

Note for Kids and Parents

It's time to go back to school! The first day of school is filled with lots of different emotions: excitement, sadness, joy, or maybe even dread. Maybe you love school or maybe you don't, but one important thing you can do before school begins is to spend time with God.

Back to School Eve is a resource designed for kids and parents to do together the night before your school begins. This resource will help you pray over your school, your teacher, and your classmates, as well as create your own faith bucket list and pick your Bible verse for the year!

Your Back-to-School Eve kit includes the following:

- Family Devotion
- My School Year Faith Bucket List printable
- A Prayer for My Teacher printable
- My School Year Bible Verse printable
- My Backpack Cross activity

As you begin this school year, remember that God is with you through all the learning, all the tests, all the friendships, all the temptations, all the decisions you have to make, all the sad times, and all the happy times. Remember to keep God first in your life and trust Him. Have a blessed school year!

Family Devotion

Read 1 Kings 4:29-34

Do you know what all teachers have?

Wisdom!

Yes, your teachers are wise people! They have been to school, studied hard, and know a lot of information. And they want to pass their wisdom on to you. They want to help you become wise, too.

There was a man in the Old Testament who was very wise. His name was Solomon. He was actually a king. God asked Solomon what he wanted as a king, and the one thing Solomon asked God for was wisdom. He asked God to bless him with wisdom so he could follow the Lord and be a great leader for Israel.

In 1 Kings 4:29-34, we read about the wisdom God gave Solomon and how he used it. Solomon was so wise that the Bible says it was "as measureless as the sand on the seashore" (v. 29b). You know how much sand there is on the seashore? Too much to measure or count! That means that Solomon's wisdom was so great!

But Solomon didn't keep this wisdom to himself. The Bible says that he shared that wisdom with everyone. Solomon taught others using the wisdom God gave to him. He taught songs and proverbs (which we can read in the books of Song of Solomon and Proverbs in the Bible). He taught about plant life, animals, birds, reptiles, and fish. People from all nations heard about the wisdom and teachings of Solomon and they traveled long distances just to learn from him. They wanted to know more and wanted to be wise, too, so they came to Solomon to learn and gain wisdom.

Do you want to be wise? Well, you can be! In James 1:5 it says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." God gives us wisdom! And He doesn't just give us a little...He gives us a lot! He wants us to be wise and He wants us to seek Him.

This school year will be tough at times. You will learn things that are hard to understand. You may get frustrated and want to give up. But I encourage you to pray. Ask God to give you wisdom and help you understand all you are learning in school. And I know God will give you wisdom because that's what the Bible says, and the Bible is God's Word and Truth!

Gracious God, thank You for Your promise to give me wisdom. Help me make wise choices this school year and help me to be wise in all that I do and all that I say. And bless my teachers with wisdom and patience as they teach me and my classmates. In Jesus' name, Amen.

My School Year Faith Bucket List

Supplies Needed: *My School Year Faith Bucket List printable, markers or crayons*

You have probably heard of a bucket list (which is a list of things you want to do). You can make a bucket list for different things. But have you ever made one for your school year that related to your faith in God?

In this activity, you will use the My School Year Faith Bucket List printable and write down different things you can do to help grow your faith in God. On each clipboard is a different topic. Use that clipboard to write down things you can do this school year to help grow your faith.

Here are the topics:

Bible Verses to Memorize - *Search the Bible for verses you want to commit to learning. Not sure which verses to choose? Ask your parents or your church leader to help you. They can share some with you.*

People to Share Jesus With - *Who are the people you need to talk to at school and tell them about Jesus?*

Ways to Serve God - *How can you serve God by serving others this school year? Write down some things you can do.*

Things to Pray For - *What things can you commit to praying for this school year?*

After you fill this out, keep it in your Bible or hang it on the fridge or in your room so it will help remind you to do these things this school year.

A Prayer for My Teacher

Supplies Needed: A Prayer for My Teacher printable, pen or pencil

Teachers are the best! But being a teacher is a hard job! One thing every teacher needs is prayer! And what a blessing in knowing that your students are praying for you!

For this activity, you will be writing out a prayer for your new teacher for this school year. Take the A Prayer for My Teacher printable and write out a prayer. Ask God to give them wisdom. Ask God to give them patience. Ask God to give them confidence. Ask God to give them peace. And ask God to help them trust in Him.

Pray this prayer with your family before you go to bed tonight. After you pray, fold the paper and place it in an envelope with your teacher's name on it. On the first day of school, take this printable and give it to your teacher. Don't be afraid to give it to your teacher, either. Be bold and courageous and share your prayer with your teacher! I believe they will be so happy to know you are praying for them!

My School Year Bible Verse

Supplies Needed: *My School Year Bible Verse printable, Bible, markers or crayons (or pen or pencil)*

Have you ever heard of someone picking a Bible verse to claim over their year? This is a Bible verse they memorize and recite all throughout the year. This verse gives them hope, reminds them of God's love for them, and reminds them of His constant presence in their life.

Usually, you hear of adults doing this, but I think this is an excellent thing for kids to do for their school year! The first thing I want you to do is to pray. Ask God to give you a verse that you can use as a blessing over your school year.

Then, grab your Bible and begin looking up verses. If you are having trouble finding one, ask a parent to help you. Here are some suggestions of verses you could use:

- "Do not fear for I am with you." Isaiah 41:10
- "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20
- "And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us." 1 John 3:23
- "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

After you are done, write your Bible verse on the My School Year Bible Verse printable. Then, hang this in your room where you can be reminded of it every day when you wake up. Or, you can carry this printable in one of your school folders or binders and be reminded of it when you are at school. I pray the verse you choose will give you great peace this school year!

My Backpack Cross

Supplies Needed: pocket cross

One of the things I did when I was in school was I carried a cross in my backpack. Anytime I had a test, was worried about something, or needed to be reminded that God was with me, I pulled out the cross and it brought me peace.

I want to share this with you in hopes that you, too, will carry a cross in your backpack this school year. I want this cross to be a reminder to you that God is with you at all times. I want this cross to remind you that Jesus brings you peace. I want this cross to remind you that God loves you so much.

I love the pocket cross because you can easily clutch it in your hand. Tonight, before you go to bed, clutch your pocket cross, pray and ask God to help this cross remind you of Him every day at school this year. Then place the cross somewhere in your backpack where you will see it every day. So, when you open your backpack at school, you can be reminded that God is with you. You can even give one to a friend!!

May God bless you this school year!