

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, recommended at age four.

Recommended Resources

- The Blessing by Gary Smalley and John Trent
- Bedtime Blessings by John Trent
- I'd Choose You by John Trent
- A Father's Guide to Blessing His Children by David Michael
- The Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Omartian
- Praying the Scriptures for Your Children by Jodie Berndt
- Bedtime Blessings for Your Baby by Dayspring
- Strong Families website. strongfamilies.com/

THE BLESSING

Affirm Your Child's Value

FAITH
PATH

Recommended for
3+ years

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, 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 natural strengths and foresee possibilities for their future. Giving the blessing includes picturing a special future 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 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 didn’t 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 which is 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 loving touch. Some other examples of blessing from Scripture include 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13, 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 3:5, and Hebrews 13:20-21.

THE BLESSING

DEAR PARENT,

We believe that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path framework exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been assembled 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 journey well. We urge you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

STEP ONE: LEARN

Visit myfaithpath.com and use password click **myhome2020**



Click on **BLESSING** for an overview and videos that explain this particular Faith Path step. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of intentional parenting and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find links to other helpful resources.

STEP TWO: START

Use the guide and tools to help you get started with this step. This kit includes a card to frame and place beside your child's bed. Go ahead and choose what days and times you will bless your child and mark it on your schedule right now in order to turn good intentions into practice.

Thank you for taking seriously the task of guiding your child's faith. We hope you find these tools and the Faith Path framework helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home.



The next step on the Faith Path is Family Time, recommended at age four.



You are great because....

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“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face to shine upon
you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up His countenance upon
you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

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