



SERVE the **LORD** with **GLADNESS!** • Psalm 100:2

Welcome to a new back-to-school event for kids, moms, dads and the entire congregation. This starter set 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 and to bring their school backpack (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.)

Publicity tools to promote your event, including bulletin and newsletter blurbs and sample social media posts can be found on the last page of this document.

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 **BPB22**.

A Backpack Blessing Event lets children 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!





A Responsive Prayer for the Beginning of the School Year

SERVE the **LORD** with **GLADNESS!**

— Psalm 100:2 —

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

☐ Dear Lord Jesus, we want to begin this new school year as we begin each day, by acknowledging your presence among us with your blessing and guidance.

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

☐ Good Shepherd, you call each of these children by name to love you and love their neighbor, both throughout the school year and each day of life by grace through faith in you.

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

☐ In all of their daily schoolwork and activities ...

☑ **We pray that these students grow in knowledge, wisdom, faith and compassion.**

☐ When they feel overcome by stress or anxiety and their spirits seem low ...

☑ **We pray that these students find comfort in your Word and knowledge of your constant presence.**

☐ 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 are faced with temptation to stray from your righteous path ...

☑ **Remind them that you offer both guidance and forgiveness for those who call upon your name.**

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

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

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

☑ **Make your presence known, we pray, so that each child here is reminded of your promise to not to leave us desolate or alone.**

☐ We gather here with these children in your name, Lord Jesus, welcoming you to the circle of love and togetherness that binds us in your name.

☑ **We pray that their faith in your saving power and promises is strengthened and that their behavior and faith shine as an example to others of what it means to be children in your family.**

☐ 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.)

