



## *Year 1 Video Scripts - Birthday Blessing*

### **Why...**

Happy Birthday! How is it possible that a year has gone by already? Welcome to the world of having a toddler! Time to start planning your baby's first birthday celebration.

These days it seems like birthdays are getting bigger and bigger. Parents go above and beyond to make parties memorable. Balloons? Check. Magic show? Done. Inflatable jumping booth? Got it...all that for a birthday party your child won't even remember!

Don't get me wrong...I love a great birthday party, but what if this year we add a new aspect to it. Let's make it even more special. Have you thought about the kind of person you want your child to be? I know, sometimes it's hard to think that far ahead. They are just babies! However, as parents it is up to us to fight for the heart of our child. What would it look like if we took the time to figure out what we want for our children. What are your hopes and dreams for their life? What do you wish for them and their future? There are many factors that will all compete for importance as your child grows up. A lot of these will be very strong and some will be out of your control. You won't be with them every second. They will eventually go out on their own...unless you plan on moving off to college with them!

It is never too early to plant the seeds, so to speak. We will be giving you three kick

starters to help you. These will be your party planner this year. We won't be picking out the cake but we will help you give them a birthday to remember! The kick starters will help you to see who they are and who you want them to be. You have already seen glimpses into their little personalities. These are the attributes that God has given them. Expand on who they already are when you think about their future. Do you have a strong-willed child? Pray that they always have that strength and conviction. Do they have a sweet, tender heart? Wish that they always have an awareness of other's feelings and encourage that gentle spirit they possess.

We'll help you narrow it down. After all, we want to give our kids the world. You need to focus on the most important qualities and characteristics for them. God has created them to be precious and unique. This process will help you to focus your parenting on helping them be that person. First birthdays are definitely a cause for a party. Our hope is that through this process, you can continue to celebrate your child for who they are and who they will be.

### **How...**

Who do you want your child to be? You may be saying, "Hold on, my child is only a year old! Isn't it a little early to be making major decisions for their life? I want them to be their own person!" We aren't trying to dictate every detail of their life by the age of one.



Don't focus so much on what you want your child to do; that decision is ultimately up to them. We still want them to be an individual. However, it is our job as parents to help form their character. After all, we are the first example they see and it is never too early to invest in their future.

I have seen plenty of parents go into "Momma Bear mode" when it comes to their child's safety. You may be wondering, though, how to fight for their heart and character. We have used the kick starters to guide you through processing who they are and the type of person you want them to be. Once you have figured these things out, we will help you write a statement that you can share at their first birthday...their Birthday Blessing. This will be a letter from you to your child. There is so much strength in spoken words. We want your words to have a lasting effect.

Who are the people who come in contact with your child? You are not the only influence in their young lives. It's essential to have support and that help can come in many forms. It can go beyond family. Your friends, neighbors and people at church can all help you. Your loved ones love your child too! These are the people you want to involve in this process. If you have a plan for your child, these people can help you achieve it. When you share your vision with others, they can assist you and it also creates an accountability for you.

This isn't something that stops as soon as you read it for their birthday. Keep it where they can see it and later read it for

themselves. You are creating a blueprint of sorts, to help guide you as well as them. They will see that they are special and their own person. They will know that you love them so much and that you cherish what makes them who they are. That will be a birthday gift that they will never want to return.