



backpack blessings

2018

Blessed Are You! • Matthew 5:1-12



Welcome to a new back-to-school event for kids, moms, dads, and the entire congregation. This Starter Kit has everything you need to begin.

What is a Backpack Blessing Event?

This event is a simple moment in the context of a worship service, Sunday school hour or other family event when the congregation encourages kids with the special promises of God as they prepare for a new school year.

How does it work?

Pick a date before school starts to hold your Backpack Blessing Event. The event itself takes about 10 minutes and is easy to include as part of your regular worship or Sunday school hour. Invite all school aged children and their parents to attend (early childhood, elementary, middle school and even high school students can participate).

The tools you need are included in this Starter Kit:

- ▶ Backpack Blessing Event Litany
- ▶ Backpack Blessing Children's Sermon
- ▶ 10 Backpack Tags to give to students during the event
- ▶ 10 Parent-Child Backpack Blessing Sheets (give one sheet to each family unit and encourage parents to use these cards throughout the year)

Plus, the included CD-Rom contains publicity tools to promote your event, including bulletin and newsletter blurbs, a powerpoint slide and sample social media posts.

You can also order more Backpack Tags and Parent-Child Backpack Blessing Sheets at creativecommunications.com or by calling 800-325-9414. Use order code **BPF18**.

School is fun, scary, awesome, and tough for kids. A Backpack Blessing Event lets them know that they are going back-to-school surrounded by God's promises and the love of their parents and other caring adults.

God bless your event!





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A Litany for the Beginning of the School Year

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:12

(All students in the church are invited to come with their backpacks to the front of the worship space.)

☐ Heavenly Father, we want to begin this new school year as we begin each day, with your blessing and guidance.

☑ **Watch over our students, the owners of these backpacks, as they take the next steps in their education.**

☐ You have called these children to be your own by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Savior.

☑ **Their backpacks will be filled with books, but fill their lives to overflowing with your countless, daily blessings.**

☐ When they feel overcome by the stress and anxiety and our spirits seem low...

☑ **We pray that these students will know that you share the blessing of your heavenly kingdom with us.**

☐ When they encounter sadness or grief, whether at school or at home...

☑ **We pray that these students will know that you provide the Spirit of comfort to all who are mourning.**

☐ When they serve you humbly, not asking for blessings in return...

☑ **Remind them that you bless the meek and humble with an inheritance that overflows our world.**

☐ Keep their hearts and minds pure and their a reflection of your love for them...

☑ **Bless them, we pray, to see your face in the face of friends, teachers, parents and others who surround them this year.**

☐ When they encounter persecution or bullying, particularly when they are standing up for what is right and holy...

☑ **We pray that their faith in your blessings and promises is strengthened and that their behavior and faith shines as an example to others of what it means to be your royal children.**

☐ Throughout each day of this school year, bless these children richly with a constant reminder of the heavenly reward you have promised them through the sacrifice and victory of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

☑ **Each one is a precious child in your kingdom and a blessing to behold. We thank you for blessing our lives through them.**

☐ With confident hope in God's watchful care, I bless these backpacks and their owners in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. May all of us, young and old, be strong in faith and filled with the Spirit that we might be a blessing to all in your world.

☑ **Almighty God, hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name. Amen.**

(All students return to their seats with their backpacks.)



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A Children Sermon for the Beginning of the School Year

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:12

Supply list

- a backpack
- The ingredients for making trail mix. (healthy choice of whole-grain cereal, raisins, dried fruit like cranberries or banana slices, walnuts or almonds, sunflower or pumpkin seeds, chocolate chips or M&Ms. etc.)

Say

Today, we are going to fix a tasty snack treat. Oh boy, that sounds like fun. The first thing we need is a recipe. You know what a recipe is, don't you? A recipe is a set of instructions, including a list of all of the ingredients, that tells you how to prepare a dish. Here is my recipe to make a delicious and healthy trail mix snack (hold up the recipe. And here is a bag with all of the ingredients we will need and a bowl to mix it up in. (Have the ingredients measured and placed in plastic bags ahead of time to make the preparation of the mix go quickly.)

First, we will pour in some nuts, next some raisins. Let's see, next we put in some sunflower seeds, and then some M&Ms. (Continue until all ingredients have been added, commenting about each one.) Well, the trail mix is all finished, so now we have a tasty snack to enjoy at the close of our lesson today.

Did you know that Jesus gave us a recipe for living a happy life? In the book of Matthew, it says, "Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them." What did he teach them? He taught them a lesson which we call "The Beatitudes."

Each one of the beatitudes starts with the words, "Blessed are they. . ." Let's see what Jesus said about what is needed for a happy life full of God's blessings. (Read these from the Bible.)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Some of these things that Jesus said make it sound as if following him might sometimes be difficult. But Jesus promised that even when people insult us, say awful things about us, and persecute us because we follow him, we should rejoice and be glad, because we will have great rewards in heaven!

Pray

Dear Father, we thank you for the teachings of Jesus. Even though life may not always be easy, we know that if we trust in Jesus, we will be blessed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.





An Event for the Beginning of the School Year

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
MATTHEW 5:12

Publicity Blurb (for use in a congregational e-newsletter or bulletin)

- It's back-to-school time! This Sunday morning, there will be a special blessing of all school-aged children and their parents as part of our regular worship service.
- Children in grades K-8 should bring along their school backpack for a special Backpack Blessing Event. During the service, children and parents will come forward for a special moment of prayer and blessing.
- Let's send our congregation's kids into the new school year assured of God's promises and our loving support! Be sure to join us and to include all of our young people in your prayers as they go back to school.

3 Sample Social Media Posts

- What was your favorite thing about going back-to-school as a kid? Join us this Sunday to celebrate and encourage all of our congregation's students as they launch a new school year.
- Back-to-school can be scary, fun, uncertain and happy for our kids. Let's send our kids into a new year encouraged by God's Word. Join us for a Backpack Blessing Event this Sunday morning.
- Moms and dads, please be sure your children bring their school backpack to church this Sunday. We will have a special time in the service to share a Backpack Blessing with them as the new school year begins.

