



MARCH 2014

Purposeful Parenting
Connecting Church and Family
Deut.6:7

Blessing Your Child

The concept of blessing your child, while something that we are now seeing more and more as a parenting resource, is not new. One of the most memorable blessings is found in Genesis 27 with the story of twins: Jacob and Esau. Reading through that account shows just how important it was for a child to receive a blessing from their father. So how does that translate to today and to us, as families? In this age of the "trophy child" where recognition for achievement and participation is freely given, how does a blessing have meaning?

This month, we're focusing on equipping you with tools to either start this tradition in your family or continue the legacy of the Blessing. A great resource would be *The Blessing* by John Trent and Gary Smalley. This book will show you the importance of a blessing and challenge you with practical advice and a fresh perspective, walking you through the 5 elements included in every blessing in Scripture:

- **appropriate and meaningful touch** - a powerful, non-verbal way to show love and affirmation
- **words of love and acceptance** - biblically, a child wasn't left to "fill in the blanks" whether they were valuable or loved.
- **value placed on the child** - help the child "get the picture" that you see things in their life today that make them special, useful, and of great value to you.
- **acknowledgement of a special future** - the light goes off in their minds that the way God made them means they can do more than they ever dreamed in living out a God-honoring future.
- **genuine commitment** - unconditional commitment that says as long as I have breath, I'll be there to build these 5 elements of the Blessing into your life and life-story.

We all have a need to know someone in this world loves us and accepts us unconditionally. We especially crave our parents' blessing. The family blessing can provide a much needed sense of personal acceptance and affirmation. God has given parents many tools to raise children, but one of the most powerful is the tongue. Will you commit to using your words to build a legacy of blessing?

-Susan Thomas, Mosaic Early Childhood Team Leader

Family Tool Box

Resources for your family on blessing your child.

Books

[The Blessing](#), by Gary Smalley and John Trent - 5 key elements of the blessing, how to be a blessing and how to pass that life-changing gift on to others.

[Bedtime Blessings](#) - bedtime activities and blessing prayers that practice biblical model of blessing and impart spiritual truths that will last a lifetime.

[I'd Choose You](#) - a sweet storybook that will remind children that they are loved and will always be chosen by their parents...and God.

Articles

[Blessing your children](#) - John Trent will walk you through how to bless children of different ages.

[Closing each day with a blessing: The intentional routine that opens hearts](#)

Periodic E-mails

[The Blessing Challenge](#) - will help you learn how to write a blessing, get tips on how to commemorate the moment, and learn how to pass on a legacy of blessing (in partnership with Focus on the Family).

Video/Podcast

[How to bless your kids](#) - a short video by Mark Holmen, author of Faith Begins at Home, who will explain how you can start blessing your kids.

[Passing on a blessing to your family](#) - a podcast by John Trent and Tony Wheeler with practical ideas on how parents can bless their children and break the cycle if they did not receive a blessing from their parents.

What's Happening?

Calendar of Events: March-April

Mar 15: **Outpost Vision Night**

Mar 22-29: **Mission trips** (Memphis/CO Springs/Guatemala)

Mar 31-Jun 9: **Beyond Hard Places**, class for parents with children in hard places who need hope [Sign Up](#)

Apr 5: **Next Gen**, junior high students worship with families

Apr 6: **The Critical Balance: God's parenting paradigm that makes it all work**, class taught by The Joshua Center. [Sign Up](#)

Stay Connected



Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the

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Early Childhood / Elementary / Students

road, when you lie down and
when you get up.

- Deuteronomy 6:7