

PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for CHILDREN



Prayer Guide: Praying for Children
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Praying for
CHILDREN

PrayerPower

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Prayers from God's Word

These Bible-based prayers have been written in a way that makes them easy to pray. They include requests for not only practical, material needs, but for deeper spiritual needs as well. Because they are written from Scripture, they express God's will. And when we pray His will, He promises to answer! (1 John 5:14-15)

Easy Ways to Use These Prayers

- Read them just as they appear:

“Watch over them, for You never sleep.” (Psalm 121:3)

- Use them as an outline for your personal prayer.

Pray a sentence or two, just enough to present a complete thought. Then add your own personal prayer, before moving on to the next thought:

“Watch over them, for You never sleep.” (Psalm 121:3)

You might add something like— *“Help me to remember this wonderful truth, especially when I’m worried about where they are and what they’re doing!”*

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Extend Your Grace

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know You as our God of unfailing love, who loved the world so much You sent Your one and only Son to die for us. Grant them the favor of Your grace, that they may receive Your free gift of salvation and be born again at the earliest moment of understanding. I want them to have the joy of knowing You in a personal way throughout their lives! (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:3, 5; Jeremiah 9:24)

Draw them to Christ, enable them to come—to believe in Him and receive Him into their lives, for You want everyone to come to Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit to make them alive with Christ, to breathe His spiritual life into them. (John 6:44, 65; 1:12; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Ephesians 2:4-5; Job 33:4)

Give them new hearts and a new spirit while they are young, so that they may have His presence within them as they begin to grow and mature. (Ezekiel 36:26; Acts 2:38)

Open their heart to respond to the truth of the gospel. (Acts 16:14) In Jesus' name, amen.

Gather Them Close

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know You as the Lord who has redeemed them and called them by name, their Savior who sees them as precious in Your sight. Grant them the favor of close fellowship and spiritual intimacy with You, so they can know You better and love You more every day of their lives. (Isaiah 43:1, 3-4; 1 John 1:3; Philippians 3:10; Matthew 22:37)

Help them to know You as their Shepherd who calls them by name. May they learn to hear and recognize Your voice in their heart of hearts, and be willing to follow You wherever You lead. May they be eager to draw near You, to spend time with You every day, talking with You about everything, learning to stay in Your presence. May they never be pulled away from fellowship with You, wandering into a far country like the prodigal son. (John 10:14, 3-4; Matthew 19:14; James 4:8; Matthew 6:6; Luke 15:13)

Give them a heart to know You, and the desire to seek You with all their heart. (Jeremiah 24:7; 29:13)

Be real in their lives in a way they can understand and know that it's You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Light Their Path

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

May they know You as the God of truth. Grant them Your favor, and teach them Your Word. Put a Bible in their hands and give them a growing love for its truth.

(Isaiah 65:16; Psalm 119:135, 97)

Help them begin to memorize verses from the Bible while their minds are young, and it's easy. May Your truth be a lamp to their feet and a light on their path. Teach them while they're young that the truth of the Bible is precious and meant to guide their lives. (Deuteronomy 11:18; Psalm 119:105;

Proverbs 6:21-22)

Give them a desire to learn and be familiar with the Bible. Help them to hear and remember the wonderful Bible stories that can enrich their understanding of who You are and how You work in the world. Help them to see how You protected Moses from the water, Joseph in the well, and Daniel in the lions' den. Teach them at a young age about Jesus, their Shepherd who will take care of them. (Exodus 2:3-9; Genesis 37:23-36; Daniel 6:16-23; Psalm 23:1)

Make the Bible come alive to them! In Jesus' name, amen.

Encourage Their Faith

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know You as their Father who knows what they need before they ask. Grant them Your favor and help them to learn what it means to seek You, Your kingdom, and Your righteousness at every age. Help them to learn to put You first in their lives, to make that their daily priority. (James 1:17; Matthew 6:8; Proverbs 8:17; Matthew 6:33)

Teach them to ask for what they need as they move through the day, with faith that never questions whether or not You will hear. May they know that You are their Father who has promised no one can ever snatch them out of Your hand. Help them to live by the faith that pleases You. (Matthew 6:11; Psalm 65:2; John 10:29; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:6)

Give them generous hearts, so that all their lives they will experience the blessing of giving and receiving. Help them to discover that what they sow, they reap and what they give, You return—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. Let them give freely, so they will be blessed. (Luke 6:38; Proverbs 22:9)

Let them sense Your presence. In Jesus' name, amen.

Keep Them Safe

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know You as their shield and defender. Protect them and keep them safe, so they'll grow up and live faithful lives, bearing fruit for Your glory. (Psalm 28:7; 35:22-23; 31:19-20; John 15:8)

May their angels in heaven look after them and keep them safe. As they grow, teach them to live in Your presence. Help them to love You, to acknowledge Your name, and to call out to You in prayer. Let Your angels guard them wherever they go. (Matthew 18:10; Psalm 91:1, 9, 11, 14-16)

Be their shelter from the storm, their shade from the heat. Hide them in the shelter of Your presence. (Isaiah 25:4; Psalm 31:20)

Watch over them, for You never sleep. You're always with them, ready to help with every trouble or danger; help them to know You are their refuge and strength. Watch over their coming and going. Surround them with Your presence; go before them and guard them from behind. May Your eyes never leave them. (Psalm 121:3; 46:1; 121:7-8; 139:5; Isaiah 52:12; Job 34:21)

Hold them close. In Jesus' name, amen.

Reveal Your Promises

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know You as our faithful God. Grant them favor, so they'll experience Your great love and faithfulness. Help them to be strong and be encouraged by Your amazing faithfulness! Be their rock and their fortress, the sure foundation of their lives. (1 Corinthians 1:9; Psalm 86:15; 27:14; 36:5; 31:3; Isaiah 28:16)

Show them how loving You are, how faithful to all Your promises. Help them to trust in You and Your Word. Show them that Your promises are as much for them as anyone, that You never forget Your promises and You always keep them. Help them to keep Your promises in mind. (Psalm 119:38; 130:5; 111:5; 119:95)

No matter what they face, teach them to have confidence in You. May they know and experience Your great faithfulness. Help them to know that You are always there, ready to help with any trouble. Show them while they're young that You are all they need, that they can depend on you. (Psalm 71:5, Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 46:1; Lamentations 3:24)

May they trust You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Away Their Fears

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know that You are their all-powerful God, who surrounds them as the mountains surround Jerusalem. Grant them Your favor and help them to trust You whenever they are afraid. Fill them with Your spirit of power and love and self-control. (2 Chronicles 20:6-7; Psalm 125:2; 56:3; 2 Timothy 1:7)

May they develop a real sense of Your presence. Help them to believe Your promise never to leave them or forsake them. Help them to know that You are the One who controls the wind and the waves, who puts the clouds in the sky and tells the lightning where to strike. Give them comfort in knowing You are holding them with Your right hand, always there to strengthen and protect them. (Acts 10:33; Deuteronomy 31:8; Luke 8:24; Job 36:29, 32; Isaiah 41:10)

Help them to feel safe with You, confident that no one can separate them from Your love. Let them know that You are their Shepherd who will pick them up and carry them close to Your heart. (Proverbs 29:25; Romans 8:38-39; Isaiah 40:11)

May they give You their fears. In Jesus' name, amen.

Show Them Your Power

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know You as their Creator and Maker who simply spoke the whole universe into being—to understand You are the One and only God, the God above all gods. (Isaiah 40:28; Psalm 95:6; Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26; Mark 12:29; Psalm 47:2)

Help them early in life to embrace the literal truth of who You are. May they see You as the Lord of heaven and earth, the One who parted the Red Sea, brought water from the rock, and tore down the walls of Jericho. Show them that nothing is too hard for You to do! (Acts 17:24; Exodus 14:21-22; Nehemiah 9:15; Hebrews 11:30; Jeremiah 32:27)

May they understand that not even a little bird falls from a tree without Your knowing it, or its being Your will. Help them to know how much You care for the details of their lives, that You are there to direct their steps when they turn to You. May they believe there is nothing You won't do to make sure Your plan for their lives is accomplished. (Matthew 10:29; 6:26; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 46:11; Jeremiah 29:11)

Show them Your power! In Jesus' name, amen.

Answer Their Prayers

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know and trust You as their Father who is waiting to hear their prayers. May their faith be unshakable. (Matthew 6:6; Mark 11:24)

Help them to turn to You with their daily, basic needs and to expect You to answer even beyond anything they can ask or imagine. Help them to have the simple faith that grows, trusting that You are the same miracle-working, compassionate, attentive God they see in the Bible. May they believe that You are the same today as You were then, that You will always be the same. (Matthew 7:9-11; Ephesians 3:20; Matthew 17:20; Exodus 15:11; Matthew 20:34; Hebrews 13:8)

Help them to see that every need is important, nothing is too small, that all their concerns are important to You. May they realize that as You did with Jonah, You can hear their prayers from anywhere. Teach them that they should always keep on praying, without giving up. Help them to pray for others not just at bedtime, but as a way of life. (Jonah 2:1-2; Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18)

Hear and answer their prayers. In Jesus' name, amen.

Equip Them for Good Works

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

May they know You as the God of peace. Bless them with Your favor, that they'll be equipped with all they need to do Your will. Work in them what is pleasing in Your sight. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Let Your favor rest upon them throughout their lives, and establish the work of their hands. Whatever they're doing at any age, make their efforts successful, and let it go well for them! They are Your workmanship, Your masterpieces, created in Christ to do good works, which You have prepared in advance for them to do. Help them to believe that amazing truth. (Psalm 90:17; Ephesians 2:10)

Bless them to be a blessing, for Your promise belongs to us as believers. Bless them more than they can imagine, and as they walk with You, help them in everything they do. Extend the influence of their lives, so that they'll lay up treasure in heaven. Be with them in all that they do, and keep them from harm. (Genesis 12:2; Romans 4:16; 1 Chronicles 4:10; Matthew 6:19, 20; 1 Chronicles 4:10)

Help them to serve You well. In Jesus' name, amen

Guard Their Minds

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Over their lifetimes, make them holy. Let Your favor rest upon them as You set them apart for You in spirit, soul and body. (Exodus 31:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Guard their minds and hearts, for they're being assaulted by the ideas of the world they live in. Protect them from the morals and values that are coming at them from a world that's being led astray by Satan. (Philippians 4:7; Colossians 2:8; Revelation 12:9)

When they come to Christ, they are new creations in Him. When they're saved, You begin a new work in them which You promise to complete. Begin now, while they're young, to transform them by changing the way they think, by renewing their minds. Don't let them live by the values of the world, but make them increasingly like Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 1:6; Romans 12:2; 8:29)

Teach them how to set their minds on the things of heaven, not the earth—to think about Jesus, to keep their minds on Him. (Colossians 3:2; Hebrews 3:1; 12:3)

Guide their thoughts. In Jesus' name, amen.

Reveal Christ's Love

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

May they know You as the God of love. Help them to begin to grasp how much You love them—so much that You would send Your Son to give His life for them.

(2 Corinthians 13:11; 1 John 4:9-10; John 15:13)

May they, now and over their lifetime, come to be absolutely compelled by a growing appreciation of Christ's love and what it represents. Help their roots to grow deep down into the reality of that love. Through the power of the Spirit, may they begin to grasp how wide and long, how high and deep Jesus' love really is. Help them to know and experience His love, though it's so great they'll never fully understand it. Fill them with Your life and power. (2 Corinthians 5:14; Ephesians 3:17-19)

Teach them what it is to live in Christ's love. Help them to keep growing in spiritual knowledge and understanding so that they can know what's really important and be filled with the good things that are being produced in their lives by Christ. (John 15:9; Philippians 1:9-11)

May they know Your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Conform Them to Christ

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

Help them to know You as God, their Savior. Extend Your favor to them, so that Christ may be glorified in them even at a young age. (Psalm 79:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:12)

Lead them to experience what it means to be salt and light in the world. Help them realize that they've been chosen by Christ to bear fruit and live as one in spirit with Him—that He is their life. May they become more and more like Christ, and less like their natural selves.

Teach them to imitate Him. (Matthew 5:13-14; John 15:16; 1 Corinthians 6:17; John 3:30; 1 Thessalonians 1:6)

May they begin to discover their identity in Christ—and find all the confidence they need to face the insecurities of growing up. Help them to realize early in life that Christ's life and power within them is sufficient for any challenge they face. Show them as they mature, that in Christ they have the strength for anything. (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:9-10; 1 Corinthians 1:25; Philippians 4:13)

Make them like Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

Inspire Their Walk

Father, I pray for _____ (names)...

May they know You as our great God, the great King above all gods—our God, who is gracious to us and blesses us. Look upon them with Your favor so that they'll walk worthy of their calling. (Psalm 95:3; 67:1; Ephesians 4:1)

As they trust Christ to save them, help them to keep on following Him, resting on Him as the foundation of their lives. Keep them strong in their faith, and help them to live a life that honors the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work. Help them throughout their lives to learn to know You better and better, and become strong in the truth they're taught. (John 1:43; Isaiah 28:16; Colossians 1:10; John 17:3; 2 Peter 1:12)

Help them to live as children of light, good and honest and truthful, as they try to please You. Keep them careful of how they live, and help them to make the most of every opportunity. (Ephesians 5:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; Ephesians 5:15-16)

Make them the kind of children You desire. In Jesus' name, amen.

As You Pray These Prayers...

You Are Praying God's Will

Think what it will mean as God hears and answers these prayers. You're praying His will into the lives of your children—or grandchildren! If you've prayed one prayer a day, you've realized it takes only a minute or two. Keep praying through these prayers, each time adding your own prayers to make them even more personal.

Consider that Prayer Is More than Asking

The main purpose of prayer is to help us know God. To do this, we have to spend time with Him, just as we must with any person if we want to know that person well.

(John 17:3; 1 John 1:3)

1. Begin Each Day with God

Jesus taught us that it is important to have some quiet time with our Father every day. Early morning is usually the best time, before we're caught up in busyness. If this isn't a part of your daily life now, ask God to help you begin with just a few minutes, and He will.

(Matthew 6:6; 9-13)

2. Come with clean hands and a pure heart.

The Bible promises that we can draw close to God if we have clean hands and a pure heart, and He will come close to us (James 4:8). That simply means we must confess our sins. When we do, God forgives us and makes us clean (1 John 1:9), and we may come to Him.

3. Have a listening ear.

God usually speaks to us (John 10:4-5) as we read the Bible. You don't have to spend a long time in the Word, but for you to hear His voice clearly, it is important to spend at least a few minutes in the Bible every day. Pray as you read. Ask God to speak to your heart: *What do you want me to know today? What do I need to learn?*

Knowing God Personally

Jesus said that eternal life is *knowing God* (John 17:3). We have that life the moment we trust Jesus for salvation. We can then live every day in a real, vital, personal relationship with God. What a privilege, available to all of God's children! (See page 18.)

Are You a Child of God?

This is a question that is easy to answer—if you aren't sure—by verses from the Bible that reveal this truth:

- Have you believed in Christ, trusting Him, relying on Him for everything? Have you received Christ into your heart and life? (John 1:12)
- Have you “believed in Your heart” that God raised Jesus from the dead, and “spoken with your mouth” that Jesus is Lord? (Romans 10:9)
- Do you sense that you are a new creation in Christ evidenced by a desire to spend time in God's Word? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Are you experiencing God's call to live as “a child of light,” including the conviction and power to turn away from sin? (Ephesians 5:8-9; Luke 13:3, 5)
- Is the “fruit of the Holy Spirit” influencing your life and relationships in increasing measure? (Galatians 5:22-23)

If these things don't seem real in your life and you want them to be, speak to a pastor or godly friend, or pray like this:

“God, I believe Jesus is Your Son. I now receive Him as the Lord, who is the Savior of my life. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, that He was buried and raised again from the dead. I confess that I have sinned against You and I am sorry. Thank You for forgiving me! Thank You for the gift of salvation!

“Please strengthen me to love You, to serve You and to turn away from the temptations and sins of this world. Thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal and forever Savior! I pray in His name, amen.”

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