

Parents Blessing Guidelines

On this very special occasion you will have the opportunity to offer words of blessing to your child at the beginning of the Torah service. Recognizing that you may not have written a blessing before, here are some guidelines that will help you craft your prayer. As always, Rabbi Briskin and Cantor Berlin are available to help.

Details:

1. Your blessing should be about 2-3 minutes long or about 300-375 words.
2. You are creating a blessing to be offered within our worship service which is different from a speech you may offer at a celebration.
3. Please send your blessing to Rabbi Briskin for review one week prior to the B. mitzvah.

Suggested Format:

Blessings should be about your child's character, your Jewish hopes and dreams for your child and about the value of Torah, tradition, family and Jewish commitment.

1. A paragraph of introduction sharing how special this moment is
 - "At this moment..."*
 - "On this Shabbat..."*
 - "Here, in our congregation, with our family and friends.."*
2. 1-2 paragraphs of blessing, hope, what the moment of becoming b. mitzvah means, hopes/dreams for your child's future
 - "I/We pray that you will..."*
 - "Our hope for you is..."*
 - "My/Our blessing for you is..."*
 - "May you be blessed with..."*
 - "Just as _____ in your Torah portion..."*
3. A statement to wrap up your blessing so the congregation can respond, "AMEN!"
 - "With gratitude we thank God for granting us..."*

Examples:

#1

We give thanks for you, Jake, our wonderful son who we are so blessed to share our days with. We pray that you continue on the path that we have set for you- that you live your life happily, surrounded by family and friends, and with the important sense of the connection to your ancestors - those who are here in the synagogue today, those who proved their incredibly ability to survive life's worst, those who we lost, and those who could not have known that they would one day have a Bar Mitzvah in their family. We pray that you continue in this Jewish tradition and pass it on to future generations.

We hope that you have great success in the pursuit of your happiness, and pray that you continue to find some of it in the service of your fellow humans. We know that you have the intelligence and kindness to make an important difference in our world. We wish for you the patience and perseverance to carry you through in all that you attempt. We pray for you to come into your own as the amazing adult we know is there. We give thanks for you, Jake as you are called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. We love you.

#2

We want to thank everyone for joining our family on this joyous occasion. Ben, we have watched you work so hard over the past several months preparing for your Bar Mitzvah, and today we stand here so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Not only for the hard work you put into learning Hebrew and Torah, but also your weekly dedication to the Special Olympics program which I think has really taught you a lot about compassion and imperfection, as you have taught in your d'var Torah.

Our prayer for you all the days to come is that you be blessed with a long, happy, healthy life; That you have the courage to live your dreams, the wisdom to make your own choices, and the confidence to believe in yourself. May you always be able to accept your own weaknesses, and judge yourself and others with fairness and compassion. May you have the self-esteem to move towards whatever goals you set and live to see your world fulfilled. We love you very much and couldn't be more proud of you, Mazel Tov!

#3

Our wish is that you build on your experiences here at Shir Ami to foster a deeper understanding of yourself, your heritage and your place in this world.

Our wishes for you are many but can be summed up with the following:

May you always find the strength to stand up for your beliefs and interests and fight for what you want.

May you always be able to see through the distractions and focus on what really matters.

May you always be able to find the path through the chaos to lead yourself and others to a better place.

Your creativity is diverse and wonderful. May your creative spirit thrive eternally and brighten your life and those around you.

May you always find the strength and courage to give your thoughts and ideas the life and support they need to thrive and have a positive impact on the world.

May you learn to temper your playfulness and give your goals the same attention that you give to your leisure.

May you always understand that humanity is the central tie that binds us all.

And above all, may God bless you and guide you to a healthy and happy and thoughtful life.

We are so proud of you and love you more than any words could ever express. Mazel Tov!

#4

Dear Devon,

As we stand her proudly before you on this day of your Bar Mitzvah, it is our hope that we have imparted on you over the years the beliefs and traditions of the Jewish people and that you will continue with these values over the course of your life and in turn, pass them on to your children.

The Torah is the closest thing to what we know God wants of us and it has survived because the Jewish people have cherished it. As you read from the Torah, may you feel enveloped by its heritage and in its power know that you are ready to fulfill the covenant of God by being responsible for the obligations of Jewish life; by working for justice and peace, searching for wisdom and truth, and bringing compassion and devotion. We know that you will do so with pride and joy and will cherish this precious inheritance.

Devpm,. A blessing as a favor or gift bestowed by God, thereby bringing happiness. You have truly been a blessing to us. Your kind, caring, humorous, generous and joyful way has not only been a blessing to us but to all you encounter. We wish that you continue to be blessed with a life of love, laughter, prosperity and health.

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, a famous 18th century Chasidic Rabbi who emphasized living life with joy and happiness, tells us "the entire world is a very narrow bridge and the main thing is crossing it without fear."

As you walk along this narrow bridge, we pray that you will be strong in spirit and character. Always be a good friend and we hope that you find a path in life that brings you the happiness and satisfaction that you deserve.

May all the gifts hidden inside you find their way into the world,

May the kindness of your thoughts be expressed in your deeds,

May all your learning lead to wisdom,

May all your efforts lead to success,

May all the love in your heart be returned to you,

May God bless your body with health and your soul with joy,

May God watch over you night and day and protect you from harm,

May all your prayers be answered.

We love you.

