



Keeping up with Class

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Happenings

EVERY WEEK!

Look for your New City Catechism question in your mailbox and on IVFF's new Children's Ministry Facebook page! Not on the Facebook page? Contact Penni Scott.

3/12 ~ Children's Ministry Team Meeting - SS Only

3/28 ~ Kid's Club Egg Dying Service Night

4/22 ~ Kid's Club Finale

5/2 ~ 5th grade Move Up Celebration

Help Children Harness the Power of Prayer

Happy Birthday!

- 3/1 ~ Dylan Benner
- 3/2 ~ Kem Williams
- 3/5 ~ Grace Lindsay
- 3/8 ~ Shawn Landry
- 3/13 ~ Mason Benner
- 3/18 ~ Logan Benner
- 3/23 ~ Reese Hunsberger
- 3/27 ~ Clara Gahman
- 3/30 ~ McKenna Smith
- 3/31 ~ Allie Paine



Prayer is many things: a privilege, a command, a blessing, and an active way to build our faith with Jesus.

"Prayer is the conversation of life. There's no difference between the importance of prayer in the life of a child and that of an adult," says Adam Stadtmiller, author of *Give Your Kids the Keys* (Regal). "

Although prayer should be natural, it might not come naturally to children. Even Jesus' disciples needed to be taught how to pray; that's why Jesus gave them the Lord's Prayer (see Matthew 6:9-13).

By modeling prayer in a variety of styles and settings, parents can teach children the following:

- Prayer involves ongoing conversational dialogue with our almighty yet approachable God.
- Prayer can be spontaneous or planned, short or long, loud or silent, for ourselves or for other people.
- Prayer involves praise, confession, and thanksgiving, not just requests.
- God is at work through our prayers and always answers them—though sometimes not how we want or after a long period of waiting.

Read on for practical ideas about putting prayer's power to work in your family.

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To remind your family members to converse with him regularly.
2. To show your children that prayer involves more than just asking God for stuff.
3. To help you include listening to God as part of your prayer time.



TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Prayers of Praise

You'll need a Bible, matches, a pillar candle, and small, individual candles with paper collars. In a darkened room, gather around a table that contains the pillar candle. Light it and say: **In Old Testament times, people prayed to God by giving him burnt offerings and sacrifices.**

Read aloud Hebrews 13:15. Say: **Now, instead of giving animals or grain to God, our sacrifices are our praises. God wants us to praise him by telling about the wonderful things he has done.**

Read aloud Psalm 66:1-5. Pick up a small candle, light it from the pillar candle, and complete this prayer: **God, I praise you for _____.** Invite others to take candles and do the same.

Say: **The Bible describes God's glory as shining.** Read aloud Luke 2:9. Say: **This room is glowing because we've praised God through our prayers.**

Say amen and extinguish the candles.



Pray Without Ceasing

As children's communication skills develop and grow, so does their ability to pray. Toddlers begin to understand that Jesus is their friend, so pray to him in simple language that relates to children's daily lives. Preschoolers become more aware of the world around them, so remind children this age that Jesus cares about everything that happens to them and to other people. By ages 7 to 9, most kids feel a need for God's help and strength—and are able to verbally express their thoughts and desires. Look up Bible verses about prayer together. Preteens begin to focus on relationships, so remind them of their value to God and of the fact that no prayers are insignificant or unworthy.

Lord's Prayer Ribbon For every family member, you'll need 4-inch ribbon strands in the colors below.

Read aloud Matthew 6:9-13.

Say:

- "Blue is the color of fathers. (Hold your blue ribbon.) Our father in heaven."
- "White is for holiness. (Tie white to blue.) Holy is your name."
- "Purple is majestic. (Tie purple to white.) Your Kingdom come, your will be done."
- "Green is the color of the earth. (Tie green to purple.) On earth as it is in heaven."
- "Yellow reminds us of wheat. (Tie yellow to green.) Give us this day our daily bread."
- "Red reminds us of Jesus' blood and forgiveness. (Tie red to yellow.) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
- "Orange is for the darkness of evil. (Tie orange to red.) And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
- "Gold reminds us of heaven. (Tie gold to orange.) For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

Give children each a white pillowcase and a fabric pen. Say: "This week at bedtime, let's pray for a different person each night."

Help kids each write a new name on their pillowcase nightly after they pray for that person.

Pop Up Prayers Create a prayer reminder using an empty 20-ounce bottle, plastic disposable plates, a permanent marker, glitter, corn syrup, and water. Cut six half-inch ovals from the plates. Write Family, Neighbors, Church, Our Government, World Problem, and Peace on the ovals, one per oval. Put the ovals and some glitter in the bottle. Fill it three-fourths full of corn syrup; top with water. Tighten the lid. Each day, shake the bottle and pray for what comes up first.

Anywhere Prayers Read aloud Jonah 2:1 and find unique places to pray as a family. Let each person find a spot (closet, car, treehouse, swing set). Then gather in those places for prayer, thanking God for always loving and listening to us—no matter where we are.

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."
—Ephesians 6:18, NLT