

Benediction - 2

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Matthew 3:13-17

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The Arrival [vv. 13-14]

- "mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals"
[Matt. 3:11]
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The Baptism [vv. 15-16]

- "to fulfill all righteousness"
 - The Trinity
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The Blessing [v.17]

- "My beloved Son"
 - "well-pleased"
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Genesis 27:24-29

The benediction of a father upon his children is a powerful act of affirmation and encouragement. It invokes God's protection, provision, and prosperity over that child. Even Jesus, who had no children, demonstrates the importance of blessing the next generation (Mark 10:13-16). How might you use benediction to bless the children in your life?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 78:1-7

The next generation will hear your words and be influenced by your actions; and as a result, your legacy will matter. A blessing from you, bestowed from a heart of faith, will have a powerful result. When you see the next generation walking in your footsteps, how are you inspired to invest in their future? How might your words of blessing impact their life and embolden their faith?

Do you wonder how to go about blessing a child? Consider how God bestows His blessing on you, and then consider how to duplicate the result:

1. He confirms your identity (Galatians 4:6-7, Romans 8:16).
2. He touches your heart (John 14:15-17, Romans 15:13).
3. He provides a clear message (Joshua 1:8-9, Romans 8:38-39).

Talk to someone about the blessing in Genesis 27:28-29, either in small groups or one-on-one, using the following guide.

1. Share moments in your life when you were blessed by parents and other adults. How did those moments affect your life?
2. Share moments in your life when you experienced the blessing of God according to the outline in this passage.
3. Consider opportunities and ways that you might speak a blessing over the children and students in your life.
4. Pray with one another about the children and students you will encounter this week. Ask God to make you aware of opportunities to bless them in words as well as actions.