



GRACE CHURCH HOLIDAY BLESSING OUTREACH

Holiday Blessing is a special outreach of Grace Church that encourages each small group (or families) to reach out to a neighboring family in need.

In the past with Christmas being our primary holiday focus, Grace groups were paired with families in need, providing them with individual gifts based on the list created by the family. While getting those gifts they cannot often afford is a huge blessing, it can also rob them of the pride of being able to provide; the grateful response from their children; and the potential of expectation beyond the parents means for future occasions. We have witnessed while it was helpful to many, it was also a drawback for others. Our ultimate desire is to reach families with the love of Christ in a way that strengthens the families right where they are, helping them feel loved and blessed in a way that makes their holiday a little more special regardless of financial limitations.

This year the Holiday Blessing ministry will be designed to bless a family in need, as a whole, in a way that strengthens the family structure. We are encouraging our small groups (or families) to offer a basket (or box) of special items to a family in need, that will bless them by providing a fun atmosphere and activities they can enjoy and do together, along with an awareness of church community and our God who loves and welcomes them. And rather than just focusing on one holiday, we would like to offer blessings to these families throughout the year, starting with this Christmas holiday.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Each Grace small group can identify families they may know in need. Give them an invitation to participate (provided by Grace). They will be able to sign up using that invitation and your group will be notified.

In the past, Grace has tried to identify families in need in our community and pair them with a small group. This can prove difficult as some groups can afford to take on a small family, while other groups are large enough to take on a couple of families. This year we are asking small groups to try and identify a family to bless. This helps each of us as believers to be watching out for those in our community who need help and engages us in conversations that also help us to share the love of Christ while we are out and about in our daily lives. This truly teaches us to take the responsibility of engaging others.

2. Once your group has been notified, then you may purchase items to bless the family with. We will give you a suggestion of 6 types of things to put in your Blessing Basket.

3. Find a festive container such as a basket or box to contain these special items.
4. Your group will contact the family to arrange delivery of the basket.
5. Your group can choose to provide a Blessing Basket for a single holiday only (like Christmas or Thanksgiving), or provide a basket for each holiday we have listed, nurturing an ongoing impact in this family's life and building community. We will provide specific suggestions for each holiday.

BLESSING BASKET SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING

1. Holiday decoration element - Something that visually emphasizes the season. Possibly a table centerpiece or wreath for their door. This can be done as creatively as you wish. If you would like suggestions, we have links for specific ideas or products to help with creative ideas for your basket. Suggested cost of this piece is \$25 or less.
2. Food element - this can be as simple as a King Soopers gift card, popcorn, ginger bread house, fudge, or baked cookies with canned frosting and decorations... basically food that won't need immediate refrigeration. Suggested cost of this piece is \$25 or less for a family of 4 or less people, and \$50 or less for a family of 5 or more.
3. Family fun/relationship building element - something for the family to do together (a game, activity, craft, puzzle, Christmas movie, dinner conversation cards, etc.). Suggested cost of this piece is \$25 or less for a family of 4 or less people, and \$50 or less for a family of 5 or more.
4. Gospel awareness element - (literature or media) to be included in your basket which refers to the gospel and the specific holiday. We hope this will provide them a path forward to an intentional relationship with Jesus. This could be a Bible with a bookmark in Luke chapter 2 for Christmas with a meaningful poem, a Grace Church heaven track, a QR Code link to Pastor Rick's Gospel video on Grace website, etc.
5. Grace Church awareness element - (literature provided by Small Group Director appropriate for each holiday) - this can be a Church Invitation card with service times, coffee shop coupons, a flyer for an event happening after Christmas or the specific holiday, invitation cards for Students, Kids, Support Classes, or REACH Center, etc.

6. Personal Group element – (Greeting Card with a Holiday Blessing Intro Letter) A card signed by your group members with any personal message of encouragement and the letter enclosed. You can also enclose a picture of the small group.

An additional \$25 may be needed to spend on the gospel awareness element, the basket or box, or any other remaining elements.

Minimum cost of the entire basket is \$100 for a family of 4 or less people, and \$150 for a family of 5 or more.

APPROPRIATELY SIZED CONTAINER IDEAS

1. Larger gift bag
2. Simple box covered in wrapping paper with a bow, with removable lid or open top.
3. Any type of basket with an added bow. (Basket can serve as a house decoration later).
4. Plastic tub covered in fabric. (Tub can be repurposed and come in handy for the family).
5. Large popcorn tin with ribbon, bow and tissue paper inside.

HOLIDAY LIST

Grace Amazon Smile Page:

smile.amazon.com/gp/ch/list/84-1133132?ref=smi_cl_bc_lol15 lol

Valentines • Easter • Mother's Day • Father's Day
Halloween • Thanksgiving • Christmas

SAMPLE BOXES

The total cost of each sample is shown below, including basket. Just add food gift card and it's good to go!

