



Backpack Blessing?

What is a Backpack Blessing?

A Backpack Blessing is a segment in a worship service just before students and teachers return to school at the beginning of the year. The aim is to encourage and help students to feel excited and supported, by their church community and by God, as they go back to school.

How does it work?

Choose a date before children return to school and advertise it, asking students (and teachers?!) to bring their backpacks to the service. Why backpacks? Because for many children, and adults, there is much excitement about their backpack or new stationery items. Plus their backpacks are students' constant companions while at school.

During the service, invite everyone returning to school to the front and say a prayer of blessing over them and their backpacks.

A special bag tag or pin/badge can be given to attach to their backpacks as a reminder that God and their church family go with them.

Here are some more ideas to include:

- Interview a couple of kids/all the kids:
 - What is their school year, school, teacher?
 - Subjects, classes? (If older students)
- Encouragement: They are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14), and are a *'very Important person'* in their church, family and school.
- Pray for strength, courage and faith.
- Song: Kia Kaha, Kia Maia, Kia Manawanui (Be strong, be steadfast, be willing).
- Have a person for each child who attaches a badge or bag tag on their bag and prays for them or stands with them during a group prayer.
- Congregation stands for prayer (blessing).
- Bag tags or badges/pins could be created by members of the church (to make them extra special/meaningful).



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