

Reclaim Initiative  
Transforming Your Family through the Power of Blessing  
Fall 2018



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## **Introduction:**

This blessing workbook is designed to support you as you get started or become more intentional with blessing your family and faith community. These blessings are just a launching pad so feel free to change, delete and create your own. Our main goal is support you wherever you are to discover the freedom, joy and transformation that comes through the power of blessing!

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## **Blessing at Conception:**

Child, we bless you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. When God created you, it gave him much pleasure and delight. He rejoiced and sang over you (Zephaniah 3:17). He planned your life before the beginning of time and destined for you to be a part of his family. “In love he destined (you) for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord to the favor of his will.” (Ephesians 1:4-5) God also destined that you would be apart of our family on earth. We welcome you into our family. We are full of joy that God has given you as a gift to us. We will always love you and provide for your needs during your life.

We dedicate your entire life, from the first moment of conception to your last moment on earth to the Lord Jesus Christ. We also entrust your birthright and the health of your spirit, soul, and body to the Lord. Since you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, I declare that the enemy and all evil spirits cannot touch you. May God’s perfect plan for your life be accomplished. May you walk in all the blessings the Lord has for you and pass these blessings on to your family, community, and future generations. May his angels surround you and keep you safe and may you be led by the Spirit of God all the days of your life. Amen.

## **Blessings in the womb:**

Blessing your child daily will develop the spirit of your child. The spirit and subconscious is already developing since the first moment of conception. The baby in the womb can absorb positive and negative emotions and also be greatly affected by the spiritual realm surrounding them. Blessing them daily is like creating a shield against negative influence and providing a safe environment to grow and thrive.



## **Identity:**

Child, listen to the word of God for you: “For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” (Psalm 139: 13-16)

You are a very special person. God took great care and thought when he created you and planned for your life. He has adopted you into his family out of his pure love for you. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love, he destined for us to adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord to the favor of his will...” (Ephesians 1: 3-5) I bless you with knowing you are unique and needed in the world and in our family. God has a special plan for your life and nobody else can fulfill that plan the way that you can. I bless you today in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Birthright:**

Child, listen to the word of God for you: “Heaven’s kingdom realm can be illustrated like this: A person discovered that there was hidden treasure in a field. Upon finding it, he hid it again. Because of uncovering such treasure, he was overjoyed and sold all that he possessed to buy the entire field.” (Matthew 13:44 The Passion Translation)

God has given you a special birthright which is a treasure chest full of God’s gifts and resources designed just for you. This precious treasure that God has given to you will be used to solve an earthly problem with heavenly solutions. As you fulfill this birthright, you will extend God’s kingdom here on earth. This treasure is costly to possess but once you possess it, you will experience profound joy and fulfillment. I bless you with great courage and perseverance as you seek to fulfill your birthright. I bless you with contentment with the treasure that God has given to you and the faithfulness needed to carry out God’s will to the end. I bless you today in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Spirit of Adoption:**

Child, listen to the word of God for you: “You are my beloved child, with you I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:11)

God our Father loves you dearly because he created you and you belong to him. You do not have to do anything to earn his love. He loves you as you are. I bless you today with knowing you are his dearly beloved child. He will provide for you and always give good gifts to you. I bless you with the spirit of adoption. You are adopted into God’s family and will always be a part of his family. I bless you today in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Joy:**

Child, listen to the word of God for you: “Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)

I bless you today with the heavenly gift of joy. May every aspect of your life be saturated with the joy of Lord. This joy brings health to your spirit, soul, and body. “A joyful heart is good medicine but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22) This heavenly joy is also God’s desire for you. “Let joy be your continual feast....and in the midst of everything, be always giving thanks, for this is God’s perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 TPT) May you guard this joy of the Lord by giving continual thanks and praise to God in your life. I bless you today in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Peace:**

Child, listen to the word of God for you: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.” (John 14:27)

In the name of Jesus, I bless you with the heavenly gift of peace. May God give you his shalom peace which means completeness, safety, health, prosperity, and calm. His peace is unique and guards your heart and mind during all of the ups and downs of life. May “the peace of God, which transcends all understanding...guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7) I bless you with the ability to cast your cares on God who cares for you, so that you will hold on to this great gift of peace and never lose it. I bless you today in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

## **Hearing from God:**

Child, listen to the word of God for you: “I am the good shepherd. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:11, 10:27)

May God open your spiritual senses to always be aware of God’s voice in your life. He speaks in many different forms: through a whisper in your heart, through nature, through dreams and visions, through your intuition, through his word in the Bible and in many other ways. I bless you with the ability to always hear his voice and also to obey his voice. “Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.” (Jeremiah 7:23) When you obey God’s voice, he will protect you from harm and fill your life with his blessings. I bless you today in the name of Jesus Christ, your good shepherd. Amen.

## **Trust:**

Child, listen to the word of God for you: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5) I bless you in the name of Jesus with the heavenly gift of trust. You can trust in God to take care of you and look after you always. He only has good desires and good gifts for you. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17) Even though your circumstances might change, God does not change and you can always trust in him. Trust in him at all times and your heart will be open to receive the endless good gifts and mercies he has for you. I bless you today in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Blessing at Birth**

Thank you Heavenly Father for placing (child’s name) in our lives. Today we are full of joy because of his/her birth. You have given (child’s name) as an infinitely precious gift to us, made in your own image and likeness.

Hello little one, this is your mom and dad. We love you and are so happy you are here. We will always be here to take care of you and keep you safe. God created and designed you perfectly. He made you very good. We love that God created you as a boy/girl and we bless your identity as a son/daughter of this family. We love you just the way you are and will continue to love and accept you all the days of your life.

You are a special member of our family and also God’s family. By his great love for you, God destined you for adoption into his family even before you were born. God holds your life in his hands and will provide and care for you everyday. We consecrate your life and destiny completely to Our Lord Jesus Christ and declare that Satan and all demonic spirits cannot touch you.

May God surround you with his angels and may his perfect will be accomplished in you. We bless you with the grace to hear God’s voice throughout your life and the grace to obey his voice. We bless your spirit, soul, and body with wholeness and the abundant life Jesus purchased for you on cross. May you dwell in God’s love and peace today and everyday, in Jesus’ name. Amen.



### **Blessing during Infancy and Early Childhood:**

During infancy and early childhood, the child's emotional health and ability to trust is developed. This is done through consistently attending to the child's physical and emotional needs and answering the deepest questions of a child's heart: "Is there anyone I can really trust to meet my needs? Is there anyone here bigger, stronger, and wiser than I am, who truly loves and cares about me?"<sup>1</sup> Blessing your infant and child on a regular basis brings them affirmation that they are safe and secure and valued when they need it most.

(Name), I bless you today with the gift of safety and security. God will always be with you and will provide for all of your needs. He watches over you with great care and says to you, "Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) I bless you with the supernatural ability to trust in your heavenly Father all the days of your life. Whenever you need something, you can approach your heavenly father with great confidence because he delights in caring for you and in giving you good gifts. "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) I

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<sup>1</sup> Hill, Craig. *The Power of a Parent's Blessing*. Lake Mary: Charisma House, 2013. Page 121.



also bless you with the knowledge that your parents and your heavenly father love you just the way you are. As you learn new things and make mistakes, our love for you will never change. God is so pleased with you that he sings and dances over you! “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” (Zephaniah 3:17) I bless you today and always in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Blessing for Weaning:**

Weaning is a significant time in the life of the child and parents. It can be a time of celebration or one of trauma. Weaning the child in a gentle and gradual manner as well as celebrating and blessing this transition in life will ensure it is a positive experience in the life of the child. “And the child grew up, and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.” (Genesis 21:8)

God, we give you thanks for our daily bread, your constant provision, and the gift of mother’s milk for our child.

Psalm 104:

“You made the springs flow into the ravines,  
that wind among the mountains.  
They give drink to every beast of the field;  
here wild asses quench their thirst.  
Beside them the birds of heaven nest;  
among the branches they sing.  
You water the mountains from your chambers;  
from the fruit of your labor the earth abounds.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and plants for people’s work  
to bring forth food from the earth,  
wine to gladden their hearts,  
oil to make their faces shine,  
and bread to sustain the human heart.”

Child, we bless you this day in the name of Jesus Christ. You are growing up and can now receive food and love from us in different ways. Even though you will not be drinking mommy's milk anymore, we will continue to provide for you and love you. We celebrate you this day and are proud of the child you are becoming.

We declare psalm 131:2 over you: "I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content." May God bless you and give you his peace. May his angels accompany you and protect you during this new stage of life. Amen.

### **Blessing for Transition to School:**

\_\_\_\_\_, we bless you during this important time in your life as you go to school. May God surround you always with good company and true friendships during your school years. May they provide encouragement and support and help lead you along the path God has for you. May you receive God's unconditional love and acceptance of you as you study and learn. May you discover the gifts, talents, and passions that God has deposited in you and may you diligently develop and grow in these talents and skills. May the Lord send his spirit upon you, "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD." (Isaiah 11:2) We bless you, \_\_\_\_\_, with joy as you grow in knowledge, grace, and relationships in school. May God's angels protect you throughout the school year and accompany wherever you go. We bless you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Blessing for Entry into Adolescence:**

Luke 2:51-52: Jesus lived obediently with them. His mother, Mary, held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

\_\_\_\_\_, we bless you to have the countenance and character of Jesus. May you know your own mind and your birthright and do what it takes to live into the treasure God has deposited into you. May you mature in your body and soul and be led by Holy Spirit all the days of your life.

May you choose purity of heart, of body, and in relationships. May your innocence be kept holy until the time of the covenant of your marriage.

As you enter into adolescence, may you follow the way of Jesus, in obedience to God and your parents, trusting both to be working for your best at heart. May you live in favor with those around you: your teachers, your coaches, your \_\_\_\_\_?, your mentors, but above all, may the favor of God go ahead of you in every situation, every life stage, and every opportunity that will lead you to live out the birthright God designed for you before the beginning of the world. Amen.

## **Blessing for Launch into Adulthood:**

Beloved, (son, daughter, grandchild, etc), I bless you as you make the significant transition from adolescence into adulthood. May you experience the depth of our pride and joy over you because of the person you are becoming.

We bless you, beloved \_\_\_\_\_, to take all the deposits that were made into you by your parents, grandparents, teachers, leaders, mentors, (others) throughout your life and to maximize them as part of your divine design. We celebrate the person you are, apart from what you do, because you are first and foremost a beloved child of God.

As you transition from (home to university, apartment, etc), we bless you to be anchored by your faith, your character and your integrity. May the doors of favor open to you at the right time, in the right place by the right people. May God's presence surround you when you are lonely, discouraged, and confused. May God's wisdom guide you as you make choices in relationships, vocation, and spiritual worship. May God's protection surround you as you step into new situations and experiences.

May you experientially live Ephesians 3:14-21:

So I kneel humbly in awe before the Father of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, **15** the perfect Father of every father and child in heaven and on the earth. **16** And I pray that he would unveil within you the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength floods your innermost being with his divine might and explosive power.

**17** Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of his love will become the very source and root of your life.

**18–19** Then you will be empowered to discover what every holy one experiences—the great magnitude of the astonishing love of Christ in all its dimensions. How deeply intimate and far-reaching is his love! How enduring and inclusive it is! Endless love beyond measurement that transcends our understanding—this extravagant love pours into you until you are filled to overflowing with the fullness of God!

**20** *Never doubt* God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you.

**21** Now we offer up to God all the glorious praise that rises from every church in every generation through Jesus Christ—and all that will yet be manifest through time and eternity. Amen!



### **Blessing for Engagement:**

(Bride and Groom), we are here to bless your significant life decision to marry. We celebrate the treasure you have found in one another. We rejoice that you have discerned and recognized that God brought you to one another as one of life's greatest gifts!

May you know God's love in such abundance that you are able to love one another from the overflow. May it be deep and satisfying and sustain you beyond the initial season of desire and carry you through both the joys and challenges of life.

Marriage is a holy covenant which means that it carries an unbreakable, eternal promise that all the resources of the stronger one is given freely to the weaker one. God is the one who joins himself with you so that all his heavenly resources are available to you.

We pray that as you both press into your divine design and birthright, you will discover the unique and wonderful purpose for why God brought you together. May you recognize the deepest desires of your heart and pursue how you are meant to live them out.

May you enter into your union with great anticipation of all the ways you will experience both the great adventure and the place of deepest security and peace.

## Blessing for Wedding Shower:

\_\_\_\_\_, It is my privilege to be here today to bring you this blessing. I have so many memories of you growing up (or something else that is relevant); and it is delightful to be here today to celebrate your upcoming wedding.

One of the things I've learned recently is just how much God wants to bless us. In fact, if we understand that what God does in the Old Testament through the families in Genesis is what he wants to do for us today; we discover that God went out of his way to bless Abraham, and despite impossible odds, to fulfill his promises.

Genesis 12 states: "Abram, I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others." Sometime later, the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have." God also described a territory of land for Abraham that he was to receive as his inheritance. We can discern from Abraham, the father of faith, that God gave him two parts to his inheritance: descendants and land.

It's easy to discern what the descendants represent: children and heirs. But, what does land represent to us today? Land represents our destiny....the territory that God designed for us since before the beginning of the universe. If you put these two things together, along with the blessings God gave Abraham, we discover that God has a destiny for us to live out, for our lifetime, but even more for us to pass the blessings God gives us onto our descendants for generations to come. Scripture even tells us that God will bless our descendants for a 1,000 generations! That's a very long time.

I've been reflecting on the generational blessings I've observed in your family, \_\_\_\_\_Bride.

**Suggestions:** (feel free to add or subtract)

I see two parents who love one another and have committed themselves to raise a family whose first priority is the Lord. I see a family that gathers to celebrate and goes out of their way to give blessings in the big and small areas of life. I see a family that is close and connected and full of blessing.

**Groom** (create what's relevant here), I heard her observe many of the same priorities in his family: a committed loving marriage, a family of faith, people who celebrate and put a priority on family.

To be able to be here with a solid foundation coming from both sides: the bride and the groom shows me that God has very big plans for \_\_\_\_\_ bride and groom.

He has blessed you so that the two of you in your marriage can not only continue to carry out those blessings but to discover the specific way that God wants you to be a blessing to the world and to those who will follow you.

My prayer for you:

Jeremiah 32:37-41:

I will bring them back to this very city and let them live in peace and safety.**38** They will be my people, and I will be their God.  
**39** And I will give them one heart and one purpose: to worship me forever, for their own good and for the good of all their descendants.**40** And I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good for them. I will put a desire in their hearts to worship me, and they will never leave me. **41** I will find joy doing good for them and will faithfully and wholeheartedly replant them in this land.

If desired and available, it is a gift to invite significant people in the bride's' life to also bless:

Grandmother, mother, mentor, sister, mother in law, etc. This demonstrates the blessing passing through the different generations.

## **Blessing for Marriage:**

Genesis 2:16-25:

God took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

God commanded the Man, "You can eat from any tree in the garden, except from the Tree-of-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil. Don't eat from it. The moment you eat from that tree, you're dead."

God said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion." So God formed from the dirt of the ground all the animals of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the Man to see what he would name them. Whatever the Man called each living creature, that was its name. The Man named the cattle, named the birds of the air, named the wild animals; but he didn't find a suitable companion.

God put the Man into a deep sleep. As he slept he removed one of his ribs and replaced it with flesh. God then used the rib that he had taken from the Man to make Woman and presented her to the Man.

The Man said, “Finally! Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh! Name her Woman for she was made from Man.” Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife. They become one flesh.

The two of them, the Man and his Wife, were naked, but they felt no shame.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, we bless you in your marriage to live the Glory of the Garden. Adam and Eve were given invitation and freedom to walk with God and to experience a relationship that was free from shame and filled with unrestrained desire: physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We bless you to live in the longing and intimacy for one another that fulfills your heart as you both seek God and live into your identity as God’s beloved son and daughter and royal heir created to steward the beautiful garden he created for you.

We bless you, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, to seek for, discover and obtain the birthright treasure God has created for your marriage. May you have the faith and perseverance to enter into your promised land, and to settle it according to God’s kingdom purposes.

May you both be supernaturally empowered to follow the Lord’s design for marriage found in Ephesians 5:21-33: to surrender to, love, honor and respect one another.

\_\_\_\_\_, love your wife sacrificially as Christ loved the church. Love your wife emotionally as a friend and partner. Love your wife physically, with desire, putting her needs ahead of your own. And, may you nourish and cherish her all the days of your lives.

And, \_\_\_\_\_, respect and honor your husband as Jesus Christ respects and honors you.

Above all, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, may you live in faith, hope and love. For the greatest of these is love.





### **Blessing for Entry into Parenthood:**

Names \_\_\_\_\_, we bless you as you have entered into one of the greatest gifts and blessings of life: becoming parents. God gives us a unique privilege to step into the role that he designed and ultimately lives out with us: loving parent.

We bless you first with the supernatural ability to love and respect one another as God intended for marriage. Your strong marriage will be the glue to carry you through the struggles of raising your children. It can be the place of support when you are overwhelmed or afraid. And, ultimately, a committed marriage provides your child with the deepest level of security and confidence.

We bless you with wisdom as you seek to raise your precious child, \_\_\_\_\_, in the ways of the Lord. We bless you with faith to see God's protection, provision and presence as he guides you and works to bring about his best for your child. We bless you with trust to know with unwavering certainty that God is present and he will guide you as you partner with him to raise your child.

We bless you to discover and celebrate your child's divine design and to partner with God to honor and align with it. We bless you to discern your child's birthright and destiny and to access the resources of heaven to support his/her journey to walk it out. His/her birthright truly is the treasure in the field that is worth giving everything to possess (Matthew 13:44).

We bless you as a family with good sleep and health. We ask God to protect your child from serious disease or accidents, and to develop a good foundation from which to learn and grow. We bless you with unity as a couple as you make small and big decisions on behalf of your child. We bless you with a strong support system, a faith community, and life long friends.

Names \_\_\_\_\_, we bless you with deep contentment as you live out your roles as parents. May you cherish each moment, smile in the midst of frustration, commit to make blessing and celebration family values that carry you through the struggles of life and bring greater joy and fulfillment in the challenge of the everyday. We bless you with grace for yourselves; that you will receive God's grace as you lean on him to be the perfect parent for your child and also, for you!

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_, we bless you to raise your child to go . . . to hold him/her loosely and to always remember that ultimately she/he belongs to God. May you have peace as each day you prepare your child to become a mature and healthy adult who will go and model and replicate the good and godly foundation you have carefully created with the Lord.

Finally, we end with this blessing that has been used in families for thousands of years:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you his peace, today, tomorrow and forever. Amen! Numbers 6:24-26

## Blessing for Baby Shower:

\_\_\_\_\_, we are gathered here to celebrate you and welcome \_\_\_\_\_ to the world! Right now your baby is nestled in the safety of your womb and is experiencing the nurture your body is giving it. But in just a few short weeks, your baby will go through one of its biggest transitions of his/her life as it is born!

We know that God delights in families having babies as his original mandate to us in Genesis 1:28 states: “Then God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and multiply!’” Babies are one of God’s favorite creations....He’s dreamed about each one before the beginning of the universe and can’t wait to see them live out the many good gifts he designed them to experience!

We also know that God loves to give big welcomes to newborn babies by the party he gave Jesus....the whole sky lit up and the radiance of the glory of the Lord surrounded the shepherds, while a vast host of angels announced his birth!

We want to give **your baby** a big welcome to the world too! Babies in the womb perceive much more than I ever realized...and when we speak blessings over them while they are developing in the womb, it gives them the ability to adapt and thrive when they are born. Knowing they are loved is like 100 million dollars in the bank!

As you look around, you see your **name specific people that have important roles in the babies life, such as grandmother, aunt, sister, etc.** and many other lifelong friends and family that have woven the fabric of your life.

What we can’t see as easily are the angels gathered around you, (mother’s name), who are also celebrating with us...because Heaven is rejoicing in the life of your sweet baby...the one whom Heaven has great plans for. God has blessed you abundantly,, and he is passing his blessing through you to your baby, as well as the people who are going to be influential and important in his/her life.

So, now let’s hear from some of the important people in Baby \_\_\_\_\_ life:

**Invite grandparents, aunts, sisters, etc to speak, as well as others who have had influence in the mother’s life.**

Blessing from Jeremiah 32:37-41:

You will live in peace and safety. You are my people and I am your God. I am giving you one heart and one purpose: to worship me forever, for your own good and for the good of all your descendants. And I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will never stop doing good for you. I will put a desire in your hearts to worship me, and you will never leave me. I will find joy doing good for you and will faithfully and wholeheartedly bless you all the days of your life!

## Blessing for Empty Nesting:

Consider doing something very special to recognize and celebrate reaching the status of empty nesting. Empty nesting is often accompanied by grief of children leaving home, an emptiness of activity and loss of the important role of parent. But, in the absence, the idea is to rediscover your spouse in ways that time, energy and often finances didn't permit in the early years.

Ideas for recognizing and blessing empty nesting:

- Invite your friends and family to a set apart time for you to acknowledge your new role, to hear your losses, but also your new dreams, and to pray for you and your spouse as you start this very new season in your lives. Consider making the pledge below to one another with your friends and family as witnesses.
- Go on a romantic trip (perhaps place of honeymoon or a long dreamed for experience)
- Brainstorm a new activity that you do together and prioritize time in your schedule to do it regularly.
- Write love letters to one another where you share your dreams for your new season.

Husband:

Beloved \_\_\_\_\_, I celebrate you as my wife. I promise to seek to know you in a new and different way than I have known you before. I will pray for you as you mourn the loss of your role as mom to kids at home, and take on your new role as parent to young adults. I will make space to spend time with you, to dream with you and to \_\_\_\_\_ (*fill in the blank with own ideas*).

Wife:

Beloved \_\_\_\_\_, I celebrate you as my husband. I promise to seek to know you in a new and different way than I have known you before. I will pray for you as you mourn the loss of your role as dad to kids at home, and take on your new role as parent to young adults. I will make space to spend time with you, to dream with you and to \_\_\_\_\_ (*fill in the blank with own ideas*).

## **Blessing for Senior Years/Wisdom:**

Giving honor to our seniors brings great joy to God and a blessing to us:

Exodus 20:12: Honor your father and mother so you will live a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving to you.

The Senior years are a time of great transition for our parents or family. Their bodies no longer work as well as they used to, they may have physical or financial limitations that put stress on them. They may have failing memories. They may be dependent on us in ways that we aren't used to experiencing. However, they also carry wisdom which is priceless when shared. Making space for them to share their wisdom gained through the celebrations and challenges of life are treasures to be found. Celebrating the wisdom they carry can help to offset the daily challenges of growing older.

(Suggestion: Consider having a party or gathering to intentionally celebrate a significant birthday or marriage anniversary. We gave my parents a 65th anniversary party that lasted an entire day that included their entire family--kids, grandkids and great grandkids. We had our picture taken, made them a book of their marriage, wrote blessings to share, asked questions about their lives, told them the significant ways they'd impacted our lives, and prayed for them).

Celebrate who they are:

Recognize the ways they've impacted your life:

Share favorite memories or experiences that you shared with them:

Give thanks for the sacrifices they made:

Bless their presence in your life in their senior years:  
What do you value in them at this stage of their life?

## Scriptures:

Exodus 20:12: Honor your father and mother so you will live a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving to you.

Jesus on the cross: Caring for his mother Mary by asking John to take her into his home.

John 19:27: And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

Proverbs 1:8: My son, listen when your father corrects you. Don’t neglect your mother’s instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace, and be a chain of honor around your neck.

Hebrews 12:5-11 And have you forgotten his encouraging words spoken to you as his children? He said,

“My child, don’t underestimate the value of the discipline and training of the Lord God, or get depressed when he has to correct you. **6** For the Lord’s training of your life is the evidence of his faithful love. And when he draws you to himself, it proves you are his delightful child.”

**7** Fully embrace God’s correction as part of your training, for he is doing what any loving father does for his children. For who has ever heard of a child who never had to be corrected? **8** We all should welcome God’s discipline as the validation of authentic sonship. For if we have never once endured his correction it only proves we are strangers and not sons.

**9** And isn’t it true that we respect our earthly fathers even though they corrected and disciplined us? Then we should demonstrate an even greater respect for God, our spiritual Father, as we submit to his life-giving discipline. **10** Our parents corrected us for the short time of our childhood as it seemed good to them. But God corrects us throughout our lives for our own good, giving us an invitation to share his holiness. **11** Now all discipline seems to be more pain than pleasure at the time, yet later it will produce a transformation of character, bringing a harvest of righteousness and peace to those who yield to it.

## **Blessing for a Peaceful Death:**

(Name), I call your spirit of attention in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to the word of God for you: “Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:42-43).

God loved you so much that he sent his Son to die for you so that you could be in heaven with him forever. There is no sin that the blood of Jesus does not cover. And there is nothing that makes God happier than when we fully trust in his forgiveness and mercy. I bless you with the grace to receive God’s forgiveness and mercy and be in complete peace. I bless you also with the grace to forgive yourself and forgive others for any harm that was done during your life. I cover you in the blood of Jesus that washes away all sin.

Jesus longs to be with you and is eagerly awaiting your arrival into heaven. I bless you with his great love for you that casts out all fear. Your family and the great crowd of witnesses in heaven surround you and are joyfully awaiting your arrival into heaven. Your family on earth is also with you and you have our blessing to go be with God in heaven. May the angels escort you in peace and joy. I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



