



EAGLE MOUNTAIN
International Church

Invoke THE BLESSING Upon Your Children

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A. Mark 10:13-16—Jesus Blessed the Children

1. Verses 13-16 (NLT) “One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.”
2. This was much more than a spontaneous outburst of affection.
 - a. “Y’all are so adorable. Come on over here and give Uncle Jesus a big hug!”
 - b. This was a highly spiritual act that represented a rich and foundational part of Jesus’ heritage as a Jew among His family and community.
3. Hebrews 11:20-21 (AMPC) Isaac and Jacob blessed their children.
 - a. Verse 20 “[With eyes of] faith Isaac, looking far into the future, invoked blessings upon Jacob and Esau.”
 - b. Verse 21 “[Prompted] by faith, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons and bowed in prayer over the top of his staff.”
4. No doubt Jesus experienced this from his own father.
5. For thousands of years, the Jewish people have regularly invoked a blessing upon their children.
6. From the time that Jewish children are babies, their parents take advantage of their weekly Sabbath family time to lay their hands on their children and speak God’s blessing into their lives.
 - a. This continues into adolescence and beyond.
 - b. Jewish children simply grow up feeling blessed by their parents and blessed by God.
7. Is it any wonder that they are so successful in life?

B. Proverbs 22:6—Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

1. Raising Godly children in today’s society is no easy task.
2. Our children are faced with pressures on a daily basis that earlier generations have not had to encounter.
3. God-fearing children face an uphill battle and risk feeling out of place and isolated.
4. How can we protect and strengthen our children?
 - a. Provide them with a sense of connectedness at home and in church.
 - b. Parents must exercise the spiritual power vested in them.
5. Biblical examples reveal that parents not only have the power to pray, but also the power to bless.
 - a. In the Jewish tradition, the Sabbath is the time when families gather together.
 - b. When they arrive home from Synagogue after Friday evening prayers, it is customary for parents to bless their children.
 - c. They lay hands on the children and speak the blessing and give words of personal encouragement—and then give them a hug and a kiss.

C. Genesis 48:20—THE BLESSING for Sons

1. Verse 20 (NLT) So Jacob blessed the boys that day with this blessing: “The people of Israel will use your names when they give a blessing. They will say, ‘May God make you as prosperous as Ephraim and Manasseh.’”
2. The Jewish people have followed those instructions by beginning their blessing for sons by saying, “May the Lord make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.”
3. Why Ephraim and Manasseh?
 - a. They were the first brothers who put the welfare of the family and community over their own rights.
 - b. They did not fight one another over their birthright.
4. Because of the love that Jacob had for his son Joseph, he adopted his grandsons as his own sons and co-heirs with Joseph’s brothers.
5. Today, the Jews will speak a personal blessing over their son, expressing their own desires for his success and happiness and declaring whatever is needed for him to fulfill God’s will.

D. Ruth 4:11—THE BLESSING for Daughters

1. Verse 11 (NIV) “Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, ‘We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel.’”
2. They might also say, “May the Lord make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah who together built God’s household. May your entire life be fruitful and may the Lord’s full will for you be accomplished in your life.”
3. This echo’s the blessing given to Ruth.
4. Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter, for you are kind and generous. The Lord God is your God, and His people are your people. May all the people know of certainty that you are a virtuous daughter.
5. May your mouth speak with wisdom. May your heart meditate with reverence. May your hands do the work that God has given you. May your feet hasten to follow the path that God has laid out for your life.

E. Numbers 6:24-26—THE BLESSING for Boys and Girls

1. Verses 24-26 (NIV) “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.”
2. There are some who go one step further.
3. They add a few lines from the Prophet Isaiah speaking of the Messiah.
4. By speaking these words as a blessing, we express our desire that our children grow to be just like Jesus.
5. Isaiah 11:2 (NIV) “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.”

F. Genesis 1:26-29—We Invoke the Original Blessing

1. We invoke THE BLESSING upon our children in the exact same way that God invoked THE BLESSING upon man.
2. To Bless—Empower, fully equip, prosper
3. Be fruitful—Very productive, prolific, flourish, blossom, abounding in everything
4. Multiply—Grow, enlarge, increase, be great
5. Replenish the earth—Fill, refresh
6. Subdue it—If it gets out of line, put it back
7. Have dominion over it—Rule, reign, dominate, authority

Research:

Blessings for Family and Friends by John D. Garr (Golden Key Press, Atlanta, G.A., 2009), pages 39-48.
The Shabbat Table: Blessing Children on YouTube