



TRAIL MARKER FIVE

Beginning School Rite of Gifting



[Faith Trail Leader]:

INTRODUCTION: *[add names of children here]*

[Pastor]:

These children will soon begin primary school. This morning they and their parents gathered together for a Faith Trail Ministry event to reflect on this special step in their lives and now we offer our prayers and blessings in support of them.

[Faith Trail Leader]:

We hear in Matthew 19 –

Some people brought little children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on the children and pray for them. But the disciples told the people to stop. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them."

[Pastor]:

Children, you have brought your backpacks today to be blessed. I invite you to take them off and place them here before me.

Let us pray together:

Lord Jesus, please bless these backpacks and the children who use them. Let them not be scared or worried, but to always know that you love them and care for them. Keep them safe, give them good friends, and help them to learn well. Help their parents as they love and guide them. Amen.

The children are blessed individually with these words:

God protect you, help you and take care of you throughout your time at school. Amen.

[Faith Trail Leader]:

We now present these children with a keyring they can place on their backpacks as reminder of God's love and our support, and with a Faith Trail marker they can keep as a reminder of this special step in their lives as God's children.

Presentations of the keyrings and pebbles are made. Children and families return to their seats.

[Pastor]:

BLESSING OF ALL OTHER STUDENTS (PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY)

All other preschool, primary and secondary school students are invited to stand for a prayer and blessing:

Let us pray for these students:

Holy Spirit, be with every student this year. Give your light and knowledge to them, so that they may see the order that you bring into creation, and find joy in developing and using the gifts that you give. Amen.

The pastor says these words of blessing:

The Holy Spirit bless you, giving you light and wisdom in your learning. Amen.

BLESSING OF ALL TEACHERS

All early childhood, preschool, primary and secondary school teachers are invited to stand for a prayer and blessing:

Let us pray for these teachers:

Father, let these teachers be honoured by their students, and give them confidence that you are pleased with their work. Strengthen them to care for their students, and let their faith in you be clearly seen in their words and actions. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The pastor says these words of blessing:

God the Father guide you to use your authority with care and insight, and give you joy in your service. Amen.