

Praying Circles Around Your Children
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Pastor and best-selling author, Mark Batterson takes his best-seller *The Circle Maker* and brings it to parents. In this book Pastor Batterson offers insights into the power of focused prayer, specifically when it comes to parents praying for their children.

In his usual style, Batterson makes an authentic prayer life accessible and purposeful for parents, in this easy-to-read, but powerful guide to being a praying parent.

Legacy and Legend

People want to leave something behind that they will be remembered by when they are gone. Parents especially want to be remembered by their children. The hope is that children will remember the good and forget the mistakes.

Prayer is one of those things that will set up a spiritual legacy. Every blessing and moment spent faithfully praying for and with a child will leave behind a genealogy of prayer.

There is a legend in the Jewish Talmud of a man named Honi. He is known as the "circle maker". He is known in legend because of his bold strategy of prayer. In a moment of deep need in the nation of Israel, he drew a circle around himself and publicly began to pray. His prayer was that he would not leave the circle until God blessed his people again. His prayer was known as the prayer that changed a generation. Like Honi, parents have an opportunity to pray and change the next generation in their own homes. Prayer is the secret weapon for parents as they spiritually draw a circle around their families and children.

Five Prayer Circles

There are 5 circles of prayer for parents as they lead their children spiritually and leave behind a legacy of faith. No matter the parent, there is an opportunity to seek God honestly and openly as they claim God's blessing in the good and the bad times.

1. Circling the Promises of God

Parents are prophets in a way, they have the opportunity to speak and create the future. Parents are not only prophets only, they are historians as well, as they look back and teach the past.

Praying parents not only know their children, they also know the



scriptures. Confident prayer is holy confidence found in the promises of God and the promises in His word. Through the knowledge of these promises parents will also have "peace that transcends" human understanding in living a life of prayer.

2. Making Prayer Lists

Prayer lists are not a long list or an agenda to give to God, they are actually a way for us to discover God's agenda. *"It is very difficult to pray with specificity, intentionality and consistency without a prayer list"*. Think of them not only as list of requests but a record of answers.

Four different ways to make prayer lists as parents are through prayer journals, prayer posters, lunch box notes, and creating a book of prayers. Each of these allow a parent to be more organized, intentional as a prophet and a historian spiritually for their family.

3. Creating a Prayer Mantra

There is *"a natural tendency to remember what we should forget and forget what we should remember"*. Prayer mantras serve as a reminder and offer a consistency in addition to personal prayers.

Prayer mantras allow parents to offer to their children a way to identify and claim a life theme. As God reveals life's direction and theme, combined with significant verses, parents will be able to create a mantra of prayer for themselves and their children.

4. Forming Prayer Circles

Praying With versus Praying For is the difference in praying circles around your children. Children in their child-like faith need to be invited into the circle of prayer. It is also the difference between the Backseat or the Front Seat. Until children get into the front seat to drive they will not know how to get where they are going. It is true physically as well as spiritually. Forming a family prayer circle invites children into the process and claiming of their spiritual future.

5. Praying Through the Bible

At the heart of all of this, is and should be the scriptures. A praying parent's power comes from the complete linking of their prayer life and parenting to God's holy promises found in the Bible. When praying follows the path of scripture, parents will live un-offended by God and His direction.

Holy Complications

Parents become frustrated in prayer and spiritually because they feel somehow that following God's will will be easy. It is not, in fact in some way it gets harder. God's blessings will bless, but they will also complicate life. Living as a parent and family in holy prayer in an unholy world can only be accomplished by circling up in prayer for the long haul ahead. Keep circling, keep praying for your children.

