



FAITH FAMILY
BLESSINGS

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING



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OUR FAMILY
Blessed to be a Blessing
OUR FAITH

ELKDALE †

A new ministry at Elkdale Baptist Church



Blessing Seven

Family Mission Trip

Blessing seven, Family Mission Trip, is a faith family blessing that is not designed to take place last on this path. We put this as number seven, because it can take place at any time on this path. In addition, we would love for your family to join together in missions more than once for sure.

Over the past few years, our church has traveled to Corbin, KY to facilitate a girls camp while serving together as a family. It has been such a joy to see parts of families and whole families going to serve God and others together. Can you imagine what an impact serving together on mission would have had on you and your family growing up? It is truly a blessing to demonstrate to your kids the importance of going to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ.

Over time it is likely the location will change, but the idea of serving on mission as a family will not. We hope that you will begin preparing your heart and your family's heart for this great adventure. It is good!

What is Faith Family Blessings? Faith Family Blessings is a way for us, Elkdale Baptist Church, to come alongside the family from your child's birth to their high school graduation. There are seven blessings that we believe are essential for every family, so that one generation will pass their faith on to the next generation.

1. Parent/Baby Dedication
2. Salvation and Baptism
3. Scripture Memory
4. Purity For Life
5. Rite of Passage
6. Written Blessing
7. Family Mission Trip

It is our goal that Faith Family Blessings will help you to be the main spiritual influence in your family. You have been "Blessed to be a blessing" (Psalm 67:1-2) and we hope this enables to you intentionally accomplish this scripture.

Purpose of Faith Family Blessings:

- A clear path for you and your family from birth to graduation
- A focused path to pass on your faith to your children
- A definite path for you to prepare and grow spiritually for the next step in your child's life

Lastly, we called this Faith Family Blessings to make sure that it is inclusive of our church family. There are many people who will make this ministry possible and there are many people who are more experienced than others, so we want to make sure we wisely use the more experienced resources to encourage and equip our families. These have been "blessed to be a blessing" as well.



Blessing One

Parent/Baby Dedication

Blessing One, Parent/Baby Dedication, is the faith family blessing that begins the path. It begins whenever a new child enters a family. It is at that moment that parents realize the wonder of the miracle of birth like never before and that children are a gift from God. It is also at this time that as parents, you commit to raise your child up in the Lord. At Elkdale, we plan not to just dedicate a child, but parents to dedicate themselves to be the primary spiritual influence in their child's life as God's word clearly says in Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

What happens when parents dedicate a child and themselves as parents to raise that child in the Lord? Parents acknowledge God's sovereignty, who He is, what He can do, and to admit that God is needed for every step in a child's spiritual and physical journey as well as the parent's journey, too.

Because children belong to God and are given by grace as gifts to parents, it is proper and appropriate that children be dedicated back to God. Parent/Child Dedication is a special day at the church when the parents make public before friends, family and their church family that they dedicate themselves to train up their child in the Lord, to teach them to love God above all else. And trust God is then faithful to lead, guide and help them every step of the journey. Parents you are making this promise to God to be faithful to this commitment. As a faith family, Elkdale will commit to support your family through prayer and by equipping and encouraging you as a godly parent.

As you take part in Parent/Child Dedication, you and your family are now taking steps on the Faith Family Blessings journey. As your church, we pledge to come along side you to serve your family, pray for your family and to equip, encourage, and affirm you all along the way.



Blessing Six

Written Blessing

Blessing six, Written Blessing, is the faith family blessing that marks the end of the family blessings even though there is a seventh blessing we are including. We will help you celebrate this blessing here at Elkdale with your church family.

The written blessing coincides with Graduate Sunday. Each year we celebrate high school graduation in our morning services and present our graduates with a Bible. Each year we also have a special brunch to commemorate this event as well. During this event is where we celebrate the Written Blessing.

The Written Blessing is a time for you, the parent, to put pen and paper to work and write a letter to your graduate. In this letter you will encourage, motivate, and affirm your graduate as they move into the next area of their lives. This is an opportunity for you to blow them away with your love for them, belief in them, and your hope for them.

At the appropriate time during our brunch you will be dismissed to find a private spot on the church campus to read this letter to them and then have all parents present pray over your graduate. This is very meaningful and powerful.

We do all of this to affirm, equip, and encourage you, the parent, as the main influence in your graduates life!



Blessing Five

Rite of Passage

Blessing five, Rite of Passage, is the faith family blessing that comes at a pivotal point in your teenager's life. We recommend this to be done as they turn sixteen or after their sixteenth birthday. The Rite of Passage is to be celebrated at home (off-campus) with the initiative of mom or dad. We seek to equip you, the parent, to make this a special event.

The Rite of Passage is a time to affirm your child in who they are, what they mean to you, and most of all speak life into them. This time is to symbolize them going from a child to a young adult and thus grabbing the spiritual ownership of their lives. It is an opportunity to pull together other Christ following adults, who have helped influence your child's life, and have them participate as well.

The Rite of Passage is more than an event or ceremony, it is designed to be a spiritual marker in your child's life and with much prayer, and can help propel their life forwards toward Christ forever.

It is our hope and dream that you would begin planning this special occasion well ahead of time. Again we will resource you, equip you, and guide you in this process all along the way.



Blessing Two

Salvation and Baptism

Blessing Two, Salvation and Baptism, is the faith family blessing that is obviously the foundation for the whole process. However it is not the ending point, but merely the beginning of your child's spiritual journey.

It is our goal and prayer that you, the parent, would be able to lead your child to Christ. There is so much that is a part of leading a child to Christ and this is why we want to help you. You are the primary spiritual influence in your child's life and we want to equip you in this role. Once your child makes a decision to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior we want your child to celebrate with believer's baptism.

This Faith Family Blessing is celebrated both at the church and at home. We seek to make sure your child has a clear understanding of salvation prior to being baptized. We do this through our new believer's class taught in our Children's ministry. Because of the importance of salvation and baptism, we want to make sure we are being faithful to the child and the Lord and presenting only those who are ready to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior for baptism. We have seen too many struggle with their salvation as they get older and we want them to know God has saved them by faith in Jesus Christ.

Taking the step of believer's baptism is such an important milestone in your child's life. So, planning a special family celebration at home is so important. The important thing to remember is, make it special, celebrate it yearly. This helps your child know where their identity is in the Lord and nothing else. It is not what they wear, nor who they're friends with, nor what things they have —it is who they are in Christ!



Blessing Three

Scripture Memory

Blessing three, Scripture Memory, is a faith family blessing that will take place over time. It is listed as third, but you will want to get started with this blessing as soon as you can. We have three sets of scripture to keep you learning from the crib to graduation.

You will obviously go at your own pace, but we have plenty to learn. This is so very important that we learn God's Word. Our culture is ever changing and challenging us to live ungodly lives. The world your children will grow up in will be very different from yours. God commands us to "hide His word in our heart that we might not sin against Him." (Psalm 119)

The hardest part of this process will be getting started. The children and youth will receive some rewards as they learn scripture over time, however learning scripture is a reward in and of itself.

So parents we will equip you with resources all along the way and yes, you will get to learn scripture with them. The scripture will be broken into three segments. The first one ends at 2nd grade. The next ends at 7th grade, and the final one concludes at Graduation.



Blessing Four

Purity For Life

Blessing four, Purity For Life, is a faith family blessing that will be a life long challenge, but it will be celebrated with the family in a personal way away from the church.

Purity for life, is simply what it says. It is not something that stops at marriage when you maintained your purity. It is a life long commitment to purity in order to glorify God while you are teenager, college student, single, and as a married adult. This means that as a teenager your child is committing to live a life of purity honoring God in all they do.

This is a very large task, but it must begin with a desire of the heart to honor God in all things. It is a blessing that needs to be modeled at home by mom and dad, or granddad and grandmom. "Do as I say not as I do" will help create a rebellious nature in most anyone and especially in your teenager.

This blessing can be sealed with a piece of jewelry of your choice, engraved pocket knives, or anything appropriate. We want to help you dream up the best way to celebrate this commitment in your teenagers life. More specifically, we would like to see you celebrate this by their 8th grade year. We also realize your teenage cannot be forced to make this commitment, so celebrate their whenever they sincerely make this decision with their heart and mind.