

Activity: Blessing Relay



Teaching Goal: Parental blessings are important and need to clearly communicate that older children and teens are responsible for maintaining their own relationship with God.

Scripture: I Chronicles 22:9-10 {God's message to David about Solomon} You will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him, rest from all his enemies...I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign...he will build a house in my name...he will be my {God's} son and I will be his father. I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.

I Chronicles 22:11-13 {David's message to Solomon} The Lord be with you, and may you have success and build the house of the Lord...May the Lord give you discretion and understanding...that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses...Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

I Kings 11:1-8 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women...As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

Materials: Paper, pen, masking tape
Stick, round piece of wood, short plastic pipe

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and Discussion

☺ Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **IN ADVANCE:** Parents write a simple blessing for each child. Include three key hopes and desires you have for the future of each child. Also, include an encouragement for your children to actively develop their own personal relationship with God.

B. King David from the Old Testament was known as “a man after God’s own heart.” Yes, he made mistakes, but through prayer, obedience and worship David worked daily to develop a close, personal relationship with God.

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David had a son named Solomon who was picked by God to become the next king. Solomon grew up watching his father follow God. Right before David died and Solomon became king, God gave Solomon a personal blessing. Read 1 Chronicles 22:9-10.

Highlight key points in God's blessing: 1. Rest from his enemies. 2. Peace during his lifetime. 3. Meaningful work, building God's temple. 4. Father-son relationship with God. 5. Powerful impact for generations. **THIS IS A PERSONAL BLESSING STRAIGHT FROM GOD!**

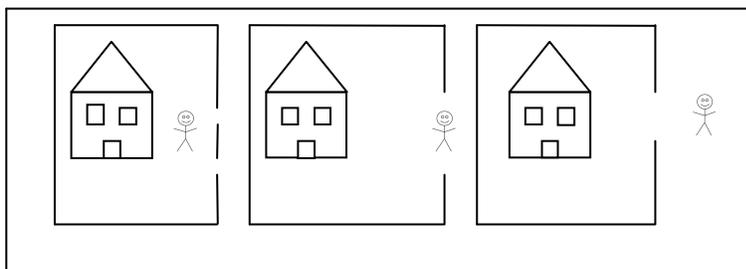
David also gave his son a personal blessing. Read 1 Chronicles 22:11-13.

Highlight key points in David's blessing: 1 Chronicles 22:11-13: 1. Success. 2. Discretion. 3. Understanding. 4. Obedience to God's commands. 5. Be strong and courageous. 6. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

Solomon started his reign as King with powerful, personal blessings from God and from his father. In the early years, Solomon was a wise and wonderful king. But when we read about the end of Solomon's reign and life, things did not end well. Read the abbreviated version of I Kings 11:1-8 included in this activity.

Highlight the following: **God was very clear in commanding Solomon and all the Israelites not to marry women who worshipped other Gods. God warned them that if they married non-believers, they would be tempted to disobey God. Because Solomon did not obey God's commands, his life ended without peace and doing evil toward God. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, did not receive a blessing and did not even try to follow God.**

C. **ACTIVITY #1: I want you {name each of your children} to have both. I want you to have my personal blessing and I want you to grow up like David, actively developing a close, personal relationship with God.** Read your blessing for each child and then give them a copy.



On a piece of paper, in sequence draw the graphic above and explain how as your children get older they will become more and more responsible for their own spiritual relationship with God.

1. Draw and explain the first house with a yard and a closed gate. This represents the preschool and early elementary years. Parents are primarily responsible for spiritual training. Explain how parents have more influence over teaching, training, friends, language, media, etc. **Does God see you living your life and does He want to spend time with you during these years?**

2. Draw and explain the second house with the gate open and the teen going in and out of the yard. This represents the older elementary, junior high and high school years. The parent is a coach and the teen begins to take responsibility for their own spiritual training. Explain how

parents have less influence and other people/media start having more influence over teaching, training, friends, language, etc. **Does God see you living your life and does He want to spend time with you during these years?**

3. Draw and explain the third house with the gate open and the young adult outside the gate. When you leave home you become responsible for your spiritual development. As the parent you will provide advice and help when it is appropriate. **Does God see you living your life and does He want to spend time with you during these years?**

4. Draw the box around all three houses. This represents God's relationship with your son/daughter. God is always with you. As the parent, you may not be aware of choices your teen makes when they are away from home, but God is. He always knows when we make good and bad choices. There are not secrets with God. Everything we do is either drawing us into a closer relationship with God or pushing us away.

D. ACTIVITY #2: Baton Relay! Make a baton out of a stick, round piece of wood or plastic pipe. Write "Blessing" on a piece of masking tape and put it around the baton. Use a track or mark off a running course on your block or in a field. Divide the distance in equal parts for each member of the family. Start with the oldest member of the family and finish with the youngest. Race against the clock and pass the baton from family member to family member. Repeat and see if you can improve your time. This activity will help kids visualize the passing of a blessing from generation to generation.

The story of Solomon teaches us how special it is to receive a blessing from God and from your parents. You have my blessing. The story of Solomon also teaches us that there are two important influences on living a Godly life. 1. Spiritual teaching and modeling from your family. 2. Actively developing your own personal relationship with God. Prayer, Bible reading, worship and service are ways that we can draw closer to God.

V. Memorize

**Parental blessing is a start,
Run to God with an open heart.**

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Passing Zone

Parents, help your son or daughter build strong, positive friendships. Arrange time with peers who will have a healthy influence on your child. Introduce their family to Family Time and invite them over to participate in this activity.