their blessings. Invite adults to cite ways they have celebrated those blessings. Refer back to the idea of paying it forward. Ask: **What motivates people to pay it forward? How can you make it a part of your life?** Encourage the group to brainstorm pay-it-forward ideas. Challenge them to consider how they can glorify God for any blessings receive through such an initiative.