

## PRAYING FOR CHILDREN

- ❖ Pray for their salvation (2Tim. 3:15).
- ❖ Pray they will hate sin (Ps.97:10).
- ❖ Pray they will select the right kind of friends (Prov.1:10).
- ❖ Pray the Holy Spirit will be poured out on them (Isa. 44:3-5).
- ❖ Pray they will be identified as children blessed by the Lord (Isa. 61:9).
- ❖ Pray God will protect them from making the wrong choices (Hos. 2:6)
- ❖ Pray they will be protected from Satan (John 17:5).
- ❖ Pray they will present themselves to God (Rom. 12:1).
- ❖ Pray they will not be conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2).
- ❖ Pray they will respect authority (Rom. 13:1)
- ❖ Pray they will respect their body as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 6:18-19).
- ❖ Pray that if they marry, they will marry another believer (2Cor. 6:14-17).
- ❖ Pray they will be submissive to God in all things (James 4:7).
- ❖ Pray they will tell their children of the things of God (Ps. 78:4).

## PRAYING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

1. Set an example. When you pray with small child, pray simply so that he or she can pray as you do. Use short sentences and simple words such as "Thank you Jesus," "Bless my teacher," and "Help Grandma get well."
2. Never criticize your children's prayer. They are not praying to you but to God – their Loving, heavenly Father. Allow your children to express themselves freely to God. If they are criticized, they may regard prayer from a negative perspective. As they grow older they might abandon prayer, feeling that either you or God will not find their prayers acceptable.

3. **Never insist that your children pray aloud.** You may find an exception to this rule, but it would indeed be rare. Children and especially teenagers, may go through periods when they are hesitant about praying in front of others. Offer them the opportunity but don't insist.
4. **Use conversational prayer.** Let each member of the family pray a sentence, then stop and allow someone else to pray. Parents can lead children from one area to another by introducing new topics and allowing the children to follow with items of their own.
5. **Vary body positions as you pray.** Variety helps children understand that no matter where they are, they can pray.
6. **Use list and pictures.** Maintain a family prayer list. In a note book, write down items to be thankful for and request for the family and other people. When you hear of a response or answer from God, jot that in the notebook next to the request. Your children will see firm evidence that God answers prayer. Keep a photo album of people for whom you pray. Younger children need a point of reference for their prayers.
7. **Teach your children to pray big.** When they pray for things that seem impossible from their point of view and find that God answers, their faith is given a tremendous boost.
8. **Teach your children to trust God.** When the prayer requests of your children are not answered according to their desires, you are afforded an excellent opportunity to teach them how to pray in faith and accept God's response, even when it is different from our own. While difficult even for mature believers, if this lesson can be imparted to a child, it might prevent a faltering faith in adulthood.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dan R. Crawford, The Prayer – Shaped Disciple