

## Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*How will you be intentional this next year?*

- Pray daily for and with my child.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- Bless my child daily.
- Attend church regularly.
- \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Path Sunday – from time to time we will offer classes for parents during Sunday morning Bible class time covering the various steps along the Faith Path to help you be intentional in the spiritual growth of your child. Be looking for upcoming Faith Path Sunday dates or see one of the hosts at the Faith@Home Center to request additional coaching or to answer any of your questions.

The next step along the Faith Path is “Family Time”, which we recommend at age four. When you are ready to begin this next step, please visit the Faith@Home Center and speak with one of the hosts to request the kit. The kit is also available online at [burlesoncoc.com/faithpath](http://burlesoncoc.com/faithpath).

### Recommended Resources

*The Blessing* by Gary Smalley and John Trent

*Bedtime Blessings* by John Trent

*I'd Choose You* by John Trent

Please visit the Faith@Home Center to browse the above recommended resources and to find information, guidance, and resources on a wide variety of topics.

Visit online at [burlesoncoc.com/faithathome](http://burlesoncoc.com/faithathome).



## Blessing

**Affirm Your Child's Value**

Every child needs to experience something the scriptures call “the blessing.” This guide can help you begin the process by imparting the kind of blessing only a parent can give.

**WHAT IS THE BLESSING?** The blessing is a powerful tool with which we communicate acceptance and genuine commitment. The word comes from the ancient practice of weighing coins on a scale to determine value. Blessing someone “adds value” to his or her life. We see in scripture the word bless or blessing used almost seven hundred times. The Bible also gives us great evidence that our God is a God of blessing. We receive that blessing from our Heavenly Father and have the wonderful opportunity to pass it on. There are five basic elements of the blessing that, combined, have tremendous impact.

**B – BE COMMITTED:** The blessing is not a fleeting moment or mere symbolic event. It includes an active, long-term commitment to the child’s well-being by accepting responsibility to help them become all God intends.

**L – LOVINGLY TOUCH:** The power of a hug or placing your hand on your child while affirming him or her creates an important physical connection and communicates warmth, acceptance and relational health.

**E – EXPRESS VALUE:** Just like we add value to someone’s pocket by handing them a coin, we add to a child’s life when we use words that attach high value to them as a person.

**S – SEE POTENTIAL:** Parents best see a child’s natural strengths and foresee possibilities for their future. Giving the blessing includes picturing a special future and cheering them toward achieving their potential.

**S – SAY IT:** An effective blessing must be put into words whether spoken, written or both. Simply being present is not enough to communicate the blessing. Words of affirmation are necessary for the child to know he or she is appreciated and accepted.

**WHO NEEDS THE BLESSING?** Everyone needs to experience unconditional love and acceptance from their parents. Those who didn’t receive it can spend later years trying to fill the void missed at home. Those who did receive the blessing have a tremendous advantage in life. An example of this dynamic is recorded in Genesis chapter 28 in the story of Jacob’s two sons.

**WHO CAN GIVE THE BLESSING?** Anyone can give the blessing, but the most important and powerful blessing should come from a parent.

**WHEN SHOULD YOU GIVE IT?** You can take advantage of special occasions and scheduled events to give the blessing in an intentional manner as well as capture informal, more spontaneous moments. You might want to start a nightly routine of blessing before bedtime or as you drop your child off at school or daycare.

- **On the Go Blessings:** Speak words of blessing to your child while driving to school, tucking into bed, celebrating an accomplishment or good effort, or writing a note to place in their lunch.
- **Bedtime Blessing Prayer:** Select a special scripture to pray over your child each evening such as Numbers 6:24-26 as quoted on the card included with this kit. Consider framing the verse to keep beside your child’s bed. Lay your hand gently on your child’s arm or shoulder while praying to reassure him/her with loving touch.
- **Framed Blessing Card:** This kit includes a card to frame and place beside your child’s bed. One side has a biblical blessing you can read to your child on a regular basis. Once your child is able to read, you can turn that card over in the frame and use a dry erase marker to write blessings for your child on a daily or weekly basis. Fill in the *You Are Great Because* phrase or create your own using any of the following.
  - *I was so proud of you when I saw you...*
  - *I think God is going to use you in the future to...*
  - *God has gifted you with a unique ability to...*

There is also a list of recommended resources on the back of this guide. These are available for you to browse at the Faith@Home Center. You may also check one out from the center or if interested in purchasing an item see one of the hosts for more information.