

Prayers to
MAKE *my*
FAMILY STRONG



PrayerPower

Helping God's people learn to pray.

Prayer Guide to Make My Family Strong
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PRAYER GUIDE

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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:

“Lead us to give You our anxious thoughts.”

(Philippians 4:6)

- 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:

“Lead us to give You our anxious thoughts. (Philippians 4:6)

You might add something like—“I realize I catch myself worrying about (something specific). Please help me to turn that over to You!”

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Draw Each One to Christ

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

I can't know everyone's heart, so I simply ask You to give everyone in my immediate and extended family Your free gift of salvation. Open each of their hearts to believe and receive Christ, because the Bible tells us You don't want anyone to perish. You want everyone to be saved.

(Ephesians 2:8; John 1:12; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Help me to pray in faith believing my prayer is heard because I'm praying what's on Your heart. Keep me praying; don't let me give up! (Mark 11:22-24; 1 John 5:14-15; Luke 18:1)

Open the eyes of those in my family who are lost and help them to see. Give them ears to hear and hearts to respond to the truth. Draw them to Christ. Help them to acknowledge Him as both Savior and Lord. (2 Corinthians 4:4; John 5:24-25; Acts 16:14; John 6:44; Romans 10:9)

Rescue those who are still living in the kingdom of darkness, and bring them into the kingdom of light.

(Colossians 1:13; Revelation 11:11)

Make us all alive with Christ! In Jesus' name, amen.

May We Love You

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Help us to love You more than anyone or anything else in the world. (Matthew 22:37)

Lead us into a personal relationship with You that is real and grows deeper day by day. Help us to be willing to spend the time with You that it takes to really get to know You. Make us determined not to let anything keep us from praying and reading Your Word. (John 17:3; 1 John 1:3; Matthew 6:6)

Show us how to manage our schedules so that we can make our time with You a priority every day. Help us to be willing to change our schedules, so that we can. (Psalm 31:15; Proverbs 20:24)

Show us how to live the abiding life. Help us to live in Christ, with Christ and His words living in us. Help us to draw near You with clean hands and pure hearts, so that You will draw near us. Help us to seek You, for You promise if we look for You earnestly, we will find You. (John 15:4-5, 7; James 4:8; Jeremiah 29:13-14)

Draw us close to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Help Us to Please You

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Wherever we are in our walk with You, I thank You that we are works in progress. (Philippians 1:6)

Help us to lead a life worthy of Your call on our lives. As we live, help us to learn what pleases You and make that the goal of our lives. May we show You our love by obeying You. Lead us to become more like Christ every day, to grow and mature in applying Your Word to our lives. (Ephesians 4:1; 5:10; 1 John 3:21-22; John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Hebrews 5:11-14)

Help those of us who have children to raise them according to the biblical principles You have given us. May all of us as adults be determined to live by Your Word, so that we'll be good examples to our children and the world. (Proverbs 22:6; Psalm 119:101-102; 1 Timothy 4:12)

Help us to stand firm and choose to serve You. May seeking Your kingdom and living according to Your will be more important to us than anything else. (Joshua 24:15; Matthew 6:33)

May we in every way grow strong in Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

Don't Let Our Feet Slip

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Keep us pure in heart, so that our feet will not slip. May we keep short accounts with You, confessing our sins every day. Forgive us and cleanse us as we do. (Psalm 73:2; Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:8-9)

Give us pure hearts and steadfast spirits. Break our hearts over the sin in our lives. Be kind and lead us to repentance, to a willingness to change, to turn from sin in Your strength. Don't let us hold on to our sin, but give us the desire to have clean hands. Make us willing to live godly lives. (Psalm 51:10, 17; Romans 2:4; Psalm 66:18; 24:3-5; 1 Timothy 6:11)

Protect us from drifting away from You or from choosing to go our own way. If that happens to any in our family, help them to quickly see their sin for what it is. Make them realize what it will cost them and others if they continue. May they quickly return to You and to the life You want them to lead. (Luke 15:13, 17-21)

Give each one of us the desire and determination to obey You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Help Us to Love One Another

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Help us to love each other as we love ourselves. May the Holy Spirit, who has poured Your love into our hearts, give us Your selfless love when ours isn't sufficient.

(Matthew 22:39; Romans 5:5)

May all those in my family now and through the coming generations have Your perfect love, especially for each other and their children. May every child be considered as Your reward. May all the children born into our family be loved and nurtured and taught how to live obedient lives that please You. May we as a family be united in love. (Galatians 5:22; Psalm 127:3-5; Ephesians 6:4; 1 John 3:21-22; Colossians 2:2)

Teach us to submit ourselves to one another—to consider others more important than ourselves, to put their interests ahead of our own. May we treat each other the way we would want to be treated. Always. (Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 7:12)

May our relationships be built on these principles—for if they are, what could ever come between us? You always know what's best! In Jesus' name, amen.

May We Accept Each Other

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Help us not only to love one another, but to accept and enjoy each other. May Your love, joy, peace, and patience be at the heart of our relationships. May we be kind and good to each other, faithful and gentle. Give each one of us self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Lead us to encourage each other, to build one another up in every circumstance. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

May we truly love each other, for love is able to make up for our many faults. Help us to reach out to one another in love. Keep us from holding on to negative feelings toward each other, especially anger, resentment, or disappointment. Instead, may we be kind and compassionate to one another, and forgive each other as You have forgiven us. (1 Peter 4:8; Ephesians 4:26, 32)

May we love and accept one another just as we are, not waiting for change or perfection—the way You, in Christ, have loved and accepted us. (Ephesians 1:6)

Help us not to bring past issues into the present. In Jesus' name, amen.

Men of Integrity

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

From the youngest age, I ask that all the men in my family now and through future generations exemplify the purity and values of Joseph. Make them willing to love and forgive unconditionally. Help them to choose to live obedient lives no matter what their circumstances. (Genesis 39:6-9; 45:4-7)

May they have strong values, like Daniel and his friends, and be men of prayer. (Daniel 1:8-16; 6:10; 10:12)

Make them men after Your own heart. Lead them to be fearless when they face problems. Help them to be confident that their battles belong to You. Enable them to be men of integrity—not perfect, but honest about their sins, as David was. And like him, may their sins break their heart and lead them to repent.

(1 Samuel 13:14; 17:47; 2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51:10, 12, 17)

Help them to be strong spiritual leaders in their families, careers, and every kind of service. May they be salt and light wherever they go. (Ephesians 5:23; Joshua 24:15; Nehemiah 2:17-18; Genesis 41:39-41; Matthew 5:13-14)

May You be their priority! In Jesus' name, amen.

Women of Character

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

As children and adults, may the women and girls in my family have the steadfast devotion of Ruth. May they be hardworking, obedient, and loyal as she was—and find favor with You and with others. May they be known as women of good character. (Ruth 1:14-17; 2:3; 3:4, 6, 9-10; 2:10, 13; 3:11)

May they be as courageous as Esther, and as sensitive and responsive to the needs of others. Like Jesus' mother, may they be willing to yield to Your will no matter what You ask. (Esther 4:14-16, 4; Luke 1:26-38)

Lead them to take time to sit at the feet of Jesus. May they recognize His voice as clearly as His friend Mary did. Protect them from the busyness that can crowd Him out of their lives. (Matthew 6:6; Luke 11:38-41; John 20:16)

May they be as grateful as the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears, and as generous as the widow who gave all that she had. Help them to be busy with good deeds. Give them generous hearts, willing to share. (Luke 7:38, 44; Mark 12:42; 1 Timothy 6:18)

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

Make Our Marriages Strong

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Protect those who are married in my family now and in future generations. May each husband be strong in his faith, loving, kind, and considerate. May they be men of prayer and students of the Word—in every way the leaders and examples they are meant to be. Help them to love their wives as they love their own bodies. Give them wives who respect and love them. (Matthew 8:10; John 13:34; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Peter 3:7; Psalm 109:4; 119:15; Ephesians 5:33)

May the women in my family who are married be their husbands' help and support, the ones who make them complete. May they be submissive, strong, God-fearing, generous, and wise. Help them to take good care of their families. May their children respect them, and their husbands praise them. (Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:22; Proverbs 31:25, 30, 26, 27, 28)

Protect all the marriages in our family from the evil one, who wants to destroy and disrupt families. Keep them free from the influence of the world. (John 17:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; John 10:10; 1 John 2:15-16)

Hold our marriages together. In Jesus' name, amen.

Help Us to Trust You

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Keep us from trusting anything or anyone but You.
Give us such confidence in You that we won't be fearful,
worried, or confused. (Psalm 44:6-8; 118:8-9; 56:3; John 14:1;
1 Corinthians 14:33)

May we trust in You with all our heart and not try to
figure things out by ourselves. Instead, help us to look to
You. Help us to believe that You will direct our path and
show us what we need to know. May we rest, knowing
that You hold our lives in Your hands. (Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 31:15)

Lead us to give You our anxious thoughts. Keep us calm.
Help us to know You as our Shepherd who leads and
protects us. May we trust You as the One who makes
a way when there seems to be no way, for nothing is
impossible for You! (Philippians 4:6; Psalm 23:2, 4; Isaiah 43:19; Luke 1:37)

May we love You, for when we do, and we fit into Your
plans and purpose, You work all things together for our
good. (Romans 8:28)

Help us to rest in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Meet Our Needs

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

May we never take Your provision for granted. Help us to live as those who seek You, who look for You earnestly—for You promise that as we do, we won't lack any good thing. (Psalm 34:10)

Lead us to give generously, even sacrificially, to those in need. May we rest in the promise of sowing and reaping, knowing that You will give to us according to what we give—pressed down, shaken together, running over.

(Proverbs 22:9; Luke 21:1-4; 6:38)

Help us to tithe faithfully, for You have promised that when we tithe, You will pour out so many blessings we won't have room for them! Lead us to give to those in ministry, for as we do You promise to meet all our needs.

(Malachi 3:8-10; Philippians 4:15-19)

You revealed Yourself to Abraham as the Lord Who Provides—after he demonstrated that he loved, worshiped, obeyed, and feared You. Help us to live as he did, and know You as our faithful Provider. (Genesis 22:14, 2, 5, 18, 12)

Help us to be generous. In Jesus' name, amen.

Give Us Wisdom

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

When we need wisdom, remind us to ask You before we make our own decisions. Help us to be confident that You will lead us to know what to do when we ask. May we never doubt You, but believe that You are our Shepherd who will guide us. Help us to trust You to speak clearly to our hearts, to recognize Your voice so that we'll follow You and no one else. (James 1:5-6;

Psalm 23:3; John 10:4-5)

There are so many decisions that we have to make over a lifetime, and we know we're not adequate to make them on our own. Help us to have the mind of Christ, to have His perspective on the issues and concerns we face. May we know Him as our treasure of wisdom and knowledge.

(1 Corinthians 2:16; Colossians 2:3)

Keep us from running ahead of You. Help us to learn to be still and know that You are God, to wait patiently for You. (Psalm 46:10; 37:7)

Help us to be wise with Your wisdom, to see how to apply Your truth to any situation that we face. In Jesus' name, amen.

Protect Us

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Build a hedge of protection around us. Surround us like the mountains surround Jerusalem, like a wall of fire that keeps us safe! (Job 1:10; Psalm 125:2; Zechariah 2:5)

Teach us how to seek our refuge in You, to turn to You as our strong tower. May we know You as our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, and our shield. (Psalm 5:11; 61:3; 18:1-2)

Keep us safe from the evil one and those under his influence. Be our hiding place, protecting us from trouble and surrounding us with songs of victory. Help us to run into the shelter of Your protection, to find our refuge in You. (Matthew 6:13; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15; Psalm 32:5, 7; 31:19-20)

May we choose to live in close fellowship with You, and as we do, shelter us beneath Your wings. Cover us with Your feathers, spread Your protection over us. Help us to run to You as our ever-present help in times of trouble. (Psalm 91:1-4; 5:11; 46:1)

Keep us from putting ourselves in harm's way. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bless Us

Father, I ask for myself and my family [names]...

Thank You for Your promises of blessing. Help us to live so that we meet the conditions for those promises! Don't let us keep company with those who openly sin. Instead, help us to obey You, and think about Your Word day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)

Lead us to seek You and find our refuge in You. Help us to live with clean hands and pure hearts. May we worship You, and walk in the light of Your presence. May we live with a healthy fear and awe of You, and always according to Your will. Help us to live in unity with others. (Psalm 119:2; 2:12; 24:4-5; 29:1-2; 89:15; 112:1-2; 133:1, 3)

Make us quick to confess our sins, knowing we'll be forgiven. Help us to trust You, to put no confidence in anyone or anything else. May we always keep our word. (Psalm 32:1-2; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 40:4; 61:8)

May we be kind and help the weak. Help us to live in Your presence, to be those who praise You, who set our hearts on finding You. (Psalm 41:1-2; 84:4-5)

Then, bless us for Your glory! In Jesus' name, amen.

As You Pray These Prayers...

You Are Praying God's Will

Think what it will mean to you and your immediate and extended family as God hears and answers these prayers. You're praying His will into your lives—You're praying what's on His heart. If you've prayed one prayer a day, you've realized it takes only a minute or two. Keep praying through them, 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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