

JEREMIAH 29.11
HOPE &
A FUTURE
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BLESSED ✓
By _____

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BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



TCYFM
Tairāwhiti Children Young People & Family Ministries



Week before

1. Print off the sheet of tags according to how many you need
 2. Cut around the border for each tag
3. Get each student to design and colour each tag to their own taste.
4. Once coloured and designed to liking, laminate tags and hole punch in the circle.
5. Attach a piece of string (or alternative) through the hole that can then be added to backpack of student after blessing.
6. Ask children/youth to bring bags to church next Sunday

Blessing

1. Call children and youth to front of the church with their bags
 2. Recite prayer below (can be edited as call and response) or own prayer of blessing for children.
3. Hand out laminated tags – either attach to bags or get parents to help attach later.

A Prayer of Blessing for Students

Based on Jeremiah 29.11

Loving God, source of hope, with us in past, present and future, we bring to you prayers for our students and school-returners to another year of school. After 2020 presented many unfathomable challenges, disruptions and shaped a new normal, we thank you that we are able to look toward another school year knowing that you are with us. We take the time today to pray for our tamariki and rangatahi in our congregation who have another year of learning ahead of them. We pray for the many different aspects that will make the year that is to come.

We pray for the new knowledge and learnings that will be undertaken throughout the year. For ambitions and goals that are to be dreamed, set and achieved. For technology and new mediums that will guide and assist success. For relationships and friendships that will be built and strengthened. For the school communities our students belong to and the values these schools stand for. For extra-circular activities, sports and leadership opportunities. For the learning spaces and communal spaces shared. For teachers and their influence over the learning journey of their students. For students who are able to excel and students who may face struggle.

Challenge us to remain diligent in our effort as a community of faith to be mindful of, and pray for, all children and young people each day. We pray for blessing over our children here in our congregation. Be with them through each new day and new adventure that awaits them on their educational journey. Cover them with your protection and strength. Keep them close to you and lead them toward a successful, fruitful year in school and in life. Bless them, we pray Lord, for you have set plans for our children filled with hope and future. Let this year for our students be the best thus far.

We pray these things in Jesus' name.

Amen.