

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

NURTURING PRAYER AS A FAMILY HABIT.

To make prayer a daily habit for your family, cut this page out and place it in a visible place in your home. Use this page as a reminder engage the devotional with your family and to talk to God everyday. Color the icon on the left side of each theme every time your family completes a lesson from this resource.



WHAT IS PRAYER?

1 JOHN 5:14 "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."



HOW DO WE PRAY?

MATTHEW 6:9-13 "Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."



WHEN DO WE PRAY?

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PRAYER?

JOHN 17:20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message."



PRAYER LEADS US TO LOVE.

ROMANS 12:12-13 "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality."

Parents,

Prayer is a wonderful activity to do as a family, and God desires to draw near to you and your children through prayer. It's never too early, or too late to teach your child about prayer. In fact, your children are more open to learning about prayer and trusting of God than most adults are. We can use this opportunity to teach them that God desires to hear what we have to say. The prayers we pray don't have to be long. A simple, short prayer is just as effective as a long one.

As we model prayer for our children, they will learn through our actions that God listens to our prayers and desires to answer them. It all starts with one simple prayer that can grow over time into a lifestyle of prayer which has the potential to transform lives.

We hope this resource will be a blessing to your families as you pray for and with one another. You can utilize this resource to help your family build a habit of praying every day as you also grow in the spiritual foundations of prayer. You can also spread it out over five weeks for deeper understanding of each prayer topic. The prayer topics you will encounter will provide you with time to:



READ TOGETHER: These short writings will teach your family about what the Bible says about prayer and how to incorporate it into your daily life.



KEY VERSE: Each devotional will include a key verse that will bring a deeper understanding to what the Bible says about prayer.



TALK ABOUT IT: This section will provide helpful conversation starters to get your family talking about prayer and how to incorporate it into your daily life.



LIVE IT OUT: This section will provide interactive activities for the whole family to engage in, that will continue to develop habits of prayer in your daily life.

Our hope is that this resource will build a foundation for prayer for your family as you make it a part of your daily routine. May God richly bless you and your family through this time together.

- America Prays -

WHAT IS PRAYER?

KEY VERSE



1 JOHN 5:14



— READ TOGETHER —

Prayer is an important part of our lives as Christians. God loves each of us so much that He desires to be connected to you. One way we can do this is through having conversations with Him throughout our day. It's sort of like the relationship we have with our friends. When we are friends with someone, we want to know what is going on in their life. We might find out what is going on by talking and listening to them. By talking and listening to our friends, our relationship grows stronger and we become closer to them. God wants to be our friend and listen to what is going on in our lives.

Prayer is talking to God at any time, anywhere, and about anything. Philippians 4:6-7 says *“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”* We can be confident that God will be ready and available to listen, when we come to talk with Him about our lives. Why can we be confident of this? Because the love God has for us is never ending, unchanging and bigger than anything we could imagine! Take some time right now to talk to God. He is ready to hear our prayers.



— TALK ABOUT IT —

Discuss the lesson with your children using these questions, and have them draw a picture about what they learned today.

1. What is prayer and why does God want us to pray to Him?
2. Do you feel confident praying to God? How can you become more confident in prayer?
4. Read Philippians 4:6-7. What does this verse say about prayer?



— LIVE IT OUT —

This prayer activity will engage the whole family in developing daily habits of prayer.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: popsicle sticks, writing utensils or markers, jar or bucket, plain paper and craft supplies.

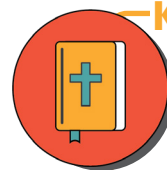
POPSICLE STICK PRAYERS

To get in the habit of praying every day write down friends, family members, leaders or general topics on various popsicle sticks. Put each of the popsicle sticks in a Family Prayer Jar. Use craft supplies to decorate the jar and place it in a common area in the home. Whenever someone passes the jar, have them choose a popsicle stick so they can pray for whatever or whoever is written on it.

HOW DO WE PRAY?

KEY VERSE

MATTHEW
6:9-13



—READ TOGETHER—

God loves us so much that He wants to have a conversation with us about what's going on in our lives. Sometimes we may think our problems are too big, too small or just not perfect enough to bring to God. But the Bible tells us in Philippians 4:6 *“Pray (to God) about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.”* We can bring anything to God, no matter how big or small our prayers may seem.

There is no right or wrong way to pray. In fact, there are many types of prayer that we can use every day. Prayers of praise help us tell God what we love about Him. Prayers of confession help us ask God for forgiveness when we mess up or do something wrong. Prayers of thanksgiving tell God things that we are thankful to Him for. Praying for our needs helps us ask God for His help. The idea is that when we pray, we can bring anything to Him. He isn't impressed if we use big words or talk to him for two minutes or two hours. Short prayers are meaningful to God too. When we come to God with a humble heart and a simple prayer, He comes near to us and listens to each of our prayers. The more we come to God in prayer, the stronger our faith will become.



—TALK ABOUT IT

Discuss the lesson with your children using these questions, and have them draw a picture about what they learned today.

1. What things have you prayed to God about?
2. Have you ever thought that your needs were too big or too small to talk to God about? Why?
3. Read Matthew 6:9-13. What do these verses tell us about prayer?



—LIVE IT OUT

This prayer activity will engage the whole family in developing daily habits of prayer.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: writing utensiles, printed C.H.A.T. activity page (If no printer is available, use blank paper and write out the C.H.A.T. prompts.)

PRAYER JOURNAL

C.H.A.T. is an easy way to remember what to pray about. Using the C.H.A.T. journal page, fill in the spaces next to each prompt. At the bottom, write out a prayer based on what was written in each blank space. Print multiple copies and use them throughout the week to help your children understand the types of things they can pray for. Younger children can simply draw a picture of their prayers next to each prompt.



C.H.A.T. PRAYER JOURNAL

Fill in the spaces next to each of the C.H.A.T. letters in response to the questions listed. At the bottom of the page, write a prayer based on what you wrote in each space.

C

CONFESS: Confession is simply sharing things with God that we may have done wrong or made the wrong choice about. What are some things you have done wrong that you could talk to God about today?

H

HONOR: When we honor God, we show Him respect and admiration for who He is in our lives. Who is God? What do you know that is true about Him? You can simply fill in "God, You are _____" by writing things you know about God that are true.

A

ASK: When we ask God, we share our needs and requests with Him and we ask that He will hear us and answer our prayers. What are some needs or requests that you have? What are some needs or requests that other people may have?

T

THANK: When we thank God we tell him the things we are grateful to Him for. Look back on your day or week and list some things you are thankful for. What is something that you can thank God for today?

MY C.H.A.T. PRAYER

WHEN DO WE PRAY?

KEY VERSE



1 THESSALONIANS
5:16-18



READ TOGETHER

We've been learning that prayer is a conversation with God and is something that helps our faith grow. When we pray we don't have to go to a building in order to pray. We can pray wherever we are, whether we are at home, at school, at church or in the car. We can pray at the park, at the beach, on a bus, or even on a plane. And in all those places, God will be with us wherever we decide to pray.

There is also no right or wrong time that God wants us to pray. In fact, we can pray throughout the day. I Thessalonians 5:16-18 encourages us to "pray continually." Which basically means that every moment of our day is a good time to pray. God is everywhere. So wherever we are, He is there with us, ready to listen to what we have to say.

Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." When we pray, our goal is not to pray at one specific time, or in one specific place. Instead, our goal is to pray anytime, anywhere and about everything because God desires to be near us wherever we are. We can talk to God about everything because we are in constant conversation with Him. Through this act of praying continually, our faith strengthens as we talk to God daily.



TALK ABOUT IT

Discuss the lesson with your children using these questions, and have them draw a picture about what they learned today.

1. Do you have a favorite time or place that you like to pray?
2. I Thessalonians 5:17 says "never stop praying." What might make it difficult to pray continually?
3. Read I Thessalonians 5:16-18 and draw a picture of what this verse means and how you can apply it to your daily life.



LIVE IT OUT

This prayer activity will engage the whole family in developing daily habits of prayer.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: writing utensiles, printed chart activity page. (If no printer is available, use blank paper and make your own shapes.)

PRAYER CHART

This prayer chart will teach your children to pray continuously by creating a habit of prayer in their lives. Using this chart, children will decorate and fill in each shape with the name of someone they would like to pray for. Each time the child prays for the person in a specific shape, they will fill in one of the circles next to that shape. The goal is to develop a habit of continuous prayer throughout their daily lives.



PRAYER CHART

Fill in each shape with the name of someone you would like to pray for. Decorate the shape as you pray for and thank God for that person. Go back to the shapes throughout the week and pray for the people you wrote down. Each time you pray for the person, color in one of the dots surrounding the shape.

A collection of 11 teal-outlined hexagons arranged in a grid. The top row has one hexagon. The second row has one hexagon centered under the first. The third row has five hexagons. The fourth row has one hexagon centered under the second hexagon of the third row. The fifth row has one hexagon centered under the second hexagon of the fourth row. Each hexagon has four small white circles around it: two on the top edge and two on the bottom edge.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PRAYER?

KEY VERSE



JOHN 17:20



— READ TOGETHER —

We can learn a lot about prayer through the life of Jesus. During His time here on earth, Jesus prayed a lot! His life was filled with prayer because Jesus knew that prayer would help Him connect with His Father. He prayed in the morning. He prayed in the evening. He prayed alone in the garden. And He even prayed on the top of a mountain. There were times when Jesus prayed together with His disciples, and other times when He prayed alone. Mark 1:35 says *“Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.”* Praying alone provided Him time to connect with God, learn from God and be guided in the right direction. When we spend time with God in prayer, we can grow stronger in our faith and be guided in the right direction in our lives.

When Jesus prayed, He talked to God about many things. He prayed for His friends, for people who were sick and hurting, and He prayed for you and me! Yes, Jesus prayed for everyone alive today. He prayed that we would know Him and know God’s Word. And that we would be reminded that prayer helps us to live a life of love, generosity, hospitality and unity with one another. The example that Jesus set reminds us that prayer is for every moment, for every situation and for every person. Jesus even teaches us in Matthew 6:9-13 how to pray. When we follow the example of prayer that Jesus set we will always know what and who to pray for so that through our prayers, people will experience the love of God in their daily lives.



— TALK ABOUT IT —

Discuss the lesson with your children using these questions and have them draw a picture about what they learned today.

1. What can we learn about prayer from the life of Jesus?
2. Why is it important to pray alone and to pray with others?
3. Jesus teaches us a simple prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 called The Lord’s Prayer. What do these verses teach us about prayer?



— LIVE IT OUT —

This prayer activity will engage the whole family in developing daily habits of prayer.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: writing utensiles, Scripture Scavenger Hunt page, Bible.

SCRIPTURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Each stop on this scavenger hunt through the Bible will have children reading through Scripture to learn from God’s Word about prayer. In the spaces provided, write down what each verse says about prayer.

If your children are having difficulty thinking of what to write down, they can list words or phrases that stood out to them, or draw a picture representing what they read. Once they reach the end of the scavenger hunt, each child will write out a prayer based on what they learned.



SCRIPTURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Search the Bible for each Scripture passage. In the spaces provided, write down what each of the verses say about prayer and any words or phrases that stick out to you.

**MATTHEW
6:9-13**

Empty rectangular box for notes related to Matthew 6:9-13.

**MARK
1:35**

Empty rectangular box for notes related to Mark 1:35.

**JOHN
17:20-23**

Empty rectangular box for notes related to John 17:20-23.

**ACTS
16:25-31**

Empty rectangular box for notes related to Acts 16:25-31.

**ACTS
12:1-14**

Empty rectangular box for notes related to Acts 12:1-14.

PRAYER LEADS US TO LOVE!

KEY VERSE



**ROMANS
12:12-13**



— READ TOGETHER —

When we pray, we are in conversation with God and He listens closely to what we say to Him. Through our time with Him, He guides us to make the right choices, go in the right direction and help the people around us. Our time spent with God in prayer can encourage and motivate us to tangibly love the people in our lives.

Acts 2:44-47 says “*And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.*” Our prayers have the power to bring hope, love, encouragement and peace to someone in need. While God is the one who ultimately answers our prayers, we can tangibly help others by practicing hospitality. What is hospitality? It’s the way we treat others, how we love & care for them and how generous we are as we welcome them into our lives. Through our prayers, God can motivate us to act and to share His love with everyone we meet. How can you be an example of God’s love in someone else’s life today?



— TALK ABOUT IT —

Discuss the lesson with your children using these questions and have them draw a picture about what they learned today.

1. How did the people of the early church care for one another? (Acts 2:44-47)
2. Read Romans 12:12-13. What does this verse tell you about prayer and caring for one another?
3. How can our prayers encourage and motivate us to love others better?



— LIVE IT OUT —

This prayer activity will engage the whole family in developing daily habits of prayer.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: writing utensiles, jar or box, craft supplies & slips of paper.

BLESSING JAR

We can be tangible answers to prayer by brainstorming ways that we can be a blessing to our neighbors. Create a Blessing Jar by writing ways your family could bless and care for others. Each week, pick out one slip of paper and think of someone your family could bless by performing what is written on that slip of paper. Have your children draw a picture or write a letter of encouragement to that person. It can include reasons why they are thankful for that person and what they are praying about for them. Mail or deliver this letter to brighten this persons day.



LETTER OF HOPE

Use this page to write a letter of encouragement to someone you are thankful for. Tell this person how much you love them and how you are praying for them. Draw a picture in the box and send it to this person to brighten their day!

DEAR,

MY DRAWING

YOUR FRIEND,