

“FAMILY BLESSING SERVICE”

“Children are the heritage of the Lord and we are answerable to Him for our management of His property” Adventist Home pg. 159 chapter 23

PLANNING THE SERVICE

1. Choose date, location and time.

Examples - Friday evening vespers, Church Service, Saturday evening vespers
Family camp-out, Club meetings

2. Encourage the Adventurer parents to write a tribute letter to their child.

Letters might include: Thank you's

Praises

Reminders of joy's the child has brought to the family

Why the child is so special

Special memories the parent has of that child

3. Prepare for the program.

Depending on the time and location chosen to do the Family Blessing Service the program might include.

Opening prayer

Special music

Sermonette (speak on the importance of family, the blessing being part of a family is - most important being being part of the Heavenly Family)

Presentation of families

* Parents letters to their children

Reading of Commitment (found in Adventurer Manual pg. 37 and 329)

Special music

Dedication prayer for the families

Giving of a plant to the families - this is a very important part as it reminds the family, just as a plant requires care to live and grow, so does a family

* If you choose to do this service for church and you have a large Club you may need to not read the letters out loud, but have the parents present them in a frame, as a scroll, or some other special way to their child at this time.

IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY BLESSING

1. The Tradition of the Blessing

The Old Testament patriarchs often blessed each one of their children in addition to special birthright blessings for the firstborn.

Examples:

Adam Joseph Abraham Isaac David Jacob

Genesis 27:28 and 29 is an example of a blessing a father would give his son.

“Therefore may God give you of the dew of Heaven of the fullness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone that curses you. And blessed be everyone that bless you!”

This blessing by Isaac, shows the high regard and hopes the father had for his children, and the blessing was said with the utmost solemnity.

The blessing tradition has continued into modern times in the Orthodox Jewish faith. From infancy, children are brought to their father and mother on Sabbath and Holy Days to be blessed.

2. Focus on the Blessing

By affirming your children, parents have the opportunity to bless them. Some important ideas to remember when affirming your child.

1. Their importance and value IN the family.
2. Their importance and value TO the family.
3. Their individual talents, abilities and qualities.
4. MOST OF ALL - Their importance and value to God!

3. Added Benefits

1. Parents recommit themselves to stand by their children in good and bad times.
2. Parent’s commit to seek God’s help, and ask for His assistance as they try to be a model of the great and unfailing love God has for His children.

BASIC ELEMENTS OF ANY BLESSING

1. Meaningful Touch

In Biblical blessings touch was an important part, it should still be. A touch can actually bring better health.

2. A Spoken Message

“If you are a parent, your children desperately need to *hear* a spoken blessing form you” *The Blessing*” pg 55
“Spoken words of blessing should start in the delivery room and continue throughout life.” *The Blessing*” pg 58

3. Attaching “High Value” to the One Being Blessed

Anytime we bless someone we are attaching high value to them.

By using “word pictures” we can better demonstrate the value we have for someone.

- A. Use an everyday object that the person can relate to.
- B. Match the emotional meaning of the trait you are praising with the object you’ve picked.
- C. Word pictures unravel our defenses.
- D. Word pictures can point out a persons potential.

“A well known saying tells that one picture is worth a thousand words. When we link a word picture with a message of high value, we multiply our message a thousand times. ”*The Blessing*” pg 87

4. Picturing a Special Future for the One Being Blessed

Children take everything literally, especially from their parents, because of this it is so important to communicate a special future for your child while blessing him/her.

“When a person feels in his or her heart that the future is hopeful and something to look forward to, it can greatly affect his or her attitude on life. ”*The Blessing*” pg 89

5. An Active Commitment to Fulfill the Blessing

You have to be willing to see the blessing through. We have to put our words into action. Telling a child we love them is empty words if we don’t show it in our actions also. Let your child know you will also be there for him/her. You may not love the action, but you love the child!

References:

“The Blessing” Gary Smalley & John Trent

“NAD Adventurer Manual”

