



**Kid's Prayer Devotional**  
July & August

Dear Nova Kid,

Did you know that our church is getting ready for some exciting changes? We want our campus to be even more welcoming to visitors and members of our community, and so we want to do things like build a brand new playground. *You* are an important part of Nova's family, and we want you to take responsibility for the building project, just like the adults in the church.

If you trust in Jesus, then you are his disciple. This devotional booklet you are holding is a tool that our writing team has created to help you to grow as a disciple. Each day you will read some Bible verses with thoughts and questions to think about and discuss with your family, and also a short prayer that you can use to begin your own prayers.

Now I want to tell you a secret: kids are usually way better than parents at remembering to read the Bible and pray. You can help your parents grow as Jesus' disciples by reminding them to discuss the devotional booklet with you each night before bed or at another time of day that is convenient.

Thanks for being part of the Nova family!  
Amy Martin, *Open Campaign Prayer Chair*

## OpenEYES

July 17

**"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." (John 4:34-38)**

Can you picture your friends, family members, neighbors or classmates like plants standing in the field, waiting for the farmer to pick them? It's kind of funny, isn't it? But Jesus wants us to know that some of the people around us are ready to hear about God's free gift of eternal life, and it is up to us to tell them about it. When Jesus told his disciples to open their eyes, he meant that they should open their spiritual eyes, or what we sometimes call the eyes of the heart. Are the eyes of your heart open?

*Lord, help the eyes of my heart to be open so that I can see my friends and family the way you see them.*

*--Amy Martin*

## *Open*WITNESS

July 18

**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:2-6)**

Think of three of friends who don't know Jesus. What are their names? The best way to be their best friend is to pray for them that they would one day know Jesus. Every time you see them, pray for them and watch to see what God does in their lives!

*God, lead (insert the name of my friend) to know Jesus as their Savior.*

--Dean Mayeda

## *Open*CAMPUS

July 19

**"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5:14-15)**

*Pop!* The lights go black! I'm caught outside in the dark! I take a step and hear *Crash!* I stand still, afraid to move. Finally, the clouds move, the full moon lights up my backyard, and I find my way safely home. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Jesus wants each of us to reflect His Light in all we do so people around us can find Him! Today, ask yourself, "Am I reflecting Jesus' Light?"

*Jesus, help me to shine your light to people I meet today.*

*--Rick D'Amico*

## OpenHANDS

July 20

**Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)**

The reason God made us and blesses us is because He is very happy and He wants to share His happiness with us. And God wants us to act that way towards other people. That's why Jesus said that it is even better to give than to receive. We spread our happiness to others when we joyfully give to them. The cool thing is that we can even bring joy to God by cheerfully giving money to His Kingdom. In your mind, what does a cheerful giver look like? Why should we give cheerfully? What are some ways we can give to God's Kingdom?

*Dear LORD, thank you for loving us and taking care of us. You have given us so much, including your Only Son. Help us to love people and to learn how to give with a cheerful heart. We love you LORD. Amen*

*--Dave Martin*

## *Open*HEAVEN

July 21

**Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Malachi 3:10)**

You can't outgive God. As you give freely to Him, He will give even more back to you. God even says to test and see if this is true. But why does God want our money? He wants us to be people who love to make other people happy (including Him) by giving cheerfully and generously. Why do your parents like to receive gifts from you? Because your gift shows your love. The more effort and money you put into the gift, the more love it shows. So give generously to God, knowing that He has already given many good gifts to you and will continue to do so.

*God, help me to be a cheerful and generous giver, just like you.*

*--Dave Martin*

## *Open*EARS

July 24

**"Without prophetic vision people run wild, but blessed are those who follow God's teachings." (Proverbs 29:18)**

Have you ever played Follow-the-Leader? If you are not the leader, are you allowed to make up your own moves? What if everyone suddenly stopped following the leader and started running wildly around? It might be fun, but you would no longer be playing the same game. God gives leaders to the church so they can listen to him and share the ideas God gives them with everyone else. Are you happy to listen to your leaders at church, or do your heart and mind sometimes like to "run wild"?

*Lord, help my heart and mind to happily follow the leaders you have given to Nova.*

*--Amy Martin*

July 25

**In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. (Acts 9:10-19)**

Later in the book of Acts, we learn that Saul's name is changed to Paul. He is the same person who wrote books of the Bible and told lots of people about Jesus. But in this story, Paul doesn't really know Jesus yet, so God chooses someone to go and help him. Ananias knows Jesus. Even though he is afraid, Ananias listens to God and goes to pray for Paul and teaches him more about Jesus. God can also use you to tell others about Jesus. And who knows, maybe one of those people will end up being a missionary like Paul!

*Lord, help me to be brave like Ananias and tell people about who you are.*

*--Amy Martin*

## OpenHEART

July 26

**During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16:9-10)**

Think about the things you choose to do throughout the week. Some things you think of yourself and choose to do; other things adults tell you to do. As you get older, you will have more responsibility for planning what you will or will not do. Paul often made plans for how he would share the good news about Jesus with people who hadn't heard yet. Sometimes God would tell him, 'That's not a good plan. Do something else.' And Paul would obey. You can begin to know God's voice by reading your Bible and talking to God.

*Holy Spirit, help me to know your voice and have a heart that is able to be directed by you.*

*--Amy Martin*

## OpenMOUTH

July 27

**One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent." (Acts 18:9)**

Does it ever make you nervous to talk to people? In this verse, Jesus comes to Paul in a vision to encourage him to keep speaking up for him. God thinks kids are important, too, and he wants you to speak up. Right now our church is planning to build a new playground so that kids and their families will feel welcome and happy when they come. You are an important part of Nova's community, and we want you to ask questions about what is happening and remember to talk to your parents about the building project.

*Lord, give me courage to speak up about you and to remind my family to think about Nova's building project.*

*--Amy Martin*

## OpenDOORS

July 28

**"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)**

Jesus is telling me not to be a quitter in praying for my friends, my brother or sister, my mom or dad or anyone else who hasn't invited Jesus into their heart. I must never give up praying for them that they will open the door of their heart and ask Jesus to come in. Because He asks me to keep on praying for them and because of His promises, I have hope and never quit praying for them.

*Dear Jesus, I pray for (list their names) that they will ask You into their heart. I love them and want them to go to heaven. Sometimes I get busy and forget to pray. Remind me when I do forget. I want to obey You and to keep on asking, to keep on seeking, and to keep on knocking because I believe in You Jesus.*

--Ron Graff

July 31

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)**

Worry...it's what we do. Grandpas, moms, teens, and kids: We all do it. But we need to stop. Instead of carrying our worries and fears like heavy backpacks, dragging us down and wearing us out, we should take Paul's advice. Take off the backpacks! Give them to Jesus! Trust Him with all our troubles, and in every situation, to pray *with thanksgiving!* This crushes worry! Why? Because when we think back on all the ways God has taken care of us, we know He's got us. We can jump into the strong arms of God and trust Him with everything!

How has God taken care of you? Ask your parents to help you start a list of God's blessings, answered prayers, and protection. List the stuff you worry about. Then pray, with thanksgiving, and let God's peace surround you!

*Jesus, thank you for leading and caring for me. I will give my cares to you because I trust you!*

*--Rick D'Amico*

August 1

**Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need," (Hebrews 4:16).**

God says that when I pray I don't have to be afraid. I can talk to Him about anything even if it's something bad because He loves me and understands me. He promises to help me in any way that He thinks is best.

*Dear God, thank You that You love me so much and that I can talk to You about anything even if it's bad. Not only that, but when I pray, You promise to listen and to help in giving what You think is best for me. I believe You and love You with all my heart.*

*--Ron Graff*

August 2

**Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive [the demon] out?” He replied, “Because you have so little faith... This kind can come out only by prayer.” (Matt 17:19-20; Mark 9:29)**

Have you ever asked your parents for something over and over until they gave it to you? Why did you keep asking? Why didn't you stop? You probably believed that if you kept asking, eventually your parents would give what you asked for. This is how God wants us to pray. Sometimes when we ask for something, God gives it to us right away. Other times he says no, because he knows that in the long-term what we are asking for would not be good for us or for others. But often, God has good reasons to wait and not answer us immediately. In the meantime, He wants us to continue asking patiently and respectfully, trusting that He will eventually give us what we are asking for as long as there is no reason why He shouldn't.

*Lord, help me to pray patiently and respectfully and not give up.*

*--Dave Martin*

August 3

**But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6)**

Have you ever wished on a star, or made a wish as you blew out the candles on your birthday cake? Did you expect that the wish would come true? Would it make a difference if you *really* believed and didn't doubt for a second that the wish would come true? Some people read James 1:6 and think that prayer is like making a wish--and that often leads to disappointment. We aren't supposed to have faith in things, or in ourselves, but in God's promises and His character. As you read your Bible, you will get to know God better and understand what kinds of good gifts he wants to give to us, and you will get to know him as a wise, good, and generous Father. As you pray, think about who God really is, and make your requests to him. This verse isn't commanding you to not doubt the *thing* that you hope will happen; it is encouraging you not to doubt the *Heavenly Father* who will bring you all good things.

*Father, help me to know you better and to focus on your goodness as I pray.*

*--Amy Martin*

August 4

**One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’ ”**

**Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?” (Luke 18:1-8, NLT)**

The widow was being treated unfairly. She needed the judge to make things right for her. The judge didn’t care about God or about people, but he finally helped the widow with her problem because she kept on asking and asking for his help. Our God is not like this terrible judge. Our God cares about justice and he is very merciful. He is eager to help us with our problems and it is his desire that everyone should come to know him and live with him in heaven one day. Even if it takes a long time for God to answer our prayers, we should never give up. One day he will make everything right.

*Lord, you are a good judge. You care about your people and you know what is right. Please help me to remember to pray each day for my family, my friends, my church and for the people who don’t know you yet. Help me to wait patiently for your answers.*

*--Laurie Griffin*

August 7

**"At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. [An angel came to Daniel and said], 'Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days.'"**  
**(Daniel 10:2-3, 12-13)**

Have you ever dreamed of being a superhero? In the Bible, angels are real heroes and evil spirits are the villains. So if the angel was the superhero in this story, what was Daniel? He was like Commissioner Gordon lighting the the Bat Signal. When we pray for God's help and protection, or understanding, or for God's Mission in the world, we are joining in the spiritual battle that is always going on around us. When you pray, remember that your words are heard and that God will respond to them. Be persistent and focused as you fight!

*Lord, teach me to be a part of your mission through prayer.*

*--Amy Martin*

August 8

**“Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer,” (I Peter 4:7, The Message).**

Attitude! The wrong kind can get you in trouble with your parents and teachers. God wants you to have a right attitude. Part of having that right attitude has to do with always praying about things--that means that sometimes only Jesus can hear your prayer, and that's okay. And remember, you don't always have to bow your head, fold your hands and close your eyes when you pray. Staying wide-awake in prayer doesn't mean you never sleep; it means to be in a right attitude so you can pray at any time.

*Dear Jesus, I know that sometimes I have a bad attitude. It's really hard to pray when I do. Help me to have a good attitude so I can pray like you want me to.*

*--Ron Graff*

August 9

**And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. (Matthew 6:7)**

Imagine having the exact same conversation with your parents or friends every single day. That would get pretty boring don't you think? Sometimes when we pray, we say the same old things every day to God. Pretty boring right? We have learned that prayer is talking to God. But not only that, did you know that prayer is also listening to God? You might wonder how to do that. Can we hear God speak? God doesn't always speak out loud so that we hear him with our ears, but God speaks quietly to our hearts through his Holy Spirit who lives inside those who follow him. Did you know that the Bible is God's words written down for us? Sometimes when I want to hear God's voice out loud, I read my Bible out loud. Those are God's words! As I read, I think about what God is trying to say to me today and then I talk back to him about my family, my friends, my questions and my concerns. He promises to always make sure that all of his words come true.

*God, sometimes I don't know how to pray or what to say. Thank you for your words in the Bible that teach me what you want to say. Help me to be a good listener.*

*--Laurie Griffin*

August 10

**Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Matthew 26:41)**

It's the middle of the night. Before His arrest, Jesus asks His men to stand by Him. They see He is very upset. Jesus tells them, "I am crushed with heavy sorrow--even to the point of death. Stay awake and keep watch with Me." Well, they fall asleep! Jesus wakes them, saying, "Watch and pray so you won't fall into temptation." But they don't do it. They just go right back to sleep. Suddenly, soldiers are arresting Jesus! His men drop everything and run for their lives!

Do I do the same thing? Do I keep watch and guard my heart, or sleepwalk into sin by failing to pray?

*Lord, lead me not into temptation. Remind me to watch and pray.*

*--Rick D'Amico*

August 11

**“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)**

Prayer is a powerful thing. If my prayers are going to be powerful, I need to be honest with God and my parents when I mess up. I need to tell them the truth and genuinely say I'm sorry. I also need to do the things that God tells me to do in His Word and not be guided by what others say or by how I feel.

*Dear God, it's really hard to be honest when I mess up. I want to be, but it's really hard. I know I'm supposed to, so please help me. I want my prayers to be powerful. Help me also to live the way You want me to live. That's really hard as well, because a lot of my friends don't live that way. Please help me. I love You Lord.*

*--Ron Graff*

August 14

**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. (Romans 8:26)**

Have you ever tried to pray about something but had no idea what to say? The problem felt so big and complicated that you didn't know how to explain it to God. Paul says that in those times God knows what we need and His Holy Spirit prays for us. So don't be afraid to pray even when you don't know what to say. Imagine yourself walking up to God's throne. He's your Father and He welcomes you gladly. It's okay if all you can do is to cry or whisper a simple prayer like, "Help me, Father!" or "Help me, Jesus!" God knows what you need and He's glad you've come to him.

*Jesus, remind me to ask for your help, even when I don't know what to say.*

*--Dave Martin*

August 15

**The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)**

Have you ever watched a parent play hide-and-seek with a toddler? You probably smiled as the parent 'hid' with a leg poking out from behind the tree or with a blanket covering just their head. It sure seems like they are not trying very hard to hide, as if they *want* their child to find them. God is the same way with his children. He often stays a little bit hidden because he loves for you to look for him. God believes it is best for us to have to take initiative to reach out to him--but he is always close by ready to reach back! You might not think that you can feel God, but as you draw near to God in prayer, your heart will soon learn to recognize his presence close by.

*Lord, thank you that you are near to me when I call on you in truth.*

*--Amy Martin*

August 16

**“In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait patiently,” (Psalm 5:3).**

Your mom asks you to clean your room. You, however, are preoccupied with something else. She asks several times. Finally, in a forceful voice, she says, “Did you hear me? I asked you several times to clean your room.” You reply, “I heard you.” Did you really? Actually, you only received a sound in your ear. Real hearing is recognizing what the sounds mean, understanding their message, and acting upon them. That’s what God does when you pray. That’s what it means when the Psalmist says, “O Lord, you hear my voice.”

*Dear God, thank You that You don't mess up like I do sometimes. You truly hear me every time I talk to You. Help me to remember that every time I pray.*

*--Ron Graff*

August 17

**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. (John 15:16)**

Have you ever tried to turn on a lamp or a TV that wasn't plugged in? What happened? Nothing, right? Lamps and televisions need electricity to work, and they get that electricity by being plugged into an outlet. What happens to a branch if you cut it off a tree? The branch has to be connected to the tree to get the nutrients it needs to produce leaves and fruit. Jesus loves you and wants to shine his light through you. But that won't happen if you are not plugged into him through prayer. He wants to grow fruit in you (like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control). But that will only happen if you are like a branch that stays connected to him through prayer. So spend time praying every day. Ask Jesus to make you a light for him, so that as other people get to know you they will want to become Christians. And ask Jesus to grow fruit in you, as you seek to live like Him.

*Jesus, remind me to stay connected to you by praying. Help me to shine your light and grow fruit.*

*--Dave Martin*

August 18

***You desire, but do not have, so you kill. You covet, but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. And, when you ask, you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives. (James 4:2)***

Kids, I'm telling you this verse describes adults! They were supposed to be following Jesus! But they were greedy, mean, and selfish! James wrote a letter to call them out for their sin! Once, Jesus got mad at His disciples when they stopped little kids from coming near. He told His disciples to let the kids come to Him to be blessed. He probably let them climb onto His lap and play around at His feet. I'm sure He held them in His arms as He blessed them. I can imagine Him smiling at a shy little girl and getting her to smile back. He told the grown-ups that unless they received God's Kingdom like these children received Him, they would not get in at all! Jesus said that His Kingdom actually belongs to anyone with a heart like a child! What does this mean? Well, children just seemed to know Jesus was safe and good! They trusted Him and loved Him! When Jesus blessed them, they *knew* they were blessed. When He spoke, they *believed* what He said. Childlike faith is pure and clear. Kids tell Jesus exactly what they are thinking. They don't try to sound fancy. They talk to Jesus like He's really right *there* because He *is right there!* That's pure faith from a believing heart. This kind of faith leads to purity in prayer! This kind of heart belongs in the Kingdom of God! Read James 4:2 once more. Does that sound like purity in prayer? I don't think so.

Let's grow up into childlike faith with purity in prayer, always believing that Jesus loves us!

*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so! Thank you, Lord Jesus!*

--Rick D'Amico

August 21

**So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (Acts 12:5)**

Do you ever feel that something you are facing is hopeless? In Acts 12, that's what the Christians felt when Peter was arrested by King Herod. They did the most important thing that they could do. They could pray and that's what they did. Someone defined prayer as "invading the impossible." Always remember that God is greater than what appears as a hopeless situation.

*Dear Lord, help me to remember that You are greater than any situation that I am facing. Help me to keep my eyes on You and not be afraid. You are my hope, my Lord and my God. I'm leaving it all in Your hands.*

--Ron Graff

August 22

**If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (Luke 11:13)**

What is the best gift your parents ever gave to you? A bike? A new game system? A Disneyland pass? Your parents are not perfect, but they still love to give you good gifts when they are able. If that is true for human parents, think how your perfect Father in Heaven feels about giving you gifts. He loves it! But He knows that the best gift for you is not a toy, nor an iPad, nor a trip to an amusement park. Those things are fine, but God knows that what you need most is His Spirit living inside of you, helping you to love and trust Him, make wise choices and do what is good. So ask God for whatever you want, but make sure you also ask for His Spirit to live inside of you and to help you because that is what He wants to give you most of all.

*Father, please give me more of your Spirit to help me love and trust you, make wise choices, and do what is good.*

*--Dave Martin*

August 23

**"I thank you and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king." (Daniel 2:23)**

Proverbs 2:6 says, "For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Daniel didn't know what the king had dreamed, but he was sure that God knew and that God could show him. And God did show him! How about you: when you need to understand something better or need good ideas, do you first ask God for wisdom? God created everything, and he knows everything. In his Word, he promises to share that knowledge and understanding with us when we ask him. He might not tell you what your friend is thinking or download all of wikipedia into your brain, but he will guide you as you seek to understand things better. Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive." James said, "You do not receive because you do not ask God." See how many opportunities you can find this week to ASK.

*Lord, thank you for your promise to grant wisdom and understanding whenever I ask. Remind me through your Holy Spirit to always turn to you first whenever I need to understand things better or need good ideas.*

*--Amy Martin*

August 24

**At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me. Pray that whenever I speak, the right words will be given to me. Then I can be bold as I tell the mystery of the good news. (Ephesians 6:18-19 NIRV)**

Do you ever wonder what prayer is? Prayer is simply talking to God. God wants us to pray all kinds of prayers. He wants us to ask for help when we are in trouble. He wants us to ask for wisdom when we don't know what to do. He wants us to be thankful and sing songs to him when something good happens. God wants us to pray for people who don't know him yet; the Bible says they are lost. God wants us also to pray for our church leaders, the pastors and Nova Kids teachers. Ask God to help them to teach us how God wants us to live. Does God talk back to us? We might not hear him with our ears, but when we read his word in the Bible, he speaks to us.

*Dear God, everyday there is so much to tell you. You have given me so many good things. Thank you for taking care of me. Help me when I don't know what to do. Help the pastors and teachers at Nova church to understand the Bible so they can teach us all about you and Jesus. Please find all the lost people and bring them back to you. Teach me to listen for your voice when I read your Bible.*

*--Laurie Griffin*

August 25

**When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord; he brought me into a spacious place. (Psalm 118:5)**

Have you ever been trapped in a small space? It's a horrible feeling! You might panic, not be able to breathe, and you will be sure that you will never escape! As you go through life, you will sometimes be in situations that make you feel that way. Even though your body is free, your circumstances will make you feel trapped and hopeless. In those times, God wants you to cry out to him. Perhaps when you were trapped you yelled and screamed for your mom or dad to come help you. And then you got out and suddenly the world around you felt wide open and free. That is the way God will come to you when you get trapped in life. Put your hope in him.

*Father, thank you that you hear me when I cry out to you. When I feel trapped in life, rescue me and give me hope.*

*--Amy Martin*

August 28

**I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. (Isaiah 62:6-7)**

A watchman is someone who is on the lookout for things coming. They give warnings if they see an enemy approaching, and they shout with joy when there is good news. Did you know that children are the best watchmen? Adults sometimes forget that children are always watching and observing what is going on. Do you notice when someone is sad? Do you get excited when something good happens for your family or friends? Do you realize your prayers are important to God? Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) When something bad is happening, God wants you to pray and ask him for help. When something good happens, God wants to know how excited and thankful you are. Pray for your friends who don't know Jesus. God is always listening to your prayers – day or night!

*Dear God, help me to always pay attention to what is going on with my family and my friends so that I will know how to pray. Thank you Lord for always hearing me when I talk to you.*

*--Laurie Griffin*

August 29

**But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. (Luke 6:27-28)**

It makes sense to be nice to my friends when they are nice to me. But when people are mean and call me names, I want them to get into trouble! I don't want to be nice and I don't want to pray for them. They don't deserve it! So, why does Jesus tell me to love people who sin against me? It's simple: *Before I was even born*, Jesus loved me and gave His perfect life to save me from punishment for my sin. I didn't do anything to deserve that! Every day He guides me, blesses me, and forgives me when I sin. Jesus just wants me to copy Him by loving others the same way He loves me! Let's thank Jesus for His love and pass it on to everyone.

*Jesus, open my heart to those I call enemies. Help me pray for them.*

*--Rick D'Amico*

August 30

**"O Lord...give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31, NLT)**

Have you ever felt God's power shake your house or church after you finished praying? I haven't! What made the believers' prayer so powerful? They asked God to give them power so that they could join him in His mission. They knew the only way they could communicate the Good News clearly was if the Holy Spirit filled them with the ability to heal others and perform miracles and speak boldly. God loves that kind of prayer! Your friends and family members who aren't Christians might not be open to hearing about Jesus and sin and salvation, but guess what--almost everyone appreciates being prayed for. Could you ask God for boldness to pray out loud with others for their needs and also ask God to do miracles for the people you pray for? Pray together with other kids and adults at Nova, too.

*O Lord, give me great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of Jesus.*

*--Amy Martin*

August 31

**For I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. (Philippians 1:19)**

Take a flashlight and shine it in your room with all the lights on. Then turn off the lights and shine your flashlight. When was the flashlight brighter, in the light or the darkness? In the darkness, right? The same is true of Jesus' light in you. Your love for Jesus and your trust in Him shine more clearly during dark times, when life is hard. Other people will wonder how you can still be cheerful and hopeful when things are bad, and you can tell them it's because you know Jesus. That's why even though Paul was in jail, he said that God was using his imprisonment for good. In verses 12 and 13 he said, "I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here [in prison] has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in jail because of my belief in Jesus." So when your circumstances are dark, ask Jesus to make His light shine through you more clearly.

*Lord, give me courage so that you can shine your light through me in the dark times of life.*

*--Dave Martin*

Sept 1

**About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening to them. (Acts 16:25)**

Have you ever been singing and then suddenly realized that someone was listening to you? Did you feel embarrassed, or do you enjoy performing for others? Paul and Silas knew that the other prisoners were listening to them, but they didn't mind-- they knew that the prisoners were learning about God through their songs. And our neighbors can learn about God through the songs that we sing at Nova. So the next time you are singing in the service or in Nova Kids, remember: your songs aren't only a prayer to God, but also a Light to those around you.

*Lord, bring our neighbors onto the Nova campus during our worship services, so that they can overhear our worship and be exposed to your Light.*

*--Amy Martin*