

### Three Additional Ideas...

1. Have everyone take off their shoes and place them on the ground in front of them as a symbol of the journey ahead.
2. You might use the sending as a reminder of baptism. Have the group make a circle. Using a small bowl filled with water, the first person turns to the person next to them and holds the bowl while the 2<sup>nd</sup> person dips their fingers into the water and makes the sign of the cross on their own forehead or hand. The 2<sup>nd</sup> person then takes the bowl and holds it for the next person. Repeat the procedure around the circle.
3. Close with the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you." The group responds, "And also with you." Invite them to share the peace with each other before departing.



### A blessings...

is a thank you,  
a wish, a dream,  
a message of hope,  
an acknowledgement  
of joys and sorrows,  
a celebration, a passing  
of time, a gathering  
of people and thoughts,  
a reflection,  
a time to be still,  
a time to jump with joy,  
a time of quiet  
meditation, a gift of love  
and a prayer.

**God's grace as you  
share this blessing.**

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## A Sending Blessing

*God sends us out into  
the world and  
journeys with us every  
where we go.*

## Rejoicing

*With gentle touch, make contact with those around you. Ask someone to serve as the leader for the blessing.*

### **God sends us out.**

We came together knowing that this (gathering, of any kind) family, based in faith and love, will need to go back to our lives apart from each other, but being of the same mind and having the same love.

Philippians 2:2

“Make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”

Gathered together, we celebrated, we remembered and we demonstrated our gratitude for each other.

As we return to our jobs and the realities of our lives, we return with the knowledge that we are part of a bigger sending.

We remember as we leave this time together, that we take with us a feeling of being filled up, of being whole again, trusting the grace we feel is a blessing.

## Remembering

We remembered with sorrow those who have left us too soon, we've shared stories and adventures from the past as well as the here and Now, and we welcome with joy the newness of those who have just arrived to join this journey we call family.

The very nature of this gathering leads us to know and understand that we will do this again, just as we have for the last \_\_\_\_\_ years (as appropriate).

As a family steeped in history and tradition, we have found many ways to stay strong and intact.

We enjoy the comfortable and reliable feelings at holidays and birthdays.

We are *rejoice-filled* at each new Happening; births, marriages, new houses, new pets.

We are *sorrow-felt* at separation, divorce, illness and death.

## Sent Out

And through this all; we know that “family” is as near as the phone, an email, a plane ticket.

Coming together means that we acknowledge we are also being “sent-out”. Through this gathering (identify happening) we established the promise to each other that we are here for support, warmth, comfort, smiles and joy, and that we will continue for many more years to come.

Let us pray:

**Being sent out takes us through the door and leads us to take action outside of the comfort of this family, in this time and place. Just as God sends us, we are leaving to bring the message of love, hope and resilience that is our family, a very precious gift from God. Amen**