



Preschool Faith Talk YEAR 1

Birthday Blessing

The One Year Old

Can you believe it? This beautiful child God gave you is already a one year old. Your little one is no longer a baby but is becoming a small person. You are beginning to see personality traits that will bless you and challenge you. The tiny infant you brought home from the hospital is now toddling around the house and beginning to make basic decisions. At this point, it is time to implement your plan for helping your child find the path God has planned.

Our focus should not be on what our kids will be when they grow up, but who they will be. It is our job as parents to guide and pray for our children as they continue the spiritual journey that God has planned. Every child is a unique creation and the journey will not be the same for everyone. A Birthday Blessing is to be shared with your child at the occasion of his or her first birthday. As you celebrate this happy first birthday, celebrate also the commitment you have made to lead your child in the way that God would have him go.

Faith Talk 1 Read and Study

Psalm 139:1-15

You will find it helpful to read and study Psalm 139. God shows us clearly that your little one was created, very

uniquely, by Him, for His purpose. The interesting thing is that God also tells us that we were uniquely created and equipped for this purpose.

"1. O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

2. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

3. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O lord, you know it altogether.

5. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

7. Where shall I go from your spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

8. If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

9. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10. even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

11. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

continued



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12. *even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.*

13. *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

14. *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

15. *My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth."*

What a beautiful description of the love and creativity that God used to make each one of us. He made your child, knowing the plan way in advance, and placed him in your family for you to walk alongside, to give guidance and love.

Faith Talk 2 Make a List and Create a Prayer

It is time now to make a list of the character traits you would like to see your child develop. Dads and moms should sit down together and create this list. If you are in a single parent situation, you can do this on your own or ask a Christian relative or friend to help. Add as many traits to the list as you would like initially. Next, begin to prayerfully select the most important two to three that you would like to see your child develop as he/she grows and matures.

It is important to remember that our children observe everything we do. Ask God to help you live to be more like Him each day and demonstrate this for your child. There is an old expression that says, "Learning is more caught than taught" and this is especially true with preschoolers.

Now that you have settled on the two to three traits you would like to see your child develop, begin to formulate a prayer that you can pray for your one year old for the next year. Ask God to equip you to lead your little one to be the godly man or woman He wants them to be.

Faith Talk 3 Write the Birthday Blessing and Plan the Party

You have now completed Faith Talks 1 and 2. It is time to write out the Birthday Blessing. Plan your child's first birthday party. Include family and friends so they can hear the blessing and understand what you desire for your child. Ask them to partner with you in prayer during this next year and the years to come. Write the blessing in your own handwriting or type it. Plan to make copies and place one in the baby book and the other in a frame on the wall. Include the character traits you have



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prayed about in the blessing. As your child grows, being able to see the birthday blessing on the wall will be a great encouragement.

We have included a sample blessing here to help you get started.

Dear Michael:

God is so good, and He gives wonderful gifts. One year ago, God sent you to be part of our family and we thank Him for that. God made you and has a special plan for your life. The Bible says that you are wonderfully made and when God made you, he made you different from every other person on this earth.

Our prayer for you as you grow up is that you will be a person who loves Jesus more than anyone or anything. As you encounter people in your life, we want you to see them as God sees them. We want you to be a person who has compassion for others and shares the love of Jesus with them. Already we see your unique personality and your creativity. Our desire is for you to honor God with the characteristics He has given.

We will do our best to love you and guide you to become the person God created you to be. He trusted us with you and we want to follow His lead as we help you discover His plan for your life.

Love,

Dad and Mom