

BackPack Blessing 2020

Holy God, as we begin a new school year, we gather to ask your blessing and protection upon our children and youth, our teachers and school personnel and the bags, devices and supplies that they will use this year in their time of learning, teaching and growing. And perhaps more importantly, send your spirit upon them and help them to know that no matter what, you are always with them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Invite the congregation to join you in the following litany:

Leader: When it's the night before going to school, and you are picking out your clothes and making sure you have all your school supplies, remember:

Congregation: Jesus is always with you.

Leader: When you are waking up and eating a healthy breakfast to start the day, remember:

Congregation: Jesus is always with you.

Leader: When you are on the way to school or logging on to online learning, remember:

Congregation: Jesus is always with you.

Leader: When you are with your teachers, students or friends, whether in your classroom or online, remember:

Congregation: Jesus is always with you.

Leader: When you are doing your homework or preparing lessons, remember:

Congregation: Jesus is always with you.

Leader: When you are telling family or friends about your day, remember:

Congregation: Jesus is always with you.

Leader: When you are praying at night and thanking God for your family, friends and school, remember:

Children: Congregation: Jesus is always with you.

Leader: let us pray:

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers. Today we give you thanks for these your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school and in Sunday School. May they be guided by your love and protected by your hand. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. Amen.