



How to Bless Your Child

Warm-Up

(video segment 2:24 minutes /discussion time ____ minutes)

In our first session, we invited you to spend time praying for various virtues in your child's life. (See the *31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Kids* resource.)

In your small group from last week, discuss:

- What virtues or spiritual characteristics did you pray for your child last week?

OR

- What are characteristics or spiritual gifts you *would like to pray* for your child?



Legacy Point 1

Bless Your Child With Words

(video segment 8:39 minutes)

Words are powerful!

Ephesians 6:19-20---"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."

Power is in the spoken *and* written word.

A blessing uses the power of words...words connected as a prayer spoken over someone.

How to bless your child with words:

- Informally...give words of affirmation. Every child needs to hear words of affirmation.
- Formally...a blessing of spiritual power

Words to use to speak a blessing into your child's life:

I bless you to be...

I bless you to...

Luke 2:52---"*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*"



Let's Talk About It:

(discussion time ___ minutes)

- ❖ **What is a blessing you would speak to your child for years to come?**

NOTE: You may want to first write down some thoughts individually, then come together after a minute or two to discuss. If you like what someone else has said, feel free to borrow it. Don't be afraid to use what God has given another if it may also bless your child.



Legacy Point 2

Bless Your Child by Building Trust

(video segment 7:40 minutes)

The most critical time in a child's spiritual formation is in the first year of life. It is the foundational time of learning to develop trust.

When you respond to your child in his/her need, he/she will learn the world can be trusted. Then he/she can learn to trust that God is good.

How to make your home emotionally safe:

- Be attentive. Give your child the attention he/she needs...the *right* attention at the *right* time.
- Respect one another and handle conflict openly and well.



Let's Talk About It:

(discussion time ____ minutes)

- ❖ **What one thing would you like to do in your parenting to teach your child to trust?**



Legacy Point 3

Bless Your Child With Prayer

(video segment 8:10 minutes)

Make your home a house of prayer; pray *for* your child and *with* your child.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18---“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- Pray with your child.

Examples of formal or rote prayers:

Thank you, Jesus, for our food.

*Thank you Jesus, for my sleep.
Be with me now, my soul to keep.*

Good morning, God. Thank you for the day. Be with me as I play.

Examples of informal prayers:

Thank you, God, for this flower.

Dear God, please help Mommy feel better.

- Pray for your child.

Pray the virtues from the prayer card into their lives. Thank God for every milestone of growth – even the hard ones. Suffering produces growth, too.

- Pray with your SPOUSE.

There is power in that agreement. Build a house of prayer!



Let's Talk About It:

(discussion time ____ minutes)

- ❖ **Which of these ideas would help you make your home a house of prayer?**



Wrap-Up

(video segment 2:37 minutes)

Recall the three Legacy points for today's session:

1. Bless Your Child With Words
2. Bless Your Child by Building Trust
3. Bless Your Child With Prayer

Assignment:

- Take the next step in your prayer life to make your home a house of prayer.

Closing Prayer: *(Form small groups again and encourage each person to pray for the following.)*
Pray about whatever is on your heart from this session.