



**Cultivating
A Love
For Jesus In
Your Children**



Helping people Know, Love & Become like Jesus

firstbaptistcambridge.org

Intentionally Praying for Your Family

Jesus prayed to His Father; He prayed for His followers asking God to give them eternal life; and Jesus prayed for you and me and all people who love and follow Him. (Read John 17 and Hebrews 7:23-25.)

What a comfort it is to know that our Lord prays for His own. It is of great comfort to even very young children to know that their family loves and cares for them so much that they pray to their Heavenly Father about them.

The following suggestions might be helpful as you think of praying for your children, grandchildren, etc. needs now and in the future.

1. That they will know Christ as Savior early in life (Psalm 63:1, 1 Timothy 3:15)
2. That they will have a hatred for sin (Psalm 97:10)
3. That they will be caught when guilty (Psalm 119:71)
4. That they will be protected from the evil one in each area of their lives: spiritual, emotional, and physical (John 17:15, Romans 12:21)
5. That they will have a responsible attitude in all their interpersonal relationships (Daniel 6:3)
6. That they will respect those in authority over them (Romans 13:1)
7. That they will desire the right kind of friends and be protected from the wrong friends (Proverbs 1:10-11)
8. That they will be kept from the wrong mate and saved for the right one (2 Corinthians 6:14-17)
9. That they, as well as those they marry, will be kept pure until marriage (2 Corinthians 6:18-20)
10. That they will learn to totally submit to God and actively resist Satan in all circumstances (James 4:7-8, John 17:16-17)
11. That they will be singlehearted, willing to be sold out to Jesus Christ (Romans 12:1-2)
12. That they will be hedged in so they cannot find their way to wrong people or wrong places and that the wrong people cannot find their way to them (Hosea 2:6)

Pick one point a month to concentrate on. Within a year, you will have consistently prayed this entire list.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petitions, 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

Praying for Family

Can be used as a Monthly Calendar - Intentionally intercede each day

DAY	TOPIC	SCRIPTURE	HOW TO PRAY
1	Give Thanks	Psalm 127:3	Thanks for children as heritage
2	Dedication	1 Samuel 1:27,28	Surrender child's whole life to God
3	Salvation	John 3:15,16 2 Peter 3:9	Praise God for His salvation and desire to save the lost
4	Growth	Luke 2:52, Philippians 1:6	For physical and mental growth
5	God's Spirit	Isaiah 44:3,5 John 14:17	Holy Spirit to live in child's heart and confess his faith
6	Be Like Christ	Ephesians 4:13-15 Galatians 5:22-25	To know Christ; grow in His likeness
7	Instruction	Deuteronomy 6:1,2, 5-7 Proverbs 22:6	Wisdom to train child continuously in God's ways
8	Obedience	Exodus 20:12, Colossians 3:20	To obey, trust parent, God
9	Discipline	Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21	Balance discipline with firmness
10	God's Will	Colossians 1:9-11, Isaiah 54:13	To be taught God's will and to obey - to find peace
11	Authority over Child	1 Timothy 2:1	For teachers, employers, government to be a godly influence
12	Protection	Psalm 91:11-12	Angels to protect and preserve
13	Temptation	Matthew 6:13, 1 John 2:15-17	To choose the good
14	Remember Parent's Teaching	Proverbs 3:1-4	Act in love, faith to produce favor, reputation
15	Deliver from Evil	Ephesians 6:10-18, Psalm 23:4	Safe from evil influences and Satan's Attacks
16	Love God, Others	Matthew 22:37-39, Titus 2:4	Parent to demonstrate love for child to model
17	Friends	Proverbs 17:17, 27:6, 10	To choose Christian friends, build good relationships
18	Peer Pressure	Proverbs 1:10, 13:20,21	A strong resistant spirit, to do right
19	Hold onto Faith	1 Timothy 1:19 2 Timothy 3:14-15	Remain faithful to God
20	Sickness	James 5:13-16, Matthew 8:17	Healing of spirit, emotions, body
21	Needs	Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:33	God will supply all needs
22	Guidance/Future	John 14:26, Jeremiah 29:11 Proverbs 3:5-6	Thank God for His truth, direction, and child's future
23	Life's Work	Proverbs 16:3 Colossians 3:22-23	For child to commit his work to God
24	Marriage Partner	Ephesians 5:22-23	To love each other and serve God
25	Unborn Child	Deuteronomy 7:13 Luke 1:13,15	Fill child with life, joy, health, presence of God
26	Grandchildren	Proverbs 17:6, 2 Timothy 1:5	To leave a spiritual inheritance, be positive influence
27	Handicapped Children	2 Timothy 1:12	Acceptance of others, healing, wisdom, courage and compassion
28	Wayward Child	Isaiah 49:15-18, Mark 4:1-7 Colossians 3:12-14	Reconciliation, forgiveness, patience, gentleness and love
29	Honor Parents	Ephesians 6:2-3, Proverbs 31:28	Honor parents for child's well-being
30	Whole Family	Isaiah 59:21, Psalm 103:17	Faith, strong love in family passed to next generation
31	Glorify God	John 15:8, Matthew 5:16	Share faith, serve God and His kingdom faithfully

Unfinished Sentences...

In order to help you pray for people,
here is a way to get to know them better.

Please have a chat with your family member —
both of you answer and discuss each question

1. The funniest thing I ever saw was _____
2. If I had 24 hours to live _____
3. On Saturdays I usually _____
4. I feel best when people _____
5. I'd like to spend a long holiday in _____
6. I wish politicians would _____
7. I have never _____
8. Parents should always _____
9. My children will _____
10. This world would be a better place if _____
11. The thing that worries me most is _____
12. I never worry about _____
13. Some day I am going to _____
14. I like people who _____
15. I get very angry if _____
16. I find it difficult to _____
17. I'd like to be more _____ and less _____
18. I am not interested in _____
19. Studying is _____
20. If I could be somewhere else now, I'd _____

Take your spouse, child, or grandchild
out for ice cream and discuss each
question. The better you know another
person, the more effective your prayers
will be!



Leading Your Child to Jesus

There are many ways the Holy Spirit leads adults to share their faith within their family, such as praying for family members (see pages 2 and 3) and living a consistent and grace-filled life. As someone has said, “Whenever our children feel safe and secure in our love, we have the opportunity to relate to them how much greater the love of their heavenly Father is.”

Use pages 8-13 in guiding your family members’ spiritual journey. Be open to share your own salvation testimony and spiritual journey within your family, and seek to encourage life-long discipleship in maturing in faith, love, and witness.

Pages 4 and 5 can be used to help in leading your child to Jesus.

From God’s Word...

(Jesus said) “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3:16-17

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Important Salvation Truths

1. Everyone has sinned.
2. Sin is missing the mark of God’s perfect standard.
3. What we have earned from God by sinning is death.
4. The root meaning of the word “Death” is separation.
5. In place of death, God wants to give us a free gift, eternal life.
6. Our salvation, though free to us, cost God the life of His Son.
7. God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the remedy for our sins.

“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ...for, ‘Everyone who calls [trusts] on the Name of the Lord will be saved.’” Romans 10:9, 13

Have you made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Take your time and think the following through very carefully...

There are **two Key Questions** to help you, but what are your answers?

1. "Do you know for certain you would be with God in Heaven one day?"

Circle one Yes No Maybe

2. "If God said to you, 'Why should I let you into my Heaven,' what would you say?"

Circle one

- A. I'm a good person, and I go to church when my parents take me.
- B. I pray to God. I obey my parents and teachers almost all the time.
- C. I believe that God created everything.
- D. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, God in human flesh. I believe that He died on the cross to wash away my sins, from which I repent. I've prayed to receive Him as my Savior and my Lord.

Answer "D" is the Biblical response.

By God's grace through faith, you can receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord right now. It's as simple as ABC:

- A.** Admit that you're a sinner and repent of your sins
- B.** Believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for the complete forgiveness of your sins, and that He rose again, conquering sin and death and giving you eternal life
- C.** Commit your life to know, love, and become like Jesus

You can receive Christ right now through prayer:

"Lord Jesus. I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross in my place for my sins. By Your grace, I turn from sin and place my faith in You. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. In Your Name I pray, Amen."

Today I asked Jesus to forgive my sins, and I became a child of God:

Name _____ **Date** _____

Read again questions 1 and 2 above. Would you change your answers?

Disciple your Child, Grandchild, etc.:

Through Prayer...

Discipleship is not about legalistically following rules and a list of do's and don'ts. It is building a relationship with Jesus by living in the rhythm of His grace and in harmony with His Word.

Talking with Jesus is called prayer. You can pray in your room, on the way to school, in the classroom, on the playground, anywhere, any time, out loud, silently, and in any position. (Luke 18:1)

**Thank you, Jesus, for being
my best friend!**



Here is one way to Pray

Confession...Confess your sins (1 John 1:9)

Thanksgiving...Thank God for what He has done and is doing for you. Praise Him. Tell Him how much you love Him.

Others...Pray for your parents, relatives, friends, church, missionaries, the sick, unsaved, and anyone else God lays on your heart.

Tell Him...about your problems and needs

Ask Him...for help, strength and guidance

Pray...in Jesus' name (John 14:14)

...and Bible Study

It is not how much you read nor how much you have in your head, but how much you understand and have hidden in your heart, that counts.

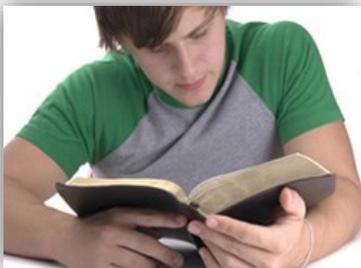
You need spiritual food just as much as you need physical food. Your soul will starve without the first, and your body will starve without the second. The Gospel of John is a good place to begin, maybe Acts next.

Ask God to help you understand what you read and to give you a special message from it. *“If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you.”* (James 1:5); and *“But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My (Jesus) name, He shall teach you all things.”* (John 14:26)

Be prayerful and use the **“S.O.S.”** method of engaging with God in the Bible:

1. What does this passage **SAY** and what’s the key meaning? (Make sure your answer comes from the Bible, not your own ideas or opinions.)
2. What should I do to **OBEY** it? (Never study the Bible without asking God how to obey it. Focus on very practical ways you can apply what the Bible says. Ask yourself, “From what I just read, what is God’s will? What does God require me to believe and do?”)
3. What should I **SHARE** with others? (Think about others who need to hear something you heard today; make a plan to share with them.)

Memorize Bible verses which you think will especially help you:



“Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Psalm 119:11)

By God’s grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, aim to “live in” the Proverbs 3:5-6 promise: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

Faith Development

Observe your children, grandchildren, etc. Where are they in their spiritual journey as compared to the generalizations found below? Seek to guide them toward Jesus and authentically model the behaviors found below.

Age 3

1. Visualizes Jesus as a person.
2. Recognizes the Bible as a special book that tells how God wants people to live.
3. Enjoys “church” activities (singing, learning, praying).
4. Feels secure in God’s love and care.
5. Thinks in literal, factual, and concrete terms.
6. Enjoys repetition and humor.

Age 4 and 5

1. Views prayer as talking with God.
2. Recognizes the Bible as “God’s book.”
3. Distinguishes make-believe from reality and associates Bible stories with reality.
4. Exhibits a simple, deep faith in Jesus.

Age 6 and 7

1. Have a vague understanding of God because they do not think in abstract terms.
2. Can understand that God is our heavenly Father; that God gives us everything; that Jesus is God’s Son; that Jesus loves each one of us; that Jesus died on the cross for each one of us.
3. Feel they do no wrong and thus lack true repentance.
4. See only the wrongs of others.
5. Find unconditional love hard to accept.
6. Show complete trust in their heavenly Father.
7. Consider actions as wrong only if caught or punished.
8. Apply the letter of the Law rather than the spirit of the Law.
9. Favor severe punishment to “pay back” for the wrong.
10. Show curiosity about death, dying and heaven.

Age 8 and 9

1. Have internalized their concept of God and can share their faith quite readily.
2. Are able to study the Bible chronologically.
3. Enjoy learning about heroes of the Bible.
4. Are better able to understand the church's role in world missions.
5. See God at work in the every day world.
6. Are generally able to tell someone who has hurt them their wrong rather than tattling to the teacher.
7. Pray readily for others.
8. Continue to derive satisfaction from helping others.
9. Are growing in ability to carry on deep discussions about God and their Christian faith.
10. Are building moral standards that will help them make difficult decisions.

Age 10 and 11

1. Are capable of deep religious feeling.
2. Seek a powerful influence in their lives (look for models, heroes).
3. Have a questioning nature in religious matters.
4. Have developed a conscience.
5. See God as more rational and less vindictive than earlier.
6. See Jesus as God's Son, but don't really know what this means.
7. See goodness and badness in everyone, but see it quantitatively.
8. Accept the Bible as true because God gives it authority.
9. Expect immediate answers to prayer.
10. Pray in a less egocentric and materialistic way than primary children.

Age 12 and 13

1. Are able to understand concepts of increased complexity.
2. Contemplate the mysteries of the Christian faith.
3. Wonder about and try to resolve questions about attributes of God, concept of the Trinity, and virgin birth.
4. Marvel at the awesomeness of the creation of which they are a part and wonder within themselves what the Maker's special plan is for them.
5. Are able to see the hand of God at work in history and in the world around them.
6. Can understand the redemptive work of Jesus Christ more fully and also can appreciate it in a deeper and more personal way.

Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions

Parents have been commanded in the Bible to “*train up a child in the way he should go.*” But this poses a critical question: What way should he go? If the first seven years represent the “prime time” for religious training, what should be taught during this period? What experiences should be included? What values should be emphasized?

You’ve asked an excellent set of questions. It is my strong belief that a child should be exposed to a carefully conceived, systematic program of religious training. Yet we are much too haphazard about this matter. Perhaps we would hit the mark more often if we clearly recognized the precise target.

Listed below is a “Checklist for Spiritual Training” - a set of targets at which to aim. Many of the items require maturity that children lack, and we should not try to make adult Christians out of our immature youngsters. But we can gently urge them toward these goals during the impressionable years of childhood.

Essentially, the five scriptural concepts that follow should be consciously taught, providing the foundation on which all future doctrine and faith will rest. I encourage every Christian parent to evaluate his child’s understanding of these five areas:

Concept 1: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30 NIV)

1. Is your child learning of the love of God through your love, tenderness and mercy? (most important)
2. Is he learning to talk about the Lord, and to include Him in his thoughts and plans?
3. Is he learning to turn to Jesus for help whenever he is frightened or anxious or lonely?
4. Is he learning to read the Bible?
5. Is he learning to pray?
6. Is he learning the meaning of faith and trust?
7. Is he learning the joy of the Christian way of life?
8. Is he learning the beauty of Jesus’ birth and death?

Concept 2: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31 NIV)

1. Is your child learning to understand and empathize with the feelings of others?
2. Is he learning not to be selfish and demanding?
3. Is he learning to share?
4. Is he learning not to gossip or criticize others?
5. Is he learning to accept himself?

Concept 3: “Teach me to do your will; for you are my God.”
(Psalm 143:10 NIV)

1. Is he learning to obey you, his parents, as preparation for later obedience to God? (most important)
2. Is he learning to behave properly in church — God’s house?
3. Is he learning a healthy appreciation for both aspects of God’s nature: love and justice?
4. Is he learning that there are many forms of benevolent authority outside himself to which he must submit?
5. Is he learning the meaning of sin and its inevitable consequences?

Concept 4: “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13 NIV)

1. Is he learning to be truthful and honest?
2. Is he learning to keep the Sabbath day holy?
3. Is he learning the relative insignificance of materialism?
4. Is he learning the meaning of the Christian family?
5. Is he learning to follow the dictates of his own conscience?

Concept 5: “But the fruit of the Spirit is...self-control”
(Galatians 5:22,23 NIV)

1. Is he learning to give a portion of his allowance (and other money) to God?
2. Is he learning to control his impulses?
3. Is he learning to work and carry responsibility?
4. Is he learning the vast difference between self-worth and egotistical pride?
5. Is he learning to bow in reverence before the God of the universe?

In summary, your child’s first seven years should prepare him to say at the age of accountability, “Here I am, Lord, send me!”

The Evangelism and

Evangelism Pathway

Stage 1

Awareness Stage

"I realize that there is much in the world that is difficult or even impossible to explain apart from the existence of a supreme being."

Stage 2

Resistant Stage

"I have heard of the God of the Bible, but I am not open to Him."

(Not all people go through this stage.)

Stage 3

Receptive Stage

"I am somewhat curious about Christianity and would like to know more about Jesus. What I have heard about the Gospel seems pretty good, and I am beginning to wonder if my life has been missing something."

Stage 4

Consideration Stage

"I believe that I need to make a decision about either rejecting Christ or receiving Him as Savior and submitting to Him as Lord. First, I need to find out if Christianity is true and right, and if it is I could see myself believing in Jesus."

Stage 5

Understanding Stage

"I imagine what it might be like to live life with Christ, and am trying to decide if that is a change that I want. I believe in God, but I still have a few questions about Jesus. I know how to become a Christian, and I think I eventually might."

Stage 6

Ready Stage

"I sense that God has prepared me to believe in Jesus and receive Him as Savior and Lord."

Discipleship Pathway



New in Christ

"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

Discipleship Pathway

Stage 7

Growing In Christ

"I believe in Jesus and am working on what it means to get to know Him. I am learning how to live the Christian life."

Stage 8

Close To Christ

"I feel really close to Christ and depend on Him daily for guidance. As I am being built up in Christ, I am seeking to make my relationship with Jesus more a part of my everyday life."

Stage 9

Christ-Centered

"My relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in my life. It guides everything I do. I am actively involved in loving people as family and in being a witness for Christ and discipling others. I am truly at peace as I know God is in control, and I will follow Him no matter what."

Stage 10

Christ-Likeness

"I know, love, and have become like Jesus."
(This stage is only fully possible in our glorified, sin-free bodies in Eternity. See 1 John 3:2. Also read the Pathway booklet on our website for much more detail.)

Eternity in Christ Stage 11

The Lord Jesus Christ says "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:21

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

