

Blessings for Summer Occasions

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Here is a collection of blessings to ritualize and make note of the special occasions and activities that often take place during the summer months.

For

Teen Family

Season

Summer

Needed

Blessings for Summer Occasions (see last pages)

Prepare in Advance

Print appropriate blessing before using

Activity Plan

1. Before event or occasion, gather as a family to read the blessing aloud, taking time to highlight its significance and evoke God's blessing on what's about to come.
2. Feel free to extend your hand(s) over those being blessed, switching between child/ren and parents when appropriate.
3. Close with a sign/hug of peace.

Additional Idea

Invite family members to write their own blessing for a particular event.



Blessings

*Insert name/gender where appropriate and adjust accordingly.

For a **Family Vacation**

God of wonder, as we prepare to leave on this family trip, be with us in a special way. Help us to fully enter into our time together, not wondering what's going on back home or at work, but being present to each other and to the place(s) we are visiting. Open our eyes and hearts to the people and places we encounter on our travels. Help us to be kind, compassionate, and patient with each other and with all those whom we meet. Keep us and all travelers safe and away from harm. Let us remember that this time together as a family is sacred. Amen.

For a **Graduation**

God of wisdom, with great joy we celebrate the graduation of _____. We praise you and thank you for the gift of education--for the ability to learn and grow, which enables us to see the world with perspective and awe. Give _____ the wisdom to reflect on his/her life experiences thus far and how he/she can continue to grow in body, mind, and spirit. Be with _____ in a special way as s/he prepares for the next step in his/her journey. We know this marks a change in our family and we ask for guidance and peace as life as we know it is different. Bless this time of celebration. Amen.

For Getting a **Driver's License**

Loving God, we celebrate _____ as s/he starts a new phase of independence as a driver. Give her/him clear and undistracted vision to see the road and the potential obstacles ahead. Give her/him steady hands to maneuver the car with ease and focus. Give her/him wise judgment to make quick decisions when needed. Bless her/him with a sense of gratefulness and responsibility with this new freedom that will keep him/her safe at all times. We also pray for his/her parent(s); calm their anxieties and guide their judgment. We ask this in your name Jesus. Amen.

For a Summer **Camp/Service Trip**

God of new experiences, we ask you to be with _____ in a special way as they prepare for their _____ trip. Calm any anxieties or fears they may be feeling and replace them with a sense of excitement and adventure. Open her/his eyes and heart to fully enter into this experience, being willing to do things that may be outside of his/her comfort zone. Help him/her to be open to meeting new people and not dwelling on those they've left behind. Be present to her/him in her/his days away so she/he knows you are with him/her and always guiding her/his decisions. Bless us, the parents as we prepare for time without our child. Help us to be present to the moments we find ourselves in, and not waste time wishing for their return. Calm our fears and anxieties and let us be excited for this new experience for our child. Amen.



For a **New Job**

God of goodness, we praise you and thank you for this new job opportunity. Bless ___ as they embark on this new experience. Calm his/her anxieties and be with him/her as she/learns the intricacies of this new position. Help him/her to remember that working is a way for people to participate in God's creation; knowing that we can positively impact other people's lives no matter what job/career we find ourselves in. Let him/her be a force for good as he/she interacts with others on a daily basis. We remember the phrase attributed to St. Francis: "Preach the Gospel at all times; if necessary use words." We thank you for this new opportunity and ask your blessings on all we do. Amen.

At the Beginning of a **New School Year**

God of renewal, we invoke your presence as we begin this new school year. Bless our family as life gets busy once again. Help us to choose our involvements wisely, not over committing ourselves for the sake of doing so. Be present to our children during their classes and extra-curricular involvements. Let us remember that education is a gift that should not be wasted. Help us to take time to be together as a family, supporting and helping each other in any way we can. Bless this year as we strive to live authentic lives that are grounded in serving you and spreading your loving kindness to all people and situations we encounter. Amen.

