

Praying with Purpose for our Children:

And A Few Other Helps for
Raising Them God's Way



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“God shapes the world
by prayer.”

E.M. Bounds

Prayer is more than important. IT IS VITAL!

“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

James 5:16

And... it is a **GIFT!**

Prayer is a wonderful, powerful resource God has gifted to us. Consider just a few of the benefits of prayer:

- Through prayer we are invited to bring ALL of our concerns about our loved ones to Him.
- Prayer allows us to release to God what we cannot control ourselves.
- It fills our hearts with compassion.
- Prayer is a gap closer. Closing both the distance and generation gaps.
- And prayer draws us to Him. Through it we are nourished and we are changed.

Yes, prayer is a miraculous gift.

But it is also our **JOB!**

Lamentations 2:19 states, “Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the LORD! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children.” As parents, we have been assigned the work of praying for our children.

Prayer is also our **WEAPON!**

In Ephesians 6:12 we read of the spiritual battle that is raging around us, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Based on this Scripture, we are involved in this battle, and the battle is for souls! Prayer helps us and our loved ones stand fast in the faith amid the battle.

What a remarkable thing, prayer! It is a gifted resource, our job, and our weapon.

Yet, even knowing its importance, we at different times and seasons of our lives face roadblocks when it comes to prayer.

One of the likely roadblocks parents of infants or young children might face is that of busyness. With so many responsibilities and demands on their time, it is often a struggle to find even a few minutes to pray.

Another common roadblock is not knowing what to pray. We manage to grab a few moments to quiet ourselves before the Lord, and, wouldn't you know it, our mind goes totally blank!

In those times when you need to navigate roadblocks like those mentioned above, I pray the weekly prayer prompts in this booklet will be of help. Rather than not praying at all or shooting off vague, general prayers, use these prompts to help you pray specifically for your child.

PRAYING FOR YOUR CHILDREN
Weekly Prayer Prompts

Week 1 –

Salvation – Pray that your unsaved children will believe that Jesus loves them and died for their sins so that they can have a personal relationship with Him and enjoy eternal life. Thank God for the salvation of your saved children. –John 3:16

Week 2 –

Growth in Grace – Pray that your children will grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. –2 Peter 3:18

Week 3 –

Love – Pray for your children, that they may learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who dwells in them. –Galatians 5:25

Week 4 –

Thankfulness – Pray that each of your children will learn to give thanks in everything, no matter what happens. –1 Thessalonians 5:18

Week 5 –

Father, Please bring godly adults and friends into the life of _____. I pray they will help him/her grow in godly living. –1 Corinthians 4:15

Week 6 –

Lord, Please clothe _____ with the virtue of compassion. –Colossians 3:12

Week 7 –

Heavenly Father, Help _____ to guard his/her heart, for it is the wellspring of his/her life. –Proverbs 4:23

Week 8 –

God, My Strength and My Hope, Fill _____ with confidence that comes from only You. Help him/her to understand that you are his/her helper and that You will help in every situation. -Hebrews 13:6

Week 9 –

For the next few weeks, pray Ephesians 1:15-23 for your children. This week concentrate your prayers on **Thanksgiving**. Give thanks for God's gracious blessing. Thank Him for the privilege of being a parent and for each of your children.

Ephesians 1:15-23 (ESV)

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Week 10 –

Continue in Ephesians chapter one as you pray for your children. This week pray for wisdom and for knowledge of God.

Wisdom: Ask God to give your children spiritual wisdom to make godly decisions.

Know Him better: Ask God to grow your children deep in knowledge and love for Christ.

Week 11 –

Enlightened eyes: Pray that each of your children will have the eyes of their hearts enlightened.

Week 12 –

As you continue to pray Ephesians 1:15-23 for your children, pray this week for their future hope and glorious inheritance.

Future hope: Pray that your children will live today with eternity in mind.

Glorious inheritance: Thank God for the eternal inheritance He has in store for your children.

Week 13 –

God tells us that as we have the eyes of our hearts enlightened we can know the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance, and the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe. This week the prayer from Ephesians 1:15-23 is for your children to have the great power and strength that comes from the Holy Spirit.

Great power: Ask God to give your children power from the Holy Spirit to live obediently.

Strength: Ask the Holy Spirit to provide strength for your children to resist temptation.

Week 14 –

As you near the conclusion of your concentrated prayers in Ephesians 1:15-23, pray that your children will be:

Established in Love: Pray that each of your children will demonstrate a “1 Corinthians 13” love.

Week 15 –

This is the final week of praying Ephesians 1:15-23 over your children. As you intentionally focus once again on this passage, pray that they will:

Grasp the love of Christ: Pray that your children will know and live in the freedom of the unconditional love of Jesus.

Week 16 –

It’s mid-April and for many children that means another school year is nearing an end. Concentrate your prayers this week on their **Academics**.

The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. – Proverbs 15:14

Week 17 –

Pray for the **Physical Safety** of your children.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. –Psalm 121:7

Week 18 –

Purity. Pray for a clean heart and that purity of heart will be shown in the actions of your children.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. –Psalm 51:10

Week 19 –

Perseverance. Pray that God will teach your children perseverance in all they do. Ask Him to help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them. –Hebrews 12:1

Week 20 –

Friends. Pray that God will bring SOUL friends into the lives of your children.

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. – Proverbs 27:17

Week 21 –

Emotional Protection. Our children are growing up in an increasingly “anti-Christian” culture. Pray for the protection of their emotions.

...He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. –Psalm 91:11

Week 22 –

Peer Pressure. Pray for wisdom for your children as they face peer pressure.

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. –Proverbs 13:20

Week 23 –

Concentrate your prayers this week on yourself and your parenting.

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. –Proverbs 22:6

Week 24 –

Protection. This week pray for God's faithful protection of your children.

He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. –Psalm 91:3-4

Week 25 –

Wisdom. Pray that your children would grow to seek God's wisdom.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. – James 1:5

Week 26 –

Priorities. As you speak with God this week, pray that your children would learn to recognize the Truly Important.

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. –Matthew 6:33

Week 27 –

Words. Pray that your children would discover the power of their words and learn to use them to encourage others.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. –Proverbs 18:21

Week 28 –

Pray for the heart of your child's future spouse. Pray that his/her eyes will be opened to the gospel and that he/she will come to salvation at an early age (2 Cor. 4:3-6). Pray also that their future spouse would develop a considerate and sensitive heart; one that is giving and can place the needs of others' before their own (1 John 3:16-18).

Week 29 –

Pray that your child's future spouse would be a lover of God.

“Lord, please develop in my child's future spouse a heart that is captivated by the beauty of Christ (Luke 10:39, 42) and help them to become a man/woman after Your own heart (Ephesians 5:25-28).”

Week 30 –

Pray for the understanding and wisdom of your child's future spouse. Pray that he/she will be established in truth and spiritual discernment (Ephesians 5: 6-13) and that he/she would be surrounded with means for spiritual training and growth (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15-17).

Week 31 –

Pray that God would help the future spouse of your child to put his/her trust in Him (Psalm 115:11).

Week 32 –

Pray for loyalty and faithfulness to be cultivated in the heart of your child's future spouse.

“Lord, please shepherd my child's future spouse to live the crucified life (Galatians 2:20). Please cultivate spiritual fruit in his/her life (Galatians 5:16-26).”

Week 33 –

Pray for strength and protection for the future spouse of your children. Pray that they will be taught the basics of spiritual warfare, how to flee temptation, how to take thoughts captive, and how to stand firm against the devil's schemes (1 Peter 5:8-9, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, James 4:7-8).

Week 34 –

For many children a new school year has begun. For the next few weeks, pray for their education. This week pray specifically that God will give them a desire to do their best and that their minds will be challenged.

Week 35 –

Pray for the teachers of your children. Pray also for their school system or home school co-op.

Week 36 –

Pray that a balance of ideas and subjects will be presented to your children and for a safe, healthful classroom environment.

Week 37 –

Pray that your children will learn facts and principles that will prepare them for a future career.

Week 38 –

As you conclude this month of intentional prayer for the education of your children, pray that your children will have the courage to speak biblical truth even in the classroom and that they will learn lessons much deeper than report cards and achievement tests can measure.

Week 39 –

We are called to pray on behalf of our children.

“Heavenly Father, I truly desire to be a prayer warrior for my children. Help me to be faithful to this calling. I plead with You for the salvation of my children, and I ask you to enable them to walk daily with You. May they feel and touch Your goodness and grace in their lives. Amen.”

Week 40 –

Pray that your children will come to know Christ as their personal Savior early in life. –Romans 10:1

Week 41 –

Pray that your children will have a hatred for sin. –Psalm 97:10

Week 42 –

This week pray that your children will be caught when guilty. – Psalm 119:71

Week 43 –

Pray that your children will be protected from the evil one in each area of their life: spiritual, physical, emotional, and social. –John 17:15

Week 44 –

As you pray on behalf of your children this week, pray that they will have a responsible attitude in all their interpersonal relationships. –Daniel 6:3

Week 45 –

Pray that your children will respect those in authority over them. –Romans 13:1

Week 46 –

Self-Discipline.

“Father, I pray that my children may acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair.”

--Proverbs 1:3; 13:4; 20:13

Week 47 –

Willingness and Ability to Work

“Teach my children, Lord, to value work and to work at it with all their heart, as working for the Lord and not for men.” -- Colossians 3:23

Week 48 –

The watchword for the first week of Advent is **WAIT**. Pray this watchword for your children this week. Pray that as they wait for Christmas and the celebration of Christ’s birth, they will also wait for the risen Christ to come again.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. –Psalm 130:5-6

Week 49 –

The watchword for the second Sunday of Advent is **PREPARE**. Preparation involves paying attention and staying awake. Pray that your children will be on guard, and keep watch that they might be ready for Christ when He comes again.
–Luke 1:76-79

Week 50 –

This week’s watchword is **REJOICE** – A reminder that this time of waiting and preparation is a joyful time. Pray that your children will rejoice in God our Savior.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. –Luke 1:46-49

Week 51 –

The final watchword is **LOVE**. Pray that your children will see others as the image-bearers of God that they are. Pray that your children will grow to support and love others.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son. –John 3:16 (KJV)

Week 52 –

Pray that, as this year comes to an end and you look forward to a new year, the Lord will help your children to grow daily in maturity in God. Pray that their lives will be built on the foundation of Jesus and that they will grow in grace – always sensing God's presence. –Luke 2:52, Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 2:6-7

Practical Ways to Maneuver Around **ROADBLOCKS IN THE PATH TO PRAYER**

Roadblock → TIME

Examine your schedule, your daily routines, and your obligations. Look for ways to pray as you live life. Driving, shopping, walking the dog, and even brushing your teeth are all opportunities for prayer.

Go on a quest. Discover a way to pray that is a natural connection to your unique, God-given wiring.

If you love the outdoors, go outside to pray. If things of beauty draw you in, try combining art and prayer. If you come alive when your senses are aroused, light some candles or hold an object while you pray.

Schedule it! Yes, I said SCHEDULE prayer.

At first, it may seem a little strange, but it works! Write “Pray” on your calendar or set an alarm on your phone. Do whatever it takes!

Roadblock → CONTENT

Ask. If your child is old enough to talk, ask how you can pray for them.

Pray scripture. Praying scripture provides specific content. AND... when praying scripture we never have to wonder if it’s “okay” to pray what we are praying.

Use resource sheets. There are many wonderful resource sheets available in books and on the internet. Do a google search for resources. You might try “Ways to Pray for My Child.”

BEING **INTENTIONAL** *in Our Prayers*

1. Be **DELIBERATE** about your prayers.
 - Schedule prayers by writing them on your calendar or setting a phone alarm.
 - Use physical objects as reminders to pray – a bookmark, a strategically placed post-it note, or piece of jewelry, perhaps.
2. Make the **COMMITMENT** to prayer.
 - Write out your commitment – as a note in your Bible or on a beautiful sheet of paper. Then sign it. (Go beyond merely “thinking it” in your head.)
 - Place your written commitment where you will see it – often!
 - Share your commitment with someone. This simple act of accountability ups the likelihood of follow-through dramatically!
3. Persevere.
 - Don't give up. New habits take a while to develop.
 - It might help to schedule your prayers for the same time of day or to connect them with something you are already in the daily habit of doing such as having coffee, eating lunch, or folding the laundry.

Seven *Simple* Prayer Tips

1. **Use a list.** Physical journal or computer app.
2. **Pray the Word of God.**
For example: Numbers 6:22-27; Ephesians 1:15-23; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9b-12.
3. **Pray for the specific as well as the more obscure.** They are both important. A specific prayer might be: "Lord, help Phillip pass his math test this week. He has struggled so with his division facts." That is specific. You can see the answer immediately. A prayer for something more obscure would be: "Father, cause Susie to love you with all her heart, mind, soul, and strength. And help her come to treasure you above all." The answer to that prayer is much harder to detect, right? But it is so crucial that you pray these prayers.
4. **Be quiet over your child.** Wait to see if God brings things to mind that your child might need today. Then pray those things if anything has been brought to mind.
5. **Watch for answers.** Take note of them. Keep some kind of record, again in your physical journal or in an app.

25 “Building Up” Words for Your Children

1. I'm grateful for you.
2. I love being your grandparent.
3. Your opinions matter.
4. I believe you.
5. I believe in you.
6. You were right.
7. We can try your way.
8. I can't wait to hear about it.
9. I'm excited to spend time with you.
10. That's a great question.
11. Your friends are lucky to have you.
12. I trust you.
13. That was a really good choice.
14. I understand you.
15. That was really brave.
16. I forgive you.
17. I appreciate you.
18. We all make mistakes.
19. Yes, me too.
20. You are very good at that!
21. You can try again tomorrow.
22. I'm listening.
23. You are beautiful inside and out.
24. I love you.
25. I could never stop loving you.

Top 12 Things Children Said They Remember and Love Most

1. Bedtime songs and stories... and being tucked in.
2. Hugs and kisses.
3. Talking with dad and mom.
4. A listening ear.
5. Quality time alone with parents.
6. Dinner conversations especially about upcoming weekend plans.
7. Evening family time.
8. Playing outside – a lot.
9. Cuddles and snuggles under a blanket watching TV.
10. Discipline. “It makes me feel like you care.”
11. Special messages left for me to find.
12. Hearing stories about when mom and dad were little.

12 Ideas for Raising Your Children God's Way

1. Build your faith into everyday moments –Deuteronomy 6:7
2. Establish an atmosphere of Faith Talk (both formal and informal) in your home
3. Bring every matter back to the condition of your child's heart –Proverbs 4:23
4. Model a life of relationship with Christ –Titus 2:7
5. Pray out loud throughout your Day
6. Pray with your children –Luke 10:1
7. Read your Bible out loud
8. Study Scripture with your child –3 John 4
9. Worship Jesus with all your heart –Psalm 66:4
10. Play worship music (and dance!)
11. Read children's Christian books to your children
12. Involve your children in serving others

Notes
