DEVOTION & PRAYERS
He put another parable before them, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.’ *(Matthew 13:31-32 NLT)*

Like a tiny mustard seed, so small that it is barely visible to the eyes, grows into a big tree, God’s kingdom began with Jesus in a small rural town in Israel. But, it has expanded across the whole world through his disciples. The kingdom of God will eventually include all nations, and through us, He will accomplish what He started.

**Question:** How can you be part of the Kingdom of God?

**Prayer for children:**

*Dear God,*

*Plant your words in my heart like seeds. Let them grow and make me kind and loving, through the Holy Spirit. Fill me with your love and help me spread your good news wherever I go. Thank you, God.*

*Amen.*

**Prayer for adults:**

*May the seeds of your word, planted in the hearts of children, grow and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit, so that they may become Spirit-filled people, and so God’s Kingdom will grow beyond anything that this world can contain or imagine. May the power of the Gospel be present wherever they go.*

*Amen.*
'Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.' (John 6:11-13, ESV)

When a small child shared his food it turned into a miracle. Many people were fed, and there was even food left over. Just like that, when we give what we have, no matter how little, God can turn it into something amazing. Remember, even the smallest things in your hands can become miracles through God.

**Question:** What do you have in your hands that you can give to Jesus? (Think of your personality or talents that you can use to serve others, for example.)

**Prayer for children:**

Dear God,

I love you and want to make you happy. Please help me be a good worshipper with the help of your Holy Spirit. Let more people around the world who make you happy too.

Amen.

**Prayer for adults:**

May your beloved children become true worshippers who delight your heart, dear Lord. Through them, raise up more worshippers around the world who bring joy to you.

Amen.
Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (Ephesians 4:14-15 NLT)

Growing means learning. And our faith only grows if we keep learning. That requires some practice and discipline! But if we don’t grow, we will be shaken by any situation and circumstance and are likely to collapse like a sandcastle. Our faith grows when we keep close to Jesus and listen to him and learn from him, for example through reading the Bible and prayer. By his Holy Spirit we will become more and more like Christ!

**Question:** What have you learned from Jesus in the last couple of weeks?

**Prayer for children:**

Dear God,

Please give me the wisdom to understand your words and help me make good choices. Give me the courage to do what’s right. Keep me safe with Jesus’ love and shield me from harm. Make me strong and help me face every problem.

Amen.

**Prayer for adults:**

Give children the wisdom to understand Your Word. Give them the discernment to make wise choices. Give them the courage to always choose what is right. Protect the children with the precious blood of Jesus from the influence of evil. Empower them with your goodness to overcome every challenge.

Amen.
Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and also with man. *(1 Sam 2:26 ESV)*

Samuel was raised in an environment where he learned a lot about God. He was very close to God and he served God from a young age. God watched over him as he grew up. Those who keep close to God and listen to God, are blessed and God is with them.

**Question:** When and where do you feel close to God?

**Prayer for children:**

Dear God,

Please bless all the children in the world, including me. Help us find love and happiness. Make us strong as your children, so we can be good examples and share your love.

Let your Holy Spirit guide us, so we make good choices and stay away from doing wrong. Help us to be kind and show your goodness to everyone.

Amen.

**Prayer for adults:**

Dear God,

We ask for your blessings on all the children in the world. Please surround them with your love and help them grow up happy and healthy. Let them know that they are special to you, filled with your love.

Guide them with your Holy Spirit, so they make good choices and treat others with kindness. May they shine brightly with your love, spreading goodness wherever they go. Help them understand how much you care for them and empower them to share that love with others.

Amen.
After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man. (Luke 2:46-47,52, ESV)

Jesus, the Son of God, was filled with God’s wisdom from a young age. As you can see, Jesus intentionally listened to others and asked questions to grow his wisdom. That wisdom is something the world cannot give. His wisdom allows us to know the difference between good and evil and to choose to do good.

Question: How do you know the difference between right and wrong?

Prayer for children:

Dear God,

I want to be like Jesus and grow every day. Please make me patient so I can listen to others and be brave enough to ask questions. Help me understand your words and live by them. Guide me to share your goodness and kindness with everyone I meet.

Amen.

Prayer for adults:

May children be nurtured through your word, so that the wisdom and power of your word may manifest in their lives. May your Word become life so they can share your goodness and kindness with others.

Amen
Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (1 Sam 17:45 ESV)

David, who praised the Lord wholeheartedly, was not afraid of men. He did not get distressed by the situation in front of him. To David, God was the highest and mightiest of all, so he was not afraid of anything when God was with him.

**Question:** What do you need to feel calm?

**Prayer for children:**

Dear God,

Please help me when I face hard times, scary situations, or when things don’t turn out the way I hoped. Help me trust that you’re good and you’ll help me. Give me the courage to believe you can do amazing things, even when times are tough. I will talk to you about my fears and mistakes and hold onto your strong name.

Amen.

**Prayer for adults:**

May we help our children to courageously face hardships, fear, failure, or disappointments, and to trust in the goodness of God alone. May we encourage our children to look forward to the marvelous works God will accomplish through these challenges. And may we pray with faith; confessing our mistakes and proclaiming power in the name of the Lord.

Amen
'The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.' (Genesis 39:2-3, ESV)

From the world’s perspective, Joseph, who was sold as a slave and unjustly imprisoned, did not have a thriving life. However, the Bible says that he was rich because God was with him. God is with us all the time, and so we are also successful.

**Question:** When do you feel rich?

**Prayer for children:**

Dear God,

I know that having a good life doesn’t only depend on where I am or what happens around me. It’s about having you with me. You love all the children in the world, and I’m one of them. Please stay by my side and help me do well in everything. Help me to trust in you and to grow with a strong faith.

Amen.

**Prayer for adults:**

I believe that prosperity is not determined by circumstances or environments but by the presence of You. Loving God, who embraces all the children of the world, please guide them to prosper in all things, and help them to grow with an unwavering faith.

Amen