

A
BLESSING
OF A
HOME
AND
FAMILY

The Journey to Wholeness in Christ
www.JTWIC.org

GUIDELINES FOR THE BLESSING OF A HOME

Whether a home is inhabited by a large, extended group of people or by only one person, a family resides within its walls. The fellowship of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) makes up a family unit with the ones who dwell within the home. The head of that home, under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, might be a college student, a single mother, working parents with many children, a widow or widower, a couple with an empty nest, or roommates who share the rent.

In order to sanctify the dwelling of God's people the special occasion of blessing one's home imparts the cleansing, healing presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a Godly occasion when a family, perhaps with a group of friends, gathers to walk through a house, spontaneously praying blessings and light over the space where the family lives. Regardless of who has previously lived in a dwelling, or of what events have occurred in a place, the Spirit of the Living God comes and makes clean that which we offer up to Him. He cleanses and sanctifies space for His purposes so that His people might live in peace, no longer bound to a sinful past.

As those gathered for the occasion move around the outside of the home and inside from room to room, they may be led by the Holy Spirit to offer appropriate prayers, songs, Scripture readings and blessings. There should be much freedom to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The liturgical form offered here for the blessing of a home is only a guide for those who prefer some structure as they begin blessing the place where the family dwells. This gives shape and structure for more freedom in the Spirit. Spontaneous prayers may also be offered following the liturgical prayers in each room of the home.

If possible you might like to have a lighted candle that one of the children of the home can carry, with everyone forming a little procession into each room, symbolizing that you are carrying the Light of Christ into each corner of the home.

In addition, you might find it meaningful to pray God's blessings over some water and/or olive oil as a symbol of the cleansing, healing, sanctifying power of the Spirit of God who delights in making all things clean.

We invite His Presence into our midst to hallow the space of the home for His purposes, and to drive out anything of darkness or evil that has been present so that His Divine Light may shine and bless the people who live there. You may want to sprinkle the blessed water and/or oil liberally throughout the home with each

AFTER THE HOUSE BLESSING

It is appropriate to ask the Lord to bless some meaningful Christian symbol to adorn the house permanently as a reminder of this occasion. An anointing with blessed water and/or oil and a blessing may be said over each member of the family. The following benediction may be offered by the leader:

LEADER: *"Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped ... and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served . . . or the God . . . in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:14-15)*

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever." AMEN. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

May this home become a living testimony to Your love and grace, O Lord. May all who come into this place witness the power of Your ability to transform whatever has been soiled by human sin into the beauty of Your holiness. And may all who live here be transformed into Your divine image of what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable and excellent. *(Philippians 4:8).*

May Your blessings be upon each person who enters this home and may they become living testimonies to Your grace and love.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

tian symbol of being "at table" with one another. Release the flow of healthy, affirming conversation at every meal. Give a meaningful place to each member of the family around the table. Prepare us constantly for the great banquet we will share with You at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. AMEN.

BLESSING FOR A DECK, PATIO, TERRACE, GARDEN AND THE PROPERTY

LEADER: *"You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." (Isaiah 58:11)*

RESPONSE (ALL): May the time spent in this outdoor area be reminders of the beauty of Your creation, O Lord, and the fruitfulness You call forth.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, as we sprinkle clean, blessed water upon this land, cleanse it to be hallowed for Your purposes. Use this land to reflect Your beauty, Your holiness and Your fruitfulness. Let all who come upon this place, either with company or in solitude, be refreshed the sweet Spirit of Your presence. May each person hear Your voice, walk with You, sit by Your side and be renewed. Bless the hands of those who plant here, and increase the yield of their labors. Let Your glory blossom forth in all plantings, both in dormant times and in the times of increase. May the heavens declare the glory of Your Name in this place. AMEN.

BLESSING AT A PLACE OF WORK

LEADER: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward." (Colossians 3:23-24)*

RESPONSE (ALL): Bless the work of the hands that labor in this place.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, may Your creativity stir the hearts, minds and imaginations of all who work and labor in this place. May each task that is accomplished, whether large or small, bring honor and glory to You. May the fruit of workmanship be an expression of Your grace to those who labor. Let those who work in this place find their identity in You and not in the work of their hands. Give rest and re-creation to those who offer their creativity back to You. And fill those who work in this place with Your joy. AMEN.

prayer, perhaps marking the sign of the Cross of Christ on each doorway and window as you move through the home.

It is also meaningful for each person of the household to receive an anointing with the blessed water and oil and a personal blessing at the conclusion of the service.

THE BLESSING OF THE HOME

After the water and oil is blessed let everyone other than the immediate family be outside the home and ask a spiritual person (or the head of the family) to knock on the door from outside. If a child is present he or she will ask::

CHILD: "Who knocks at our door?"

As the family, inside, opens the door, the spiritual person outside reads the words of Jesus, the One who is entering the home.

SPIRITUAL LEADER: *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with Me." (Revelations 3:20)*

ALL: Welcome to this home, Lord Jesus!

LEADER: *"If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23)*

ALL: Lord, make this Your home, a place to be filled with Your holy presence.

LEADER: Oh, Lord, we ask You to send Your Spirit and give us the awareness and the grace to confess any sins that have been committed on this property and in the space of this home.

(It is good to wait upon the Lord and allow any such confessions of sin against the land or the family to be made, either from knowledge or through spiritual revelation).

We ask You to send Your Spirit and wash clean from this place the effects of what has displeased You. Let all things become new as You are invited into this home.

(The Leader may sprinkle the blessed water and oil around the outside of the home, marking the sign of the Cross over the entrance).

ALL: The Lord God Almighty says: *"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and*

move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness." (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

LEADER: Let the mighty power and light of the risen Lord be present in this home to cleanse it from all that is unholy, unclean, and from any trace of darkness and evil that may reside within it, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

BLESSING AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOME

LEADER: *"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.'" (Luke 10:5)*

RESPONSE (ALL): May all who enter this home receive the peace of the Lord.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus Christ, You are Lord of this home, and as You enter this dwelling, You bring peace and light and holiness with You. If any darkness has entered through this doorway, cleanse it by the anointing of Your presence. May Your healing presence permeate the hearts of all who dwell within these walls, and all who come in and go out these doors. Bless this entrance as a gateway into the refuge of a holy God. May all find solace and refreshment as they enter this home. **AMEN.**

(Sprinkle blessed water and/or oil upon the doorway and mark it with the sign of the Cross).

BLESSING IN THE LIVING ROOM OR FAMILY ROOM

LEADER: *"May those who love You be secure. May there be peace within Your walls . . . Live in peace with each other." (Psalm 122:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13)*

RESPONSE (ALL): May each person who enters this room be always aware of the security of Your presence and the peace that passes understanding.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, free the gift of hospitality in our hearts. May the invitation to gather in Your Name be always on our lips. Guard our activities in this room by the power of Your Spirit. May we constantly be aware of Your presence with us in this place as we talk, read, visit with guests, or be alone with You. If anything that has happened in this room is displeasing to You, we ask that You cleanse it by Your Spirit. Pour Your light upon us as we spend time in this space. **AMEN.**

BLESSING IN A CHILD'S ROOM

LEADER: *"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3-4)*

RESPONSE (ALL): Let us celebrate the joy of childhood and the freedom to come to You in complete trust.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, bless the child who sleeps and plays in this room. May *his/her* heart be open to You through imagination, wonder and joy. Let Your angels watch over *him* as *he* sleeps and may *he* hear Your lullabies when *he* is distressed. Guard *his* mind and protect *his* body in all *he* does. May *his* toys and games direct *him* toward the holy things of life and away from worldly pursuits. Lead *him* into a deep, personal relationship with You. **AMEN.**

BLESSING IN A BATHROOM

LEADER: *"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ Himself?" (1 Corinthians 6:15)*

RESPONSE (ALL): May all who use this bathroom be reminded constantly that they are the supreme workmanship of their heavenly Creator, the crown of His creation.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, let everyone who tends to the necessary maintenance of the wondrous work of the physical body be in awe of the ways in which *he* is fearfully and wonderfully made. Give grace to the members of this family to bless their bodies rightly, to use them as You intended, to love and not despise them, to tenderly care for and not abuse them. Until we are clothed eternally in glory with You in heaven, may we, Your creation, have the wisdom to care for ourselves with Godly respect and honor. **AMEN.**

BLESSING IN THE DINING AREA

LEADER: *"I have food to eat that you know nothing about . . . My food . . . is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work." (John 4:32, 34)*

RESPONSE (ALL): May we be content with the daily bread You provide for us.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, feed us with Your manna. Fill us to overflowing with the food that satisfies. Thank You for Your provision. At every meal be present with this family. Birth in us the great Chris-

know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward." (Colossians 3:23-24).

RESPONSE (ALL): Bless the work of the hands that labor in this room.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, may Your creativity stir the hearts, minds and imaginations of all who work and labor in this place. May each task that is accomplished, whether large or small, bring honor and glory to You, May the fruit of workmanship be an expression of Your grace to those who labor. Let those who work in this room find their identities in You and not in the work of their hands. Give rest and re-creation to those who offer their creativity back to You. AMEN.

BLESSING IN A BEDROOM

LEADER: "I lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:8)

RESPONSE (ALL): Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, speak to Your servants even as they sleep. Speak to them in the language of Godly and peaceful dreams and visions. Let rest that comes only from You penetrate even to their bones. May Your holy angels watch over those who sleep. Cleanse this room from any hidden darkness that may have entered through words or actions.

Let the healing light of Your Spirit be a nightlight, and the canopy of Your glory a blanket on those who rest in these beds. Renew and refresh as You lay them down to sleep. AMEN.

BLESSING IN A GUEST ROOM

LEADER: "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." (Romans 12:13)

RESPONSE (ALL): May we give freely to others from the storehouse of what You have given us.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, as guests visit this home, may they sense the welcoming presence of Your Holy Spirit. May each one feel honored and respected, a special part of Your creation. Make each family member sensitive to the needs of those You send here, and equip this family to lead them to You, the One who meets all our needs and the desires of our hearts. Give this family a holy boldness to proclaim Your goodness and Your saving grace. May this home be a shelter for the weary and a glow of warmth for the cold of heart. AMEN.

BLESSING IN THE STUDY, OFFICE OR LIBRARY

LEADER: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2).

RESPONSE (ALL): May all who read, work and study in this room be constantly aware that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, open the riches of Your wisdom to those who seek it in this place. Restore the good of reason along with the hunger for good Christian literature. If any books in this room displease You, shine the light of Your Spirit on them. Cleanse this space from any cynicism, negative thoughts, unbelief and darkness. Teach eternal truth to all who seek You. Inspire each mind to take in all that is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. Guard each mind in this home by Your holy presence. AMEN.

BLESSING IN THE KITCHEN

LEADER: "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you . . . I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty." (John 6:27, 35)

RESPONSE (ALL): May everyone in this family hunger and thirst for the things of God.

PRAYER (ALL): Lord Jesus, thank You for the bread of life. Increase the hunger in our hearts for Your Word and the things of Your Spirit. Decrease our appetites for the things of this world that keep us from becoming all You created us to be. Give us appetites for those things that bring us health and wholeness.

Cleanse this place for Your presence so that all food that is prepared here may be a suitable gift from You for those who eat it.

May those who prepare meals for this family do so in love and with joy. Stir up the creative gifts of Your Spirit so that the preparation of each meal may carry the love and significance that would be given to serve You at our table. AMEN.

BLESSING IN A WORKROOM

LEADER: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you