

THE BLESSING

Affirming Your Grandchild's Value

Ideas for ways to communicate acceptance, demonstrate genuine commitment and add value to your grandchild.

WHEN TO GIVE THE BLESSING:

Capture spontaneous moments, take advantage of special occasions and scheduled events to give the blessing in an intentional manner.

THE FIVE BLESSING PRINCIPLES:

B - BE COMMITTED

As a grandparent, you have the opportunity to take on an active, lifelong commitment to your grandchild's well-being. Bless your grandchild to help them be all that God intends them to be.

L - LOVINGLY TOUCH

The power of appropriate, tender touch such as a hug creates an important physical connection communicating warmth and acceptance.

E - EXPRESS VALUE

You add value to your grandchild's lives when you use words that affirm them based on who they are, rather than what they accomplish.

S - SEE POTENTIAL

Picture a special future for your grandchild. Become a student of your grandchild as you spend time discovering special traits in them and cheering them on toward achieving their potential.

S - SAY IT

Use words of affirmation to let your grandchild know they are dearly loved. The blessing must be communicated to have an impact and be effective, whether written, spoken, or both.

PUTTING THE BLESSING INTO ACTION

BLESSING NOTES:

- Use note cards and choose a creative way to deliver the notes, such as an email announcing that a “snail mail” letter is on the way.
- Cheer them on as they move toward their God-given potential. Suggested language...

Young Child: You are so special to me. I prayed for you today, asking God to bless your life. I love you so much.

Teen: I believe God is going to use you in great ways. I see so much potential in you already. I am proud of you.

BUCKET FILLING:

- Read *How Full is Your Bucket?* by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer with your grandchild.

Discuss the following questions after you read the story.

- ○ What words fill your bucket (make you feel happy)?
○ What words empty your bucket (make you feel sad)?
- Ask your grandchild how you can help fill their bucket?
- Look up the following scriptures and discuss them with your grandchild: **Luke 6:45, Ephesians 4:29, Psalm 19:14**

ENCOURAGEMENT CARDS:

- Identify three Godly character traits you see demonstrated in your grandchild. Write the three traits on a card.
Example: “Morgan – CARING, THOUGHTFUL, SENSITIVE”
- Frame the card to be displayed in your grandchild’s room as a reminder of your words of affirmation. Watch these special traits develop and grow!

BLESSING SURPRISES:

Everyone loves surprises! Imagine the impact of sending a special package to your grandchild that contains a gift tied to the child’s unique interests or abilities along with a note that says, “This made me think of you. I pray God will use your (describe the interest or strength) to impact others in the future!” Gift ideas: iTunes Gift Card (music), leather-bound journal (writing), paints (art).