



Benediction: Our Charge

SUPPLIES Needed



TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering*
- Supplies for the Hebrews 13 Activity

OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons* (*Found in the introduction section.*)

*These items will be needed every week.

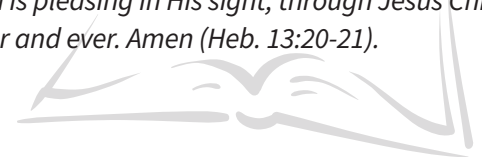
LEADER'S Review

Benedictions from Scripture are often read or recited near the close of a worship service. In this context, benedictions embody a call to unity, faith, and joy among the brethren. Reciting a benediction is meant to encourage believers and stimulate joy and commitment to God. Additionally, many believers find meditating on benedictions during their “quiet times” is a soothing balm which deepens the spirit, provides succor for the ailing heart, and strengthens the faltering soul. Benedictions can be a remarkable source of healing because the words themselves are life.

One Hebrew word for blessing is *esher*, which is also translated “happiness.” Job 5:17 declares, “Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.” This blessing is connected to the knowledge that God is at work to direct us in the right path. God’s chastisement is actually a display of His love for us, like a parent who disciplines a child who plays in the middle of the street. Psalm 1:1-3 carries that theme further when it states, “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” The book of Psalms is full of references to this kind of happy blessing for those who love and fear the Lord God.

Before the writer of Hebrews gave a benediction to his readers, he charged them with how to live before God. Therefore, the benediction becomes a blessing—that they will be equipped and able to live according to His work within them.

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen (Heb. 13:20-21).



THE Lesson

Call to Worship

Use as many verses of this hymn as your students have learned. (2-3 minutes)

- “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Praise

Use this time to teach one of the hymns below and make it this month’s praise song. (5 minutes)

- “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”
- “I Am So Glad That Our Father in Heaven”

Tithes and Offerings

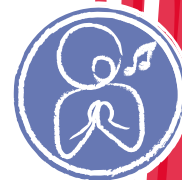
Have the children sing “This Is My Father’s World” as they pass around the offering basket. (2 minutes)

This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

Confession of Faith

Recite the Apostles’ Creed. (2 minutes)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.





Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (1-2 minutes)

Hebrews 13:1-21

¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat.

¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

¹⁸ Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. ¹⁹ I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.



Prayer

Give thanks to God for helping us to obey Him and be more like Jesus. (3-4 minutes)

Lord God, thank You for teaching us how to live and helping us to obey You by giving us the Holy Spirit to live within us. Please forgive us when we don't obey and please continue to help us be more like Jesus every day. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



Hearing the Word

Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (5-7 minutes)

(Hold up the elements of worship icons found in the introductory section for each of the underlined words.) God calls us to worship Him. He teaches us to pray. He lives in the praises of His people. He commands us to cheerfully give tithes and offerings. We are instructed to confess with our mouths what we believe. We listen to God through the reading and hearing of the Word. We remember what Jesus has done for us in the signs of the sacraments. We receive the blessing of God in the benediction.

The scripture passage we read today comes at the end of the Letter to the Hebrews. The author wanted to give his readers one final reminder about how to live as Christians. What are some of the commands in Hebrews 13? Let's review them because they are all wonderful instructions even for little children. *(Read the scripture again and pause along the way to make these twelve points. Ask how, why, and who questions with each point to make sure the children understand what is being taught here.)*

1. Love each other.
2. Welcome others into your home, church, and friendships.
3. Pray for and visit those in prison.
4. Consider marriage very important and special.
5. Don't love money and be happy with what you have.
6. Fear God more than men.
7. Follow the leaders who teach you God's Word.
8. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Don't let anyone change your mind about Him.
9. Keep praising God.
10. Do what is good and share all that you have.
11. Honor your leaders and obey them joyfully.
12. Pray for those who need prayer.

This is a very good list of rules for all of God's children to follow. The writer of Hebrews knew it is often very difficult to keep rules. So, instead of leaving the people with a very hard list to follow, knowing they would get discouraged easily by their own sin, he ends this list with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a message full of hope and grace. It is a benediction that charges the people but reminds them they can do all these things only because of what Jesus has already done for them.

Let's listen to the benediction at the end again. **Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen (Heb. 13:20-21).**

This benediction reminds us our God is a God of peace who raised Jesus from the dead. He is peaceful, yet powerful. We are reminded Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His sheep.

(Hearing the Word—Continued)

That sweet and protective relationship has been sealed by the eternal covenant. God promises to be our God forever. The best part is that after that long list of what we should do, we hear God's eternal promise also equips us with everything good.

Wow! We are not expected to do all of this on our own, but our God makes us able. How does He do this? He works in us. A good benediction at the end of our worship always reminds us the Spirit is at work in us. He goes with us wherever we go. His work is "pleasing in God's sight," through Jesus Christ.

What a blessing! Everything God requires of us He supplies for us by His Spirit. How do we know for sure that the Holy Spirit is working in us? The Holy Spirit reminds us of our sin. When you do something wrong and you feel bad about it, that is the Holy Spirit at work reminding you or convicting you of your sin. When the world would tell us to be afraid, and we are not—that is the Holy Spirit giving us God's strength and courage. When we decide to do the right thing, such as obeying parents or being kind to brothers and sisters—yes, that is the Holy Spirit at work within us, "equipping us with everything good."

Let's pray, confessing the sin in our hearts, and admitting how hard it is for us to keep the rules. Then let's thank God for the blessing of His Spirit because of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. ***(Give each student a sentence to pray. Write them down for those who read; have younger children repeat after you. Example sentences: I am sorry for my sin. I need You to help me. Thank You for Your Spirit. Thank You for working in my heart. Thank You for sending Jesus. Thank You for blessing us forever. Thank You for promising to be with us. Thank You for keeping Your promises.)***

ACTIVITY 1: Show the children the HEBREWS 13 page with the list of commands given to God's people. ***Print one for each child to color or have them choose one they are going to pray about doing with the Spirit's help. As they are drawing or coloring, rehearse this month's verse and hymn.***

ACTIVITY 2: This would also be a good time to have children design their own worship service with favorite hymns and verses from the year. ***You may want to invite parents to join you next Sunday and participate in the children's worship. If you decide to do this, spend this time making invitations for parents.***



Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace (Num. 6:24-26).

© 2020 PCA Committee on Discipleship Ministries
1700 North Brown Road, Suite 102
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043
Bookstore: 678.825.1100
www.pcabookstore.com

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV), Copyright 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2011.

All rights reserved. The lessons, graphics, and activities in this publication may be printed and used only by the church/individual that holds the purchasing license. It may not be used or reproduced in any other publications without prior permission of the publisher, PCA Committee on Discipleship Ministries, 1700 North Brown Road, Suite 102, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043.