

## Prophecyng Your Own Future

**Focus** When we live with gracious spirits towards others (like Jesus did) our favor and influence with them increases, ultimately drawing them to Him.

**Open** Did you make any New Year's resolutions? Which of them are you most likely to keep? To break?

**Read** God has a plan for our lives that, when followed, will result in remarkably blessed lives. God can only do what He intends to do in and through our lives when we live on His terms—described in the Word. The Bible ultimately calls us and shows us how to become more like Christ and to allow our spirits to become like His.

In Luke 6:36–38, Jesus instructs us to be liberal in grace—to be merciful, non-judgmental, accepting and giving towards others in our spirits. He promises that when we live in this way that “*men shall give into your bosom [lap].*” Living with a generous spirit towards others yields blessing and favor from them. As they are drawn to you, they are drawn to Christ—the One working *within* you.

- Talk**
1. Read Psalm 119:165. Describe what is promised to those who live according to God's Word (law)?
  2. a) What's the difference between just reading/knowing God's Word versus “submitting” ourselves to the Word? What is the result of each approach?  
b) How is this related to what Jesus says in Luke 6:36–38?

3. If you were to summarize in one word the attitude that Jesus wants us to have towards others, what would it be and why?
4. Few people would purposely pronounce condemnation or judgment over someone. What are subtle ways in which we may be harboring or demonstrating an attitude of condemnation or judgment towards others?
5. In what way is living according to God's Word "prophesying your own future"?

**Live**

1. Describe what you felt when you first encountered Jesus. What did you think His attitude and thoughts were towards you?
2. Ask the Lord if there is a person (or a group of people) towards whom you are harboring or demonstrating judgment or condemnation. If He brings someone to mind, take that person/situation to the Lord to ask His help to change the attitude of your heart towards them to reflect His.

**Pray**

Thank God that He deals with each of us graciously and patiently. Thank Him that living life on "His terms" always leads to blessing for us and for others. Pray about any people or situations in which you need Him to renew your mind and spirit towards others. Ask Him to reveal a greater measure of His grace towards you, that you may extend it to others.