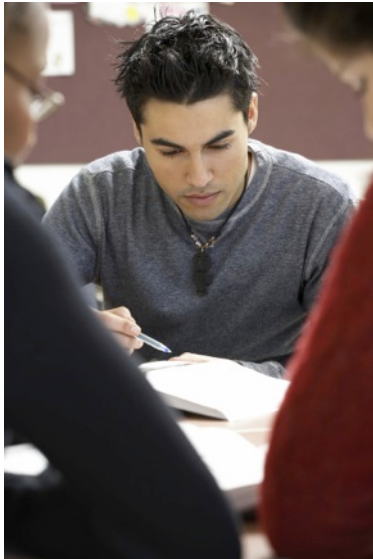


Blessing Board



This is an opportunity to remember the importance of blessing those who are sometimes hard to love. Through this activity, your family will have an opportunity to grow in faith with one of the hardest things Jesus asks us to do!

For

Teen Family

Season

Spring

Needed

- Bible, Table, Paper, Markers/Pens
- A small board of some kind (bulletin board, white board, magnet board...even a cookie sheet and magnets will work!)

Prepare in Advance

Cut small squares out of the paper (3x3 inches)

Activity Plan

1. Gather around a table where the board has been placed in the middle of everyone.
2. Begin with this prayer:

Jesus, we know you forgave those who were mean to you. It is hard to follow your example. We ask for your guidance and forgiveness as we try to live out your love. Amen.

3. Read these Scripture passages

Romans 12:14-18

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.



Luke 23:32-34

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

4. Pass out the slips of paper. Ask each person to think of someone or a situation where it is hard to show love; hard to pray for that person; or hard to bless them. As people think of things, have them write or draw a symbol of what they are thinking. Give everyone enough time to think through this and complete it.
5. Have each person post their image facedown on the board so that no one can see it (with tape, pins, or magnets – depending on the board your chose).
6. On the 3 x 3 slips of paper write the Scripture references you read (i.e. "Luke 23:32-34), and write these words on the other slips of paper: FORGIVE, BLESS, LOVE, PRAY. Post these papers on the board facing out.
7. Discuss these questions: Why is it so hard to forgive, bless, love, and pray for these people or situations? How can this board help us remember to try to handle these people and situations differently? Give everyone a chance to share.
8. Display your board in prominent place for all to see, such as your fridge, garage door, kitchen table, stairway, hallway.)
9. Close with the Lord's Prayer, or prayer of your choosing.

Go Further

Keep using your blessing board! Add scrapbook paper or art made by a family member as a background to the board. Take the board down every month or two and revisit your blessings. Try adding different colors of paper to signify different months, or change the color of paper when you add people or situations where it is easy to forgive, bless, love, and pray!

