



GUIDE TO FAMILY WORSHIP:



Teach Your Children How to Pray



*Train a child how to live the right way.
Then even when he is old, he will still live that way.*

Proverbs 22:6





Dear Parent:

Habits formed in childhood often last a lifetime. *That's why it is so important to teach a child how to pray at an early age!*

The devotions in this guide can help you open your child's eyes to the awesome privilege of talking directly to *and hearing from* the Creator of the universe...and to the certainty that He hears and responds to our prayers!

As you share these devotions with your child, keep these thoughts in mind...

Prayer is simply talking to God as we would talk to a friend—simply, comfortably, and from the heart. There's nothing too big or too small that we can't share with God in prayer. And we don't need to use big words...God loves it when we're honest and authentic with Him.

Prayer is a two-way conversation. As you pray, take time to silently listen and be aware of God's response! Sometimes He speaks to us through a Bible verse. Sometimes He gives us a mental picture. Sometimes He's quiet. The important thing is to be still and listen.

Prayer is powerful and life-changing. For centuries, prayer has had a powerful impact on people's lives. Take time to share some of your special prayer moments with God. Share some heartfelt prayers recorded in the Bible. Affirm to your child that God is always listening and wants to hear our prayers.

May the Lord bless you and the children in your life with a life-long relationship with God that starts with prayer!



THE LORD'S PRAYER

“God, Can We Talk?”

So when you pray, you should pray like this:

*‘Our Father in heaven,
we pray that your name will always be kept holy.*

¹⁰ We pray that your kingdom will come.

*We pray that what you want will be done,
here on earth as it is in heaven.*

¹¹ Give us the food we need for each day.

*¹² Forgive the sins we have done,
just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.*

*¹³ And do not cause us to be tested;
but save us from the Evil One.’*

[The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.]

*¹⁴ Yes, if you forgive others for the things they do wrong, then your Father in heaven will
also forgive you for the things you do wrong.*

Matthew 6:9-14

When Jesus taught The Lord’s Prayer, He wanted us to know that God wants us to talk with Him every day—sharing what’s in our hearts. He didn’t say “Use these exact words.” Instead, He said pray “like this.”

★ “Thank you, God!” (verse 9)

When we pray “Our Father in heaven, we pray that your name will always be kept holy,” we’re thanking God for being our Heavenly Father who loves us, cares for us, and wants to hear from us. And because He is holy (hallowed or righteous), we should to pray to Him with an attitude of honor, respect, and praise.

★ “It’s all about YOU, God!” (verse 10)

When we say, “We pray that your kingdom will come. We pray that what you want will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven,” we’re saying that we want life on earth to be as perfect as it is in heaven (*think about what that means!*) and that we want to live a life that’s in line with His perfect will—not ours.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

★ “Help me!” (verse 11)

When we pray “Give us the food we need for each day,” we’re saying that God knows our needs, and that we’re trusting Him to provide not just food, but the necessities of life.

★ “I’m sorry!” (verse 12)

When we pray “Forgive the sins we have done,” we’re asking God to forgive us for something we’ve done wrong. In the same way, when others do something wrong, we’re asking God to help us forgive them, too.

★ “Give me strength!” (verses 13-14)

And when we pray “And do not cause us to be tested; but save us from the Evil One, we’re asking God to help us stop what we’re doing and to protect us from Satan’s traps.



How does it feel to be loved by the Creator of the universe?

What does it mean to live a life according to God’s will? How can we know it?

What needs are you trusting God for?

Have you done something wrong and want God to forgive you?

What temptations do you need help resisting?

“You Are an Awesome, Mighty God!”

*Praise the LORD!
Praise God in his Temple
Praise him in his mighty heaven.
Psalm 150:1*

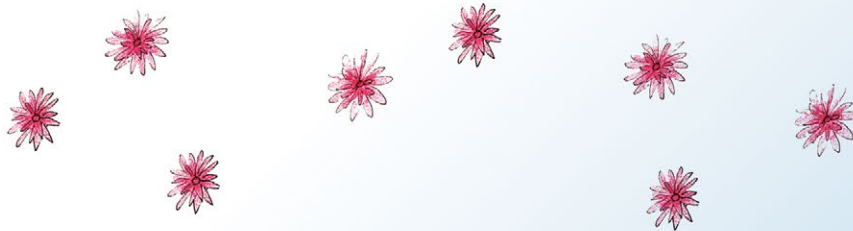
When was the last time you had a “wow” moment...something you saw or experienced that made you so grateful—so thankful—that you just wanted to shout for joy?

You might call it a *hallelujah moment*. That’s what “praise” really means!

Whenever we pray, we want to **praise the Lord** for who He is—the God who loves us (John 3:16). The God who protects us (Psalm 121:7-8). The God who saves us (Ephesians 2:8). The God who cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). And the God who provides for us (Philippians 4:19).

The Bible tells us to **praise God in his Temple**. Why? Because the church is the place that’s set apart to worship and honor God with other believers. Together, our praises are multiplied and lifted up to our God who is worthy of all our praise.

The Bible also tells us to **praise him in His mighty heaven**. Because our mighty God fills both heavens and earth, we can pray to God no matter where we are and unite our praises with all creation and the angels in heaven!



In what big and small ways can you praise God today?

God Loves it When We Ask!

Eli answered, "Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you asked of Him."

1 Samuel 1:17

Have you ever prayed for something or someone because of a problem or a special need? You're not the only one!

There was a woman in the Bible named Hannah who desperately wanted to have a baby. One day, she went to the temple and poured out her soul to God, asking Him again and again to enable her to have a son.

Eli, the priest at the temple, listened as she prayed and discovered the depth and sincerity of her prayers. He was so sure that God would answer her prayer, he told Hannah: "Go in peace. May the God of Israel give you what you asked of him."

And God DID answer her prayers! She DID have a baby boy she named Samuel, who would grow up to be one of the most powerful prophets who ever lived!

God loves it when we sincerely ask Him for the desires of our hearts! He wants us to pray in faith (James 1:6) and in the name of Jesus (John 14:14). He wants us to pray for ourselves—for a clean heart (1 John 1:9) and wisdom (James 1:5). He also wants us to pray for our spiritual leaders (Colossians 4:3), sick believers (James 5:14), authority figures (1 Timothy 2:1-3), and even our enemies (Matthew 5:44)!

And because God is so wise, He doesn't always answer in the way we think He will. His answer may be "yes" or "no" or "not now," or it may be something different. But no matter how He answers, we can be sure that *it's always for our good and His glory!*



Is there something you want with all your heart?

Ask God in prayer...and keep on asking until you see or hear His answer! (Luke 18:1-8)

CONFESSION

“I’m Sorry, God. Please Forgive Me.”

But we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done.

1 John 1:9

Have you ever done something you knew was wrong?

Of course you have! We all have, because every human being on the planet has been born with a sinful nature, passed down from generation to generation since Adam and Eve’s sin the Garden of Eden.

It’s our nature to be sinful—to lie and steal; to be greedy or jealous or unforgiving. Can you think of other sins?

But the Bible says if we confess our sin in prayer—if we name it and genuinely say “I’m sorry”—God forgives us and makes things right between Him and us. That means there’s no guilt and shame.

And there’s no penalty, either! Consequences, yes...but penalty, no. Do you know why? Our sin is completely erased because Jesus paid the penalty of our sin when He died on the cross.

That’s great news! And the best part is that if we confess our sins, it makes us right with God. We have a joyful feeling of freedom. We have God’s peace in our hearts. We grow closer to God and others. And we become better able to resist temptation in the future.

Nobody likes to admit when they’ve done something wrong. But the more we confess our sins, the happier and more peaceful and joyful we’ll be!



*How can you tell if something is right or wrong?
Is there a sin you need to confess to God in prayer?*

THANKSGIVING

“Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!”

Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need.

And when you pray, always give thanks.

Philippians 4:6

Have you ever received a special gift you really wanted? Or has someone surprised you by doing something extra special, just for you?

How did you respond? *Probably by saying “thank you” over and over again!* It’s our way of showing how much we appreciate what someone has done for us.

The Bible tells us not to worry about anything, but instead, to **pray about everything with a spirit of thanksgiving.**

Why? One reason is because it’s our way of praising God for all His blessings—His love, His kindness, His mercy, His forgiveness, His protection, His provision—and His very presence with us every day.

Another reason is that when we pray with thanksgiving, it shows that we are trusting God to answer our prayers. We’re thanking Him in advance by remembering how He has answered our prayers in the past.

And do you know what special thing happens when we do pray with thanksgiving? The Bible says that God’s peace—a peace that goes way beyond our understanding—will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).



What big and small things are you thankful for today?

Has God answered your prayers in the past? Have you thanked Him?

TRUST

Trust in the God of the Impossible!

Depend on the Lord in whatever you do. Then your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 16:3

Have you ever wanted to do something so difficult that you couldn't possibly do it yourself?

What did you do about it? *You probably asked for help!*

In order to succeed, you needed to depend on someone with more wisdom or experience—someone you could trust completely to show you the way.

That's what we do when we pray to God for help.

Only when we commit our plans to Him—when we put Him in charge and faithfully depend on Him for results—will our plans succeed and our dreams come true. Remember what Jesus said? “The things impossible for men are possible for God.” (Luke 18:27)

Can you think of people in the Bible who did impossible things when they depended on God's strength and wisdom? Here are a few:

Moses parted the Red Sea to escape from the mighty Egyptian army. (Exodus 14)

Elijah defeated false gods by calling down fire from heaven. (1 Kings 18)

David defeated the mighty Goliath with a few stones and a slingshot. (1 Samuel 17)

Gideon defeated a large Midianite army with just 300 men. (Judges 6)

When Daniel refused to worship a foreign god, he escaped unhurt from a lion's den. (Daniel 6)

Can you think of others?

All these things happened when people trusted God, listened to Him, and responded with obedience. They committed their plans to God...and He made those plans succeed!



What “impossible” plan or dream has God placed in your heart?

What will you do about it?