



# Helping Children Learn to Pray



Prayer is talking with God. It is easy to communicate with God. Children need to learn early how to pray. As adults give children correct models, they learn quickly. When a child sees her parents or her Sunday School teachers pause and pray a simple prayer, she learns that the important people in her life take time to pray. She begins to think that talking with God is a natural and everyday (many times a day!) experience.

Here are some helpful hints:

- Prayer for a child should be natural and spontaneous.
- Begin your prayers with simple words like "Thank You, God."
- Encourage children to use their own words.
- Say a "Thank You" prayer as you and the child observe something in nature.
- Pray using words and phrases the child can understand.
- Prayer can happen anytime and anyplace.
- In group time, it is not necessary for each one of the children to pray aloud to talk to God.
- Sing prayer songs with children that allow them to substitute their names or express thanks to God.
- The most important truth to help boys and girls understand about prayer is that God answers every prayer and His answer is "I am with you no matter what."



***"A child develops his attitudes and feelings about God from his parents and teachers. He learns much about God and talking with God through you."***