

COURSE SYLLABUS
Blessing 1 – Introduction to Blessing Principles – Middle School Course
And
Blessing 101 – Investigation of Blessing Principles – High School Course

Where did this Course come from?

This course(s) is the response to a mandate from God that I became aware of while I was mentoring some of our newly blessed, 2nd Generation Blessed Couples. During a 2-year period from 2004 – 2006, I had the honor of hosting a Blessing support group consisting of a number of younger 2nd Generation Blessed Couples. During this time, a realization grew within me that some of the struggles these young couples were facing could have been avoided, or at least quickly bypassed, had they entered the Blessing on the foundation of having received a solid education related to the meaning and course of the Blessing and a basic knowledge of how to respond to the challenges that occur in any marriage. Certainly a wealth of material related to these topics exists throughout the words and guidance of Our True Parents and there also exists a bounty of marriage support/enrichment material “out there”. The challenge lay in how to get such relevant material into the hands of those who could benefit from it at a time when they needed it and in a form they could understand and resonate with. Also, I am of the opinion that education related to these issues should start early, around the start of puberty – at the time when the spiritual consciousness of an individual is blossoming, and then keep pace with their growth of awareness of both their changing bodies and developing spirit. The following quote from the 47th Children’s Day speech by our True Parents is quite insightful:

“After we are born, we go through a process of growth. We pass through infancy and childhood in a very safe and secure environment under our parents' love and protection. We then enter the time of adolescence, which signals the start of a new and dynamic life as we forge relationships on a totally new level with those around us, as well as with all things of creation. This is the moment when we begin to travel the path to becoming an absolute human being-internally, through the perfection of our character, and externally, by reaching adulthood.”

Anyway, as this awareness grew within me, ideas started coming to me in response to the need I was seeing around me. I ended up presenting those ideas to my support group in the form an afternoon “talk”. One of the most striking pieces of feedback I received was from one sister who heard this talk. Basically she said to me, “Why didn’t anyone ever tell us this before?” Fast forward to a conversation I had with a dear sister while I was attending the “Smart Marriage Conference” in 2006. I had a chance to explain the content of my talk, to which she said – “Alice, you must write this down”! I hesitated but in the end, wrote a short novelette (16 pages) on the topic of “Blessing is Fulfilling God’s Purpose of Creation and Restoration”. But I digress, back to the origin of this course. During the time that the above dynamic was progression, I attended a program called “Smart Marriage Conference”. One of the result of my attendance at this Conference was that I was compelled to set down on paper a strategy and developed goals related to my Blessed Family Department and Second Generation Blessing Department ministries.

One of the goals I had was to develop the course you will be receiving (which incorporates much of the ideas that are contained in my novelette). This goal came in response to my “seeing” an obvious and compelling need for material related to the Blessing that could contribute to the preparation for the blessing that could be integrated into the existing education and fellowship venues and thus would be integrated with the daily life of our young people. I reasoned that rather than waste my time in “cursing the darkness” because of the seeming lack of material on the Blessing available to growing Second Generation, I should get busy and develop such a program, or “I should light a candle”. The preceding history was the genesis of these courses and the actual process of development has taken 7 months, beginning in September 18, 2006 and concluding on April 14, 2007, and involved some fellow visionaries, members of a curriculum committee (in alphabetical order – William Brunhofer, Yongil Fleisher, Cynthia Hiromitsu, David Mahardy, Rev. Michael Hentrich, Jas and Megan Smith and John Redmond. Also, the first group to hear this material will also participate in the further development of this course through their feedback and suggestions, especially Vicki Eagle, Naomi Hiromitsu, Ryan Mahardy and Kayo Tanimoto).

Why are we here and what will we be studying?

The Middle School course consists of 4 units – to be taught in a Sunday school venue on a yearly basis – on the following topics:

Unit 1: The Importance of Being Perfect

Unit 2: The Purpose of the Blessing

Unit 3: Cultural Comparison

Unit 4: The Value of Purity

The High School course consists of 12 units – 6 to be taught in a Sunday school venue on a yearly basis and 6 to be shared as a component of a youth fellowship program (in Denver the program is called VOICE) on a yearly basis – on the following topics:

Unit 1A and 2A: Presentation on the 3 Great Blessings

Unit 2A and 2B: The Course of the Fall

Unit 3A and 3B: The Purpose of the Blessing

Unit 4A and 4B: Getting Ready for the Matching and Blessing

Unit 5A and 5B: The Real Course of the Blessing

Unit 6A and 6B: Tools and Guidance for a Successful Blessing and Family = Tools for a Successful Spiritual Life.

Where are we going with this?

Hopefully, when each of you reaches that point in your life when you must decide about the Blessing, you will have a wealth of wisdom and understanding to draw and reflect upon and refer to. Further, once you stand as a Blessed Couple, hopefully this course (and others that may follow) will have given you tools and resources that can make your efforts on this path both successful and able to bear great fruit, resulting in your, your spouse's, your children's and God's Happiness!