

Overflowing Blessings

By Paige Evers

God's blessings multiply as we share them with others. This activity helps families name the blessings they have received from God, give thanks, and pass on the blessings to others through their words and actions.

For

Young Family

Season

Summer

Needed

Bible or children's Bible (or see text of Genesis 12:1-4 that follows), large water pitcher, 4-5 small cups, Blessings Worksheet, pen or pencil, crayons or markers.



Prepare in Advance

- Fill the pitcher with water.
- Print out the Worksheet.
- Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.

Activity Plan

1. Go outside together. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

Gracious God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for all the blessings you give us every day. As we read the Bible and learn more about you, please show us how to pass your blessings on to others. Amen.

2. Have someone read Genesis 12:1-4 from a Bible or from the page that follows. Briefly explain the story to your children with these points and questions:
 - This is the beginning of Abram's story. God asked him to do something surprising: go to a new land and to a new home. How do you think Abram felt hearing that? Was he surprised? Can you make a surprised face? (*Show a surprised expression to one another.*)
 - God gave Abram an important promise. He said, "I will bless you, and make your name great." How do you think Abram felt when he heard that God would bless him and do great things for him? Was he happy? Can you make a happy face? (*Make a happy expression together, dance around, say "yay!" or however you want to express joy.*)
 - Then God told Abram what this promise of blessing meant for others. It's not just for Abram and his family. God said, "...so that you will be a blessing...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (*Open your arms wide and have the children follow you in pretending to embrace everyone in the whole world.*)
3. God gave Abram the promise that he would bless him. God's blessings would overflow from Abram to everyone. Let's do an activity that will show what overflowing blessings look like.
4. Have the children and adults stand in a line, side by side. Give each person one small cup. The leader stands at the head of the line and pours water into the first person's cup. Fill it to the rim while saying, "It looks like this cup of blessings is getting full, and I still have more to give. Get ready to pass on the overflowing blessings!"



5. When the first person's cup is full, have them pass on their blessings by pouring their water into the second person's cup. Say, "I've still got more blessings!" and use the pitcher to refill the first person's cup. Say, "Let's keep passing on the blessings!" and have the second person pour their water into the third person's cup. Now have the first person pour their water into the second person's cup. Refill the first cup again, saying, "I have more blessings to give!" Keep pouring the water from cup to cup, and refilling the first cup from the pitcher, until all of the cups are full of blessings.
6. Look at all of those overflowing blessings! It's hard to keep them in the cups. They want to overflow and spread everywhere, just like blessings from God. Pour out the water onto your flowers or the grass and dry off before completing the activity with the next step.
7. God gave lots and lots of blessings to Abram so he could be a blessing to others. God also gives us blessings that overflow from us to others. Sit down together with the Blessings Worksheet. On the left side marked, "Blessed," write down ideas for all the blessings that God has given your family.
8. On the right side, labeled, "to be a blessing," write down all the ways your blessings can overflow to others. In addition to the example, "Our Home," you could list "clothes" on the left side and "give hand-me-downs to our friends with younger children" on the right side as a way to bless others with what God has given you. You can also list gifts and skills that God has given each member of your family and think of ways to share those with others. Young children can draw pictures of the blessings and the ideas for how to bless others.
9. After you've brainstormed your lists, circle three of the ideas that you will do as a family this summer. Make a plan for how you will bless others with what God has first given you. You can post the list and keep adding to it as you discover more blessings from God throughout the season.
10. Finish with a prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for all of your amazing blessings. Give us eyes to see your love at work in our lives. Give us hearts that share your overflowing blessings with others. Show us how to pass on your love. Amen.

The Call of Abram

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot [his nephew] went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.



Blessings Worksheet

Blessed

Our Home



to be a Blessing

Invite people over, such as friends, new neighbors or someone who is lonely

