

"Before The Bell Rings" Prayer Guide

There never seem to be enough hours in the day to complete everything and certainly not enough to accomplish everything we desire. But in all of this, we need to make sure that we are not neglecting the most important things: prayer and the ministry of the Word.

For many of us, it is easy to forget to pray or think we will get to it, only to get sidetracked by many of the things that come up for us each day. However, many of us would agree with the statement that one of the most important things we can do every day is to pray for our students.

The question becomes...what do we pray for? How can we lift our students up in prayer? We know that many of them spend the majority of their time each day in school and we know the battle that rages on, especially among competing worldviews of schools, teachers, and peers that are not friendly to the Christian worldview. We need to make sure we are praying for our students' bold witness among their peers, for standing on the firm foundation of God's Word when challenged, and for a heart of mission to reach others with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, why don't we pray specific Scriptures, praying the very words of God, for our students every day before they enter the school building?

What you will find in this resource are 20 Scripture passages (one for each day of the school week for a month) that you can pray for your students throughout the school year. All that's provided is the Scripture. The passages selected to pray through hit three major themes for the students: living on mission in the school, living as ambassadors for Christ, and living a holy life. All you need to do is read the Scripture as a prayer, then let the Spirit guide your prayer through the passage.

Scriptures to Pray

1. Jeremiah 29:7 “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”
2. Ephesians 6:19 “Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”
3. Ephesians 5:15-16 “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”
4. Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
5. Matthew 5:14-16 “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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
6. Matthew 4:17-18 “‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.”
7. John 20:21 “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’”
8. Philippians 1:21 “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”
9. Colossians 1:9b-12 “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.”
10. Jonah 4:11 “‘And should I not have concern for the great city of Ninevah, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right from their left – and also many animals?’”

11. James 2:14-18 “What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well” —but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.””
12. 1 Timothy 4:12 “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”
13. 1 Peter 4:15 “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”
14. 1 Peter 3:15 “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”
15. 1 Peter 2:12 “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”
16. Matthew 10:32-33 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”
17. Acts 20:24 “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”
18. Ephesians 1:17-19 “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”
19. Romans 15:5-6 “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
20. 2 Corinthians 5:20 “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”