

[Be sure Lovesong lyric sheets to “Song of Blessing” have been handed out before you begin. Also, consider a previously created Dedication Team who can plan and lead this ceremony. Consider keeping the age limit for this dedication time to children under 5.]

ALL children are a blessing!

Today we are lifting our hearts together in joy as we reach out to our loving Paradise Father requesting for His blessings for these children and their parents. Because there never has been ‘original sin’, the old ways of thinking that some kind of cleansing is necessary is outdated. We know that we come into this world completely loved and cared for with everything we need for our future spiritual survival. We are here tonight as a source of encouragement, support and love for these parents who have courageously chosen to be the best parents they can possibly be for their child/children.

Let us now go back in time—in our minds—and visit a beautiful scene where our Master teaches and encourages His people regarding the blessings of children.

[Have someone from the Dedication Team read this passage. Allow for shared leadership. This will help your group grow.]

*167:6.1 That evening Jesus’ message regarding marriage and the blessedness of children spread all over Jericho, so that the next morning, long before Jesus and the apostles prepared to leave, even before breakfast time, scores of mothers came to where Jesus lodged, bringing their children in their arms and leading them by their hands, and desired that he bless the little ones. When the apostles went out to view this assemblage of mothers with their children, they endeavored to send them away, but these women refused to depart until the Master laid his hands on their children and blessed them. And when the apostles loudly rebuked these mothers, Jesus, hearing the tumult, came out and indignantly reproved them, saying: **“Suffer little children to come to me; forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Verily, verily, I say to you, whosoever receives not the kingdom of God as a little child shall hardly enter therein to grow up to the full stature of spiritual manhood.”***

167:6.2 And when the Master had spoken to his apostles, he received all of the children, laying his hands on them, while he spoke words of courage and hope to their mothers.

Leader: Some of us are newer to this world than others. We have with us today some of our newest in our fraternity of the divine spirit. We have our babies and our smallest children. Parents, please come forward with your child/children for a time of blessing. [All come forward. In the case of a single parent be prepared to have a volunteer come forward to stand with this single parent to pray over her/his child/children.]

Leader: I would like to now say the name/s of these precious little children of God one by one. [In preparation for this event go and find the meanings of the names of each child or have your Dedication Team do this. Look for the most complimentary meaning of the name/s and apply spiritual meaning if you can.] After I say each one’s name and meaning let us all, as one loving group, say this child’s name

together and out loud to our Master, Christ Jesus, who is actually present here with us tonight. [Take time in doing this. Do not rush and allow for honoring attention to each one and their parent/s.]

Dedication Team Leader [other than you] gives a prayer of dedication for these children but ALSO for the parent/s. As Jesus did, include courage and hope in this prayer.

When the prayer ends have someone begin the Lovesong “Song of Blessing”. You have already prepared the Dedication Team in advance to come forward and each Team Leader lays hands on each child and personally prays for them and the parent/s. The group sings the song over and over until the prayers have all been completed.

Song of Blessing [to the tune of Brahms's Lullaby]

Favor now to this child
May your life be a blessing

To Father up above
May you walk in His love.

As you grow may you know
How your Father stays near you

As you grow may you know
His love for you He bestows
Blessings now to this child
Ever always abide

As you grow may you know
He remains by your side

Leader: Thank you, everyone, for your care and love. Let us introduce any visitors we have with us tonight. [Do so. Give your next instructions for the evening. Reception with food, perhaps?]

[In the previous weeks be sure to remind everyone to invite their families and friends to this event. If you have the space, let the family and friends stand with the parent/s during this dedication.

Remember: We are socializing the True Religion of Jesus and this is one of the greatest events for progressing this. Remind EVERYONE to be warm and welcoming to all newcomers. We hope they will want to come back.]

Insert this Dedication anywhere you see fit in your meeting. We have found it is advantageous to do this at the end of the meeting so that you may go directly into a time of celebration with possibly a reception with food and drink of some kind. Get creative! Make it special! Make it FUN!

Idea:

Provide note cards and pens for anyone to write a note of encouragement to the parent/s.