**Meaning of the Blessing – Group activity – By Barbara Stacey (about an hour)**

**Purpose: For members in the community, both young and old, to come together to reflect on the meaning of the blessing. It’s interesting because the blessing has a different internal meaning for 1st and 2nd gen.**

**Method: Print out and cut out the different quotes on the meaning of the blessing. Place the quotes in an envelope. One envelop for every two participants. In pairs they have to decide which three quotes best represent the meaning of the blessing for them. They also have to together write their own quote on the meaning of the blessing – covering an aspect of the blessing that wasn’t represented in their 3 primary choices. About 25 minutes.**

**Each pair then tells the coordinator their three primary choices and also gives the coordinator their own quote. The coordinator then shares the three most popular choices of the group that express the meaning of the blessing. Then the coordinator reads out each of the pair-created quotes… and seeks to find out which is the most popular.**

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| **1. The Blessing is the banner for the battle against the satanic world.** | **12. We get Blessed in order to bring joy to God by making our spouse happy** |
| **2. The meaning of the Blessing is to be understood through reading the Bible verse on the Marriage of the Lamb** | **3. To receive Blessing means that one’s sins are forgiven and relationship to God is restored** |
| **13. The meaning of receiving the Blessing is to fulfil the purpose of our lives: to perfect ourselves, to have good children and to have material resources to support the True Parents work of saving the world** | **6. Why do we get to the Blessing? In order to give the Blessing to others and see that the Blessing goes to the whole world.** |
| **7. What happens when you are blessed? You are restored to the level right before the Fall of Adam and Eve.** | **8. The Blessing is to give the qualification of tribal messiah to the couples. The bride and bridegroom become the small messiahs.** |
| **9. The marriage ceremony is the ceremony of inheritance of love, God’s love. Parents are living with parents’ love representing God’s love. With the order to live like this, marriage is the ceremony of inheritance. God’s love is inherited from the parents. ……** | **10. Through Blessing, couples are engrafted into God’s lineage, becoming part of the extended True Family. Each member of a Blessed Central Family has their own portion of responsibility to fulfil, namely living a life of true love that manifests God’s original true family ideal** |
| **11. The Blessing is given purely out of God’s love without any intention, just like the Sun gives light and warmth when it shines on the world.** | **4. Blessing is a core mission of the U.M and a process through which men and women come into union with one another, engraft to the True Parents, reconcile with God.** |

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| **15. The meaning of the Blessing is that two individuals : a man and a woman, voluntarily receive the challenge of calling the spirits of their ancestors to punish them to pay indemnity for their sins so that their children can be born without original sin** | **16. The Blessing Wedding Ceremony of the Unification Church is not simply a wedding through which a man and a woman come together and form a family. Participants of all major religions, all nations and races, come together to demonstrate the true way of peace…international, interracial and interreligious marriages are the only way to resolve all historic resentments and erase all human barriers with love.** |
| **17. Blessing is a school in which we are taught of the love God manifested for us on through Christ dying on the cross. Through Blessing of Marriage we are to grow in that love of God - a love which says one to another, "I will accept you even if at times you frustrate me, even though you come to me with a sign on your chest, 'Deny yourself and wash my feet.' "** | **18. The Blessing is to give the qualification of tribal messiah to the Couples. Father in place of God endows the Couples with the new mission of horizontal messiah. The bride and the bridegroom become the small messiahs, who are to accomplish the perfect ideal through the Blessing and they are sent to each nation as God’s special envoy. That is the meaning of the (….?) Blessing** |
| **5. The meaning of Blessing is to have children. Children are a blessing. God brings to us the reality in our children that *we* have been made the children of God. And God teaches us something of His love for His children in giving to us children** | **14. True Parents have received the absolute Blessing from God and come as God's physical representatives on the Earth to give that Blessing to others, changing the blood lineage from Satan to God. Blessing given to participating couples is called a moment of rebirth.** |
| **Pair-created quote – meaning of the blessing.** |  |