God's promise of blessing to Abraham was not just for him as an individual, but for the nation that will come out of him. God promised greatness, prosperity, health, wealth, peace, influence, dominion and every desirable endowment on earth not just to an individual but to a nation. In blessing, God had a nation in mind, and so should we. This is because national prosperity (as would national peace, security, liberty, etc) puts a limiting cap to individual prosperity. When a nation creates the enabling environment and opportunities for true development, the people are encouraged, inspired and empowered to maximize their potentials and exploit all resources. Such a nation is bound to prosper. The collective efforts of a people (each person contributing his own quota) for the benefit of all is what guarantees a better life for all than any singular or self-centered efforts. Today's discussion focuses on national prosperity and how we can make it happen.

Discussion

1. In a system that seems not concerned about my welfare, why should I be concerned about the welfare of others, the community or the nation? Discuss.

2. A nation's prosperity will depend on the contribution and efforts of each individual citizen. The following tips may be considered as you decide to take responsibility for national prosperity:
   - Have a vision for national prosperity  
     Jer 29: 4-7, 1Tim 2: 1-3
   - Identify with wholesome values (love, integrity, diligence, value for life, etc.)  
     Rom 12: 9-19
   - Be law abiding and a good example for others (Pay taxes, obey traffic laws, etc.)  
     Rom 13: 1-8, 1Tim 4: 12
   - Be pro-active and initiate actions that promote peace and development in the community or nation (speak out against injustice, start or join an NGO, etc.)  
     Isa 58: 6-8, Pro 31:8-9
   - Get involved in political affairs (Join a political party, vote at elections, etc)  
     Dan 2:46-49

Conclusion

As believers, the quest for prosperity should transcend our personal interests to cover the general well being and development of our immediate community and our nation. This is because as you seek the welfare and prosperity of all, your own welfare and prosperity gets firmly established. You will succeed in Jesus' name.
INTRODUCTION
For God so loved the world that He gave His only son. This is the greatest love that anyone can show to another. Today we are going to see how we can love always, whether we want to or not.

KIDDIES TALK BACK
Why do we need to love?
- To show that we love God
- To make others happy
- To be a blessing
- We love because God first loved us

MEMORY VERSE
"We love because He first loved us..." (1John 5:19)

PUZZLE
Love, Blessing, Happy, God, Sacrifice, Command
God's Purpose For Wealth

3John 1:1-3, 2Cor 9:8, Gen 12:2

Introduction:
Wealth is God's idea. However, many times we don't have access to this wealth because our reason for wanting this wealth is at cross-purposes with God's reasons. God doesn't bless us so we can selfishly keep it for ourselves and then show off to our peers and start acting like we are better than they are. Today we will discover God's purpose for this blessing in our lives.

Discussion:
1. John is from a wealthy home but quite arrogant and rude. To his peers at school, he is too pompous and quite over bearing. He lacks respect for the less privileged. How can John break free from this attitude and be a blessing to those around him and his community? (Luk 12:16-21, Prov 14:31)

2. “When the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable”. Below are some reasons why God wants us to prosper;
   · Understand that wealth is from God (Deut 8:18)
   · Love: See everyone as an extension of God (Matt 25:45-46)
   · Give to the needy and less privileged (Prov 19:17)
   · Just be a channel of blessing to others (Gen 12:2)

Conclusion:
As God blesses you, see that you do not allow self-centeredness and greed to work against God's purpose for blessing you.
You will succeed in Jesus' name.
Prosperity Is God's Idea II


Introduction

God’s plan for our lives is all round prosperity 3John 1:2. However, no matter how hard we try to succeed on our own, our efforts can only take us so far. Irrespective of how good a seed is, the condition of the soil will affect its productivity. Therefore, in order for us to enjoy this promised prosperity to the full in our businesses and career, we must be interested in the success and prosperity of our community-team members, bosses, organization, etc. as well.

When an organization prospers, the people therein would also prosper. However, when the organization is in turmoil, it could have an adverse effect on the employees. The focus of our discussion today is on how to develop a community prosperity consciousness to ensure prosperity of our individual businesses.

Discussion

1. Which sphere or industry in the nation would you want to be relevant? What visions or plans do you think can add value to our nation in that industry? Please share.

2. Having established that it is our responsibility to be passionate about the prosperity of our individual communities, below are some of the ways we can take practical steps in this regard:

   - Have a vision. Habakkuk 2:3 (Note that vision attracts provision).
   - Imbibe values that will ensure that the vision is accomplished. (For example, placing value on human life, will make you treat people with respect, love and excellence knowing that no one deserves less than an excellent service). Matt 12:7, Mark 12:33
   - Be ready to sacrifice for others and your community at large. Eph 5:2, Heb 13:16
   - Build yourself so your voice can be heard and given regard to in matters that affect organizational strategy and development. Prov. 22:29
   - Ensure your organization has prosperity consciousness as you attract what dominates your mind.

Conclusion

All round prosperity is God's promise to us and our seed. Since community prosperity impacts on individual prosperity, we must make a determined effort to live and build with a consciousness that when it is well with the community, it will also be well for our businesses. We must also not shy away from our responsibility as citizens of a larger community- our Nation. Therefore whatever area we have influence, let us work and continually pray for the peace of the nation as therein lies our peace.

You will succeed in Jesus' name, Amen.
Dorcas helped God by making clothes and giving food to poor people.