

Church Commissioning

One of the most important aspects of sending a group or individual on a trip, both for those traveling and those staying at home, is to send the team out with prayer. Commissioning is a time for the church to be informed about the trip and to gather around those going in prayer and blessing.

What should it look like? Here are some suggestions. (1) Invite the individuals going on the trip to come forward during the service. (2) Invite the congregation to come forward and lay hands on them. (3) Give specific information about the trip to the church so they can continue in prayer. (4) Share concerns team members have about the trip. (5) After the prayer, end the time with words of commissioning to the team. There are many options you could choose like a theme verse or missions statement for the congregation or a theme verse for the group that is traveling. If you don't have a phrase specific to your church, below are some options you could use.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

1 Corinthians 13:11-14

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All God's people here send their greetings.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Benediction (from *Common Prayer, A Liturgy for Ordinary Radical* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Enuma Okoro, Shane Claiborne)

"May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you;
May he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm;
May he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you;
May he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors."