

## Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*How will you be intentional this next year?*

- ☐ Pray daily for and with my child.
- ☐ Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- ☐ Bless my child daily.
- ☐ Attend church regularly.
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

The next step on the Faith Path is *Family Time* at age four. We will offer a free *Family Time* kit to guide you through this next step. Download the *Family Time* kit at [fbcmel.org/faithpath](http://fbcmel.org/faithpath) or pickup at the @Home Center.

### Recommended Resources

*The Blessing* by Gary Smalley and John Trent

*Bedtime Blessings* by John Trent

*I'd Choose You* by John Trent



## Blessing

Affirm Your Child's Value

Every child needs to experience something the scriptures call “the blessing.” This guide can help you begin the process by imparting the kind of blessing only a parent can give.

**WHAT IS THE BLESSING?** The blessing is a powerful tool with which we communicate acceptance and genuine commitment. The word comes from the ancient practice of weighing coins on a scale to determine value. Blessing someone “adds value” to his or her life. We see in scripture the word bless or blessing used almost seven hundred times. The Bible also gives us great evidence that our God is a God of blessing. We receive that blessing from our Heavenly Father and have the wonderful opportunity to pass it on. There are five basic elements of the blessing that, combined, have tremendous impact.

**B – BE COMMITTED:** The blessing is not a fleeting moment or mere symbolic event. It includes an active, long-term commitment to the child’s well-being by accepting responsibility to help them become all God intends.

**L – LOVINGLY TOUCH:** The power of a hug or placing your hand on your child while affirming him or her creates an important physical connection and communicates warmth, acceptance and relational health.

**E – EXPRESS VALUE:** Just like we add value to someone’s pocket by handing them a coin, we add to a child’s life when we use words that attach high value to them as a person.

**S – SEE POTENTIAL:** Parents best see a child’s natural strengths and foresee possibilities for their future. Giving the blessing includes picturing a special future and cheering them toward achieving their potential.

**S – SAY IT:** An effective blessing must be put into words whether spoken, written or both. Simply being present is not enough to communicate the blessing. Words of affirmation are necessary for the child to know he or she is appreciated and accepted.

**WHO NEEDS THE BLESSING?** Everyone needs to experience unconditional love and acceptance from their parents. Those who didn’t receive it can spend later years trying to fill the void missed at home. Those who did receive the blessing have a tremendous advantage in life. An example of this dynamic is recorded in Genesis chapter 28 in the story of Jacob’s two sons.

**WHO CAN GIVE THE BLESSING?** Anyone can give the blessing, but the most important and powerful blessing should come from parents.

**WHEN SHOULD YOU GIVE IT?** You can take advantage of special occasions and scheduled events to give the blessing in an intentional manner as well as capture informal, more spontaneous moments. You might want to start a nightly routine of blessing before bedtime or as you drop your child off at school or daycare.

- **On the Go Blessings:** Speak words of blessing to your child while driving to school, tucking into bed, celebrating an accomplishment or good effort, or writing a note to place in their lunch. You can also frame the card included with this kit and use a dry erase marker to fill in the *You Are Great Because* phrase or create your own using any of the following.
  - *I was so proud of you when I saw you...*
  - *I think God is going to use you in the future to...*
  - *God has gifted you with a unique ability to...*
- **Bedtime Blessing Prayer:** Select a special scripture to pray over your child each evening such as Numbers 6:24-26 as quoted on the card included with this kit. Consider framing the verse to keep beside your child’s bed. Lay your hand gently on your child’s arm or shoulder while praying to reassure him/her with loving touch.



Dear Parent:

One of our core beliefs at FBCMel is that God designed the family as the primary setting where discipleship takes place. The Faith Path initiative exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey, one step at a time. Age-appropriate kits have been created to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this Blessing kit you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you begin the process of blessing your child. I urge you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

#### **STEP ONE: LEARN**

We have provided a short video that explains this particular Faith Path step. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of giving the blessing and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider the best resources on the topic. If you would like additional coaching or information on the next Faith Path Foundations workshop, please contact the church office for information.

#### **STEP TWO: START**

To help you begin a daily blessing routine, this kit includes a card to frame and place beside your child's bed. You will also find a coin to carry as a reminder of the five elements of an effective blessing. When your child is old enough, you can give him/her the coin as a symbol of your parental blessing. Go ahead and choose what days and times you bless your child and mark it on your schedule right now in order to turn good intentions into practice.

If your child is registered with FBCMel, you will receive an email and/or postcard at select birthdays with information on how to get the free kit appropriate for his or her age. To confirm that we have birthday information on each child, please go to **[fbcmel.org/faithpath](http://fbcmel.org/faithpath)** to fill out a Faith Path registration card to update your family profile.

I hope you find this kit helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home. Feel free to visit **[fbcmel.org/faithpath](http://fbcmel.org/faithpath)** to learn more or to determine if your child/children are ready for other Faith Path steps.

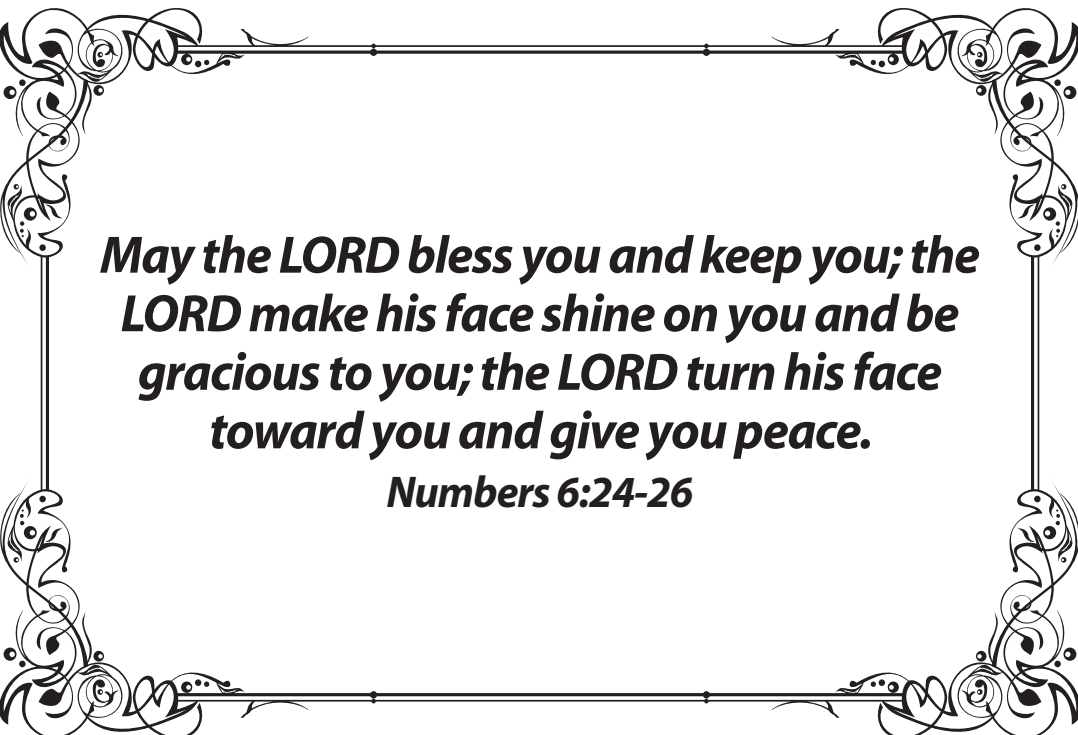
In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott Wilson

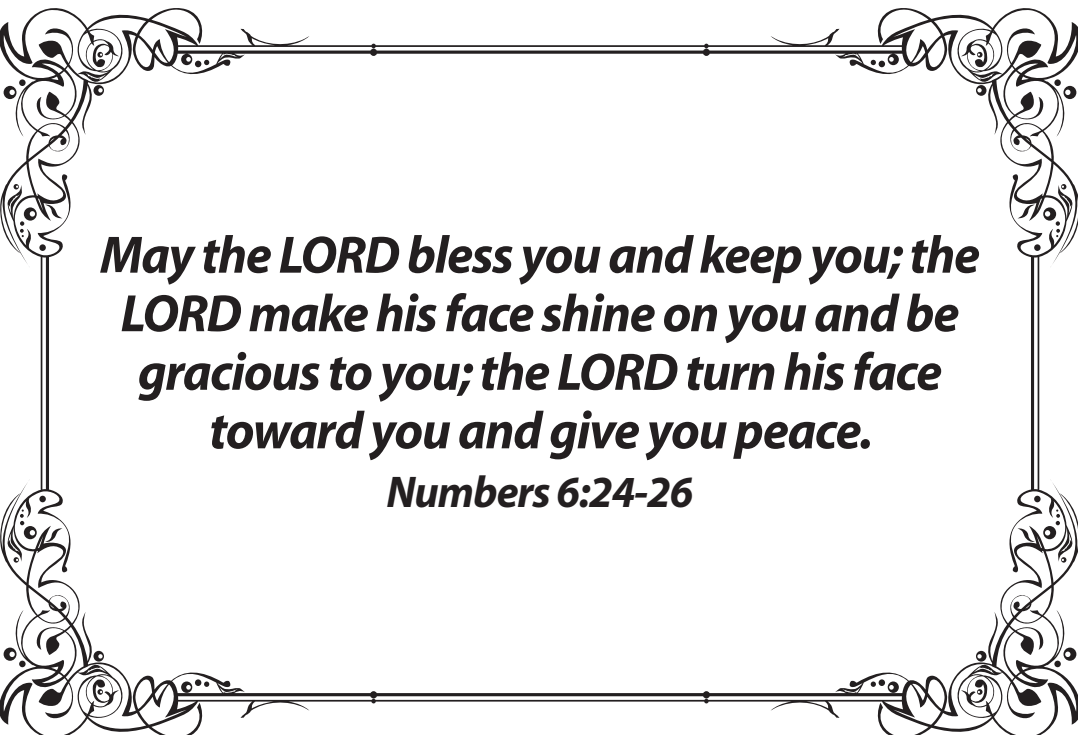
Lead Pastor

FBC Melbourne



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LORD make his face shine on you and be  
gracious to you; the LORD turn his face  
toward you and give you peace.***

***Numbers 6:24-26***



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