

#GCICHURCHHACKS

What exactly is a benediction?

It is pronouncement of divine blessing given in the Bible. It represents a joyful, unifying call to faith, patience, and practice for the faithful, based on the certainty of God's goodness and involvement in our lives.

The brief blessing is intended to be a step toward awareness of the importance of God's presence in our lives and an appreciation of our inclusion in his love and ministry.

How to present the benediction:

- Summarize the theme of the service.
 - Example: "What a comfort it is to be reminded of God's gentleness toward us. This week, ask God to show you who in your life is being stretched thin and needs gentleness and love."
- Ask the congregation to receive the benediction. Often suggesting a posture of openness (i.e. stand, open palms up, place hand over heart, etc.) can give the blessing a deeper meaning.
 - Example: "Please stand to receive the benediction. Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble." II Corinthians 1:3-4 (CEV)
- Dismiss the congregation.
 - Example: "Go in peace and live the church. See you throughout the week."



Benedictions in the Bible:

1. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Num. 6:24-26)
2. "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 1:7)
3. "The God of peace be with you all. Amen." (Rom. 15:33)
4. "Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love." (Eph. 6:23-24)
5. "Now may the Lord of Peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you." (2 Thess. 3:16)
6. "Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord." (1 Tim. 1:2)
7. "The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you." (2 Tim. 4:22)
8. "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

