



Prayer of Blessings

Leader's Prayer: God, we all have received the blessing of your faithful, loving Presence. Everything we know about a blessing we learned from you. In this moment, we join you in blessing these students, each one uniquely precious and valued in your eyes. So, we enter this time of blessing as glad recipients of your love. Amen.

Leader: Now, your ministers, your families, and your congregation will speak words of blessing. Pay attention to what they say to guide and support you as this school year begins.

Church Staff: Being invited to go somewhere and do something feels good. Receiving an invitation means you are being included. God invites you to follow Jesus. Your actions and words, reflecting the love of Jesus, will make a positive difference throughout the school year. The commitment you make to be like Jesus will be worthwhile.

Family Members: God wants your actions and words to reflect the love of Jesus throughout the school year. You can be confident and kind at the same time. The commitment you make to be like Jesus will make a positive difference.

Congregation: God loves everyone in your school as much as God loves you. Sometimes following Jesus includes doing hard things. The commitment you make to be like Jesus will make you more loving.

Leader: You are part of God's blessing of your family and our congregation.

Congregation: We promise to pray for you now and during the school year. Please let us know when you'd like us to pray about something happening in your life or on campus.

Leader: We thank God for this opportunity to offer you a blessing.

All: Amen



August 4-10, 2025
Seven days of devotions
for Back2School
d365.org

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Blessing of the Backpacks

If your church does a Blessing of the Backpacks as part of worship, this is a potential add-in based on the Back2School parent resource that camper parents receive in early August. We hope you will share and promote the conversation starter with all parents in your ministry sometime before the Blessing of the Backpacks is scheduled during worship. We suggest you promote this time of blessing so students know to bring their backpacks to church. Below are suggestions, but feel free to adapt to your worship style. If you didn't receive buttons at camp this summer, you can find artwork below that can be used to print stickers or make your own buttons.

1. Invite students to come to the front with their backpacks at a designated time during worship.
2. Remind them of the purpose of this moment, that this congregation cares for them and wants to pray and offer support as they begin the new school year.
3. Read (or have a student read) Ephesians 4:1b-2
“Live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love.”
4. Tell the students that this verse is one that you and the church would like to pray over them today and throughout the school year. (Hold up the Ear button) Then say something like, Listening is part of your calling as followers of Jesus. Choose to listen for God. Choose to listen as teachers, coaches, and classmates speak. (Now hold up the Foot button) Moving through each school day with humility, gentleness, and patience means you will try to think before reacting. (Hold up the Eye button) Seeing others as equally loved by God helps us become more accepting. Our calling to value others means we try to see people through God's eyes.
5. Have some volunteers help you distribute the buttons you received at camp.
6. Invite everyone to offer a blessing over the students with the Prayer of Blessing.
7. Remind students of the conversations from the Discussion Sheet they utilized with their parents/caregivers. Prompt the students to remember those conversations. Specifically, ask them to consider God's call to live a worthwhile life this year. Ask them to reflect again on Jesus as a role model who shows us how to be more humble, gentle, and patient. Lastly, ask them to recall that Jesus knew unloving people, but still saw them as loved by God.
8. Prompt students to return to their seats with their backpacks.



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INTENTIONAL CONVERSATIONS FOR FAMILIES WITH STUDENTS GOING

Back²School

"Live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love." - Ephesians 4:1b-2

Conversations about faith make a difference! Open the door to talk about this school year as an opportunity. God calls students to reflect Christ's love in their attitudes, actions, and words as they build relationships.

PACK

What's in Your Backpack?

Grab your backpack from last year and go through it together. Talk about anything weird or funny inside. Revisit why your students selected this backpack- a favorite color, animal, character, etc.

How are you feeling about going back to school? (nervous, excited, ready, reluctant, etc.)

What things will be familiar this year? What are you looking forward to the most?

What will make this school year different from last year? (new facility, teachers, locker, etc.)

What has changed about you since last year? (interests, skills, friends, etc.)

What will you pack in your backpack?

Name the usual items carried inside. Not everything we take to school gets zipped into a backpack.

What do we bring in addition to stuff? (attitudes, ideas, hopes, fears, questions, moods, faith, etc.)

God cares about who we are at school and how we treat others. Students will interact in classrooms, hallways, on the field, court, or stage. Students who follow Christ also represent him with their attitudes, actions, and words.

UNPACK

Discuss Ephesians 4:1-2 by inviting your students to think about how they show God's love to their friends and classmates.

"Live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love." - Eph. 4:1-2



What does it mean to live in a worthwhile way as a student?

God calls students because God equips them. We live for God as we listen to God.



How would you describe the way Jesus related to others?

As you interact with your friends, practice humility, patience, and gentleness like Jesus. We conduct ourselves like Jesus when we follow in his steps.



Why does God love people that we find difficult?

When we see others as loved by God, we can be more accepting, even of those who may be hard to like.

PRAY

Say a prayer together for the new school year. Pray that your children can be patient and gentle, accepting each other as they meet new friends.



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