



FAITH PATH

Blessing

Communicating a Spiritual Focus

Every child needs to experience something the scriptures call “the blessing.” This guide can help you begin the process by imparting the kind of blessing only a parent can give.

WHAT IS THE BLESSING?

The blessing is a powerful tool with which we communicate spiritual value and focus in the life of the child. The word comes from the ancient practice of weighing coins on a scale to determine value. Blessing someone “adds value” to his or her life. We see in scripture the word bless or blessing used almost seven hundred times. The Bible also gives us great evidence that our God is a God of blessing. We receive that blessing from our Heavenly Father and have the wonderful opportunity to pass it on. There are five basic elements of the blessing that, combined, have tremendous impact.

B – BE COMMITTED

The blessing is not a fleeting moment or mere symbolic event. It includes an active, long-term commitment to the child’s well-being by accepting responsibility to help them become all God intends.

L – LOVINGLY TOUCH

The power of a hug or placing your hand on your child while affirming him or her creates an important physical connection and communicates warmth, acceptance and relational health.

E – EXPRESS VALUE

Just like we add value to someone’s pocket by handing them a coin, we add to a child’s life when we use words that attach high value to them as a person.

S – SEE POTENTIAL

Parents best see a child’s God given strengths and foresee possibilities for their future. Giving the blessing includes

picturing a special future for God’s glory and cheering them toward achieving their potential.

S – SAY IT

An effective blessing must be put into words whether spoken, written or both. Simply being present is not enough to communicate the blessing. Words of affirmation and encouragement are necessary for the child to grasp the spiritual focus.

WHY GIVE THE BLESSING?

We see examples in both the Old and New Testaments of parents giving the blessing to their children. In Genesis 49, near the time of his death, Jacob blesses his 12 sons. Hebrews 11:12 tells us this blessing is done “by faith” and as an act of worship. On two different occasions, Jesus’ baptism (Matt. 3) and transfiguration (Matt. 17), we see God the Father giving an audible blessing to Jesus Christ the Son saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (ESV)

WHO CAN GIVE THE BLESSING?

Anyone can give the blessing, but the most important and powerful blessing should come from parents.

WHEN SHOULD YOU GIVE IT?

You can take advantage of special occasions and scheduled events to give the blessing in an intentional manner as well as capture informal, more spontaneous moments. You might want to start a nightly routine of blessing before bedtime or as you drop your child off at school or daycare.

On the Go Blessings: Speak words of blessing to your child while driving to school, tucking into bed, celebrating an accomplishment or good effort, or writing a note to place in their lunch. Think of using some of the following phrases:

- *I was so proud of you when I saw you...*
- *I think God is going to use you in the future to...*
- *God has gifted you with a unique ability to...*

Bedtime Blessing Prayer: Include scripture as you pray over your child each evening, such as Numbers 6:24-26. Lay your hand gently on your child’s arm or shoulder while praying to reassure him/her with loving touch.

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child’s Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for and with my child.
- Consistently spend time in God’s Word.

- Bless my child daily.
- Attend church regularly.
- _____

The next step on the Faith Path is *Family Time* at age four. Pick up your *Family Time* Faith Path Pointer to guide you through this next step.

Calvary Bible Church Ministries

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Faith at Home Faith Path Class