

A Mom's Book of Blessing

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To use
with

Where Moms Connect™
Moms' Ministry Curriculum

A Life of Blessing

Connecting to the Topic

Counting Blessings

Discuss:

- What’s the strangest, funniest, or maybe yuckiest heartfelt gift you’ve received from a child? Tell your group!

- What made such odd and sometimes yucky gifts a blessing instead of an unwanted gift?

What’s a Blessing?

A common dictionary definition of the word *blessing* is:

A beneficial thing for which one is grateful; something that brings well-being.

Discuss:

- What can make you feel like your blessing jar has been dumped out?

- When have you experienced something that you weren't happy or thankful for at first, but it later became a blessing in your life? Share a "blessing-in-disguise" story with your group.

Other dictionary definitions for the word *blessing* include:
God's favor and protection.
A prayer asking for God's favor or protection.
A person's sanction or support.

Discuss:

- How do these added definitions help you in recognizing blessings in your life?

Connecting With God

God gave a promise to bless us when he promised Abraham:

"All the families on earth will be blessed through you."
(Genesis 12:3)

"So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith." (Galatians 3:9)

Have one mom in your group read the following verses aloud, and then discuss the questions that are below.

"Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said, 'God blesses you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours. God blesses you who are hungry now, for you will be satisfied. God blesses you who weep now, for in due time you will laugh."

"What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man.'" (Luke 6:20-22)

- How do you think God can turn the difficult things listed in this Bible passage into blessings in our lives?

In the Old Testament part of the Bible, the terms for blessing are related to the word meaning "to kneel." Because the knees were considered a weak part of the body, a person would become "weak" before God by kneeling to receive a blessing.

"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." (Matthew 5:3)

- How can becoming "weak" before God help us to receive blessings in our lives?

Connecting to My Life

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ." (Ephesians 1:3)

Use this space to journal your thoughts, draw a picture, write words of thankfulness, or capture any inspirations you want to remember from today.

SAMPLE

"Bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing." (1 Peter 3:9, The Message)

Additional Thoughts on a Life of Blessing

"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 16:17)

When I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill there was a beautiful common area on campus surrounded by trees and flowering plants. During the spring, in particular, I would make a point to walk through the area on my way to Franklin Street's coffee shops and other college hangouts. In the shade of massive oaks, the aroma of honeysuckle and lilac was intoxicating, and the experience was both old and new each time I made my way across the beautiful expanse.

On a particularly warm spring day as I crossed the common on my way to meet my study group, I heard what sounded like someone playing a saxophone off in the distance. I followed the sound for about five minutes until I saw the source of the sound.

It was indeed someone playing a sax. And I do mean playing. About 30 feet away on a corner of the street stood a round little man in khaki shorts, a Hawaiian shirt, and a pith helmet. And he was making that tenor sax sing. He was obviously a jazz player from way back.

I walked closer, mesmerized. The notes cascaded around the gathering crowd in an effortless stream, and you could feel the raw emotion in the strains of "Amazing Grace." From there he launched into an equally powerful arrangement of "A Quiet Place," and no one moved.

We just stood there, transfixed.

After a few minutes, he opened the case at his feet, took out a red bandana, and wiped his face. As he took off the pith helmet and wiped his bald head, I took out a dollar and dropped it in his case. As I walked away, he called out, "Hey, man, don't do that."

He picked up the dollar and held it out to me. "Here, cat." (Now I *knew* he was a jazz man.) "Put this back in your pocket," he said.

"No," I replied. "That's for you. You were really making that sax wail. In fact, I could stand here and listen to you play all afternoon."

He tucked the dollar in my shirt pocket and grinned, "Then that's payment enough."

I looked at him for a long moment and shook my head. "I don't get it," I said. "There are always musicians out here playing for money. And you're the best I've heard."

"I appreciate that, and you're very kind to say so," he said, "but I'm not playing for the money."

"Then why are you playing?"

He smiled and tightened the ligature screws. "Because I can." He adjusted the mouthpiece and said, "You see, God gave me a gift, and this is my way of giving a little something back to him."

T. Smith

- How can you bless someone today—just because you can, with no hope of anything in return?
