

Back to School Blessing

Charge to the Parents

Leader: Glory to God and thanksgiving for this new school year! Parents, may the Holy Spirit remind you that as covenant partners, our faith community is here for you and your children. As you send them to be molded and shaped in knowledge, may you remember they are gifts from God. Know that God's blessing is with you to help them reach their potential, because they are created in the image of God. As you prepare clothes, lunches, backpacks, and more for the school day...

People: ...may you be filled with peace.

Leader: As you challenge your children and encourage them to grow...

People: ...may patience and perseverance accompany you as you marvel at God's new work in the world.

Commissioning of Educators

Leader: Educators, may God's blessing, protection, and Spirit be upon you as you guide, lead, serve, and even comfort students. You have been called by God to be ambassadors for Christ, living out God's love in your daily work. As you educate God's children of all ages...

People: ...may you be filled with mercy and wisdom.

Leader: As you encounter challenging situations and challenging students...

People: ...may you love and serve as Christ, in the strength of the Spirit.

All: We will.

Blessing to Students

Leader: Students, may God surround you with blessings and protection as you carry these backpacks and school bags for this new school year. As you carry notes, books, and assignments, know that you also carry the love of Christ within to see everyone around you as someone loved by God.

People: May you be filled with God's grace.

Leader: As you grow in wisdom and knowledge...

People: ...may you also grow in compassion toward others.

All: We will.

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Blessing of School Supplies and Backpacks

Leader: O God, we are grateful for your goodness. As we gather rulers, pens, crayons, notebooks, laptops, and supplies, bless these tools to help us grow in faith and service to you and to others. As these backpacks are filled with books, lunches, hopes, and dreams—even the worries and brokenness we may bring from the world—fill them, as well, with your abiding presence and unconditional love. May the tokens they receive today remind our students, parents, educators, and each of us that we love them because you first loved us.

[Prayer tokens are distributed.]

Lord, thank you for the energy and passion of the educators here today. Fill them with your Spirit that they might be wise in their preparation, strengthened in their difficult days, energized in their moments of success, and prayerful in their daily encounters with those with whom you have entrusted them. Bless, O God, these students and these educators that they might grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from a liturgy written for the Worship for Workers Project of Fuller Theological Seminary by Edwin Clark (Sherman, Texas).

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