



CENTRAL

Biblical Teaching | Passionate Worship | Authentic Ministry

Dear Parent:

One of the core values of Central is that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path initiative exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been created to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this **Blessing kit**, you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you begin the process of blessing your child. I urge you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

STEP ONE: LEARN

We have provided a link to a short video that explains this particular Faith Path step. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of giving the blessing and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider the best resources on the topic. If you would like additional coaching or information about Faith Path, please visit centralbcs.org/faithpath or contact Sherry Maggard, Preschool Director, at smaggard@centralbcs.org.

STEP TWO: START

To help you begin a daily blessing routine, this kit includes a card to frame and place beside your child's bed. Go ahead and choose what days and times you will intentionally bless your child and mark it on your schedule right now in order to turn good intentions into practice.

If your child is registered with Central, you will receive the next email on their third birthday explaining how to receive the Family Time kit. To confirm we have correct birthday information on your child, please log into our database at centralbcs.org/realms and update your family profile.

I hope you find this kit helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home. Feel free to visit centralbcs.org/faithpath to learn more or to determine if your child is ready for other Faith Path steps.

In Christ,

Phillip Bethancourt
Senior Pastor

PS: Additional resources may be found at centralbcs.org/faithpath/blessing.



FAITH PATH

BLESSING

Affirm Your Child's Value



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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 acceptance and genuine commitment. 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 when combined, have tremendous impact.

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 has intended.

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.

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.

SEE POTENTIAL: Parents best see a child's natural strengths and foresee possibilities for their future. Giving the blessing includes picturing a special future and cheering them toward achieving their potential.

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 are necessary for the child to know he or she is appreciated and accepted.

WHO NEEDS THE BLESSING?

Everyone needs to experience unconditional love and acceptance from their parents. Those who did not receive it can spend later years trying to fill the void missed at home. Those who did receive the blessing have a tremendous advantage in life. An example of this dynamic is recorded in Genesis chapter 28 in the story of Jacob's two sons.

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. You can also frame the card included with this kit and use a dry erase marker to fill in the *You Are Great Because* phrase or create your own using any of the following:

- 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: Select a special scripture to pray over your child each evening such as Numbers 6:24-26 as quoted on the card included with this kit. Consider framing the verse to keep beside your child's bed. Lay your hand gently on your child's arm or shoulder while praying to reassure him/her with a 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.
- _____

*Family Time is the next step on the Faith Path
and is recommended at age three.*

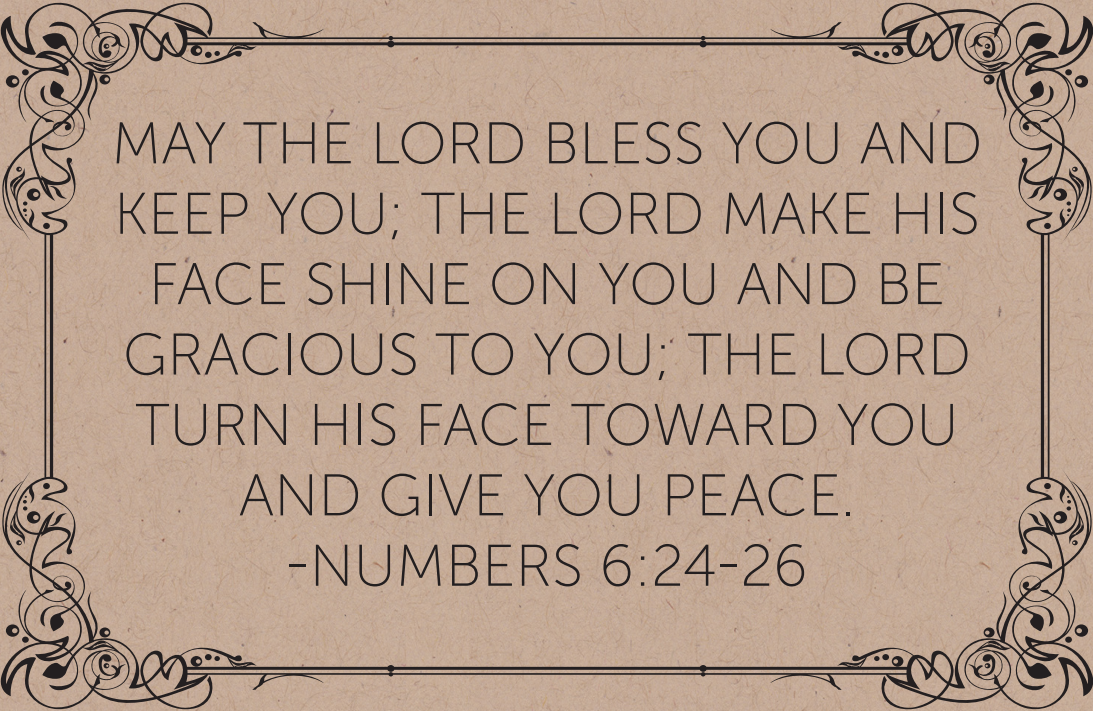
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The Blessing by Gary Smalley and John Trent
I'd Choose You by John Trent

FAITH @ Home

centralbcs.org
centralbcs.org/faithathome

UPDATED 4.1.2021



MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND
KEEP YOU; THE LORD MAKE HIS
FACE SHINE ON YOU AND BE
GRACIOUS TO YOU; THE LORD
TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

-NUMBERS 6:24-26



You are great because...
