

Crossroads Daily Guide
Week of August 28, 2016
Back to School Blessings...



This week we are focusing our attention on blessing. Who doesn't want to be blessed? Everyone longs for a word of affirmation, a word of hope, a word of love and forgiveness, a word of confidence, a spoken blessing.

Jesus taught that we should begin offering blessings to our children. In the classic story where the children are playing all around Jesus and the disciples try to keep the children from disturbing him, Jesus scolds the disciples and, *"Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them."* (Mark 10:16)

Two things are happening in the story. First, Jesus offered meaningful touch to the children and then he spoke words of blessing to them. That's what this week's scriptures offer us. They are short and simple word blessings. They are not just for kids; they are for all of us.

Perhaps you can use each daily scripture as a guide to offering a blessing to your children, spouse or friend. Read the daily scripture as a blessing for yourself and then read it out loud to bless someone else. If you want you can personalize it by adding your own words of blessing and to add even more value to the blessing, hold the person's hand or offer some other meaningful and gentle touch.

One of the earliest references to blessing in the Bible is found in Genesis 12:2. There we are reminded that first of all God originates the blessing but then it goes on to say that we are to be blessings to others. In other words, we are blessed to be a blessing.

As we begin the new season of fall, let's enter it by offering words of blessing.

May the words of these daily scriptures bless you, and may you bless others with them as well.

Remember everyone longs for a blessing.

Sunday, August 28, 2016

Receive for yourself this blessing and then offer it to someone else today:

Philippians 1:2 *May the grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

Monday, August 29, 2016

Receive for yourself this blessing and then offer it to someone else today:

Psalms 115:15 *May you be blessed by the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth!*

Tuesday, August 30, 2016

Receive for yourself this blessing and then offer it to someone else today:

Numbers 6:24-26 *The LORD bless you and protect you. The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up his face to you and grant you peace.*

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

Receive for yourself this blessing and then offer it to someone else today:

Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Thursday, September 1, 2016

Receive for yourself this blessing and then offer it to someone else today:

I Corinthians 16:23 *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.*

Friday, September 2, 2016

Receive for yourself this blessing and then offer it to someone else today:

II Thessalonians 3:16 *May the Lord of peace himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you.*

Saturday, September 3, 2016

Receive for yourself this blessing and then offer it to someone else today:

II Thessalonians 2:16b-17 *May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father comfort your heart. May they make you strong in every good thing you do and say.*