



**FOR YOUR
KIDS**

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5 things to pray for your kids
Prayers that change things for the next generation
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Series Editor: Carl Laferton

Published by:
The Good Book Company



thegoodbook.com | www.thegoodbook.co.uk
thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz | thegoodbook.co.in

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ISBN: 9781784982928 | Printed in Denmark

Design by André Parker

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INTRODUCTION

BY EMMA KRUGER

My mom once said that learning to pray was like learning another language. If you grew up with parents who prayed regularly in the home, it would feel natural—like a native language you’d spoken since birth. But if you waited, it became harder to learn. It wasn’t that you couldn’t learn to pray, but it might take more time for it to feel natural.

That’s why I’m so grateful to have grown up with prayerful parents. From a young age, I was taught what prayer was and how to do it. I prayed with others at church, school, meals, and family devotions. It was always just a part of who I was and felt like a normal part of life. Looking back on the past seventeen years of learning and growing in prayer, I realize what an impact my parents praying for me and with me have had.

My parents didn’t give me a class to teach me how to pray. There was no instruction manual, video, or lecture. I simply learned by watching them pray each and every day. Every evening, sitting by my bed, my dad would read a Bible story and pray with my siblings

and me. Every morning I would come downstairs for school and see my mom finishing up her quiet time as she wrote out her prayers to the Lord. I knew that, among other things, she had been praying for me—asking God to grow my knowledge and love of Christ. And in a way, God used my mom’s prayers to answer my mom’s prayers: it was through seeing her alone with the Lord every morning that I began to prioritize this same sort of time for myself and understand the importance of it.

My parents’ example also taught me what to look for in Christian community. Prayer is an essential part of their friendships, and I’ve sought out this same type of community with my high-school friends. By seeing my parents pray for those who are suffering, I began to understand the importance of the church family in the intense trials of life. Now, as I prepare to leave home for college, I’m looking for this same community of prayer and care for one another that my parents have shown me.

Prayer is a vital part of walking with God. I’ve seen the way it strengthens faith. My parents have faithfully encouraged me in it. I’ll forever be thankful for the ways in which they’ve taught me and supported me in prayer, showing me what it means to have a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Emma Kruger
Melissa’s daughter

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide will help you to pray for children in 21 different areas and situations—be that your own child, or (with a little adaptation) your grandchild, godchild, or a family at church. There are five different things to pray for each of the 21 areas, so you can use this book in a variety of ways.

- ▶ *You can pray through a set of “five things” each day, over the course of three weeks, and then start again.*
- ▶ *You can take one of the prayer themes for the week and pray one point every day from Monday to Friday.*
- ▶ *Or you can dip in and out of it, as and when you want and need to pray for a particular aspect of family life.*
- ▶ *There’s also a space on each page for you to write in the names of specific situations, concerns, or children that you intend to remember in prayer.*

Each prayer suggestion is based on a passage of the Bible, so you can be confident as you use this guide that you are praying great prayers—prayers that God wants you to pray, because they’re based on his word.



PRAYING THAT GOD WILL...

SAVE MY
CHILD

EPHESIANS 2 v 8-10

PRAYER POINTS:

Father, I pray that you would hear my prayers and do what only your Spirit can do. Cause my child to...

1 BE SAVED BY GRACE

*"For it is by grace you have been saved"
(v 8).*

It's sometimes tempting to believe that if we can be perfect parents, then our children will grow into perfect Christians. However, it's good to remember that our children aren't saved by "perfect parenting" but by God's amazing grace. Pray daily that God will save your child.

2 BE GIVEN THE GIFT OF FAITH

"... through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (v 8).

Praise God that he offers the free gift of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone! While it can be difficult for children to believe in what they cannot see, faith allows them to gain spiritual vision and understanding. Pray that your child will have faith from a young age and believe the message of the gospel.

3 BOAST IN CHRIST ALONE

*"... not by works, so that no one can boast"
(v 9).*

Our children love to show us what they've accomplished. They proudly paint pictures or give us positive reports of their test scores. It can be difficult for them to believe salvation is not based on their works or performance. Pray that your child will clearly understand the radical gospel message and boast in Christ alone.

4 GROW TO BE LIKE JESUS

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus" (v 10).

We often look at our children, noticing how they reflect us. However, they are created to reflect Jesus more than anyone else. Pray that as your child grows, they would increasingly shine Jesus to the watching world.

5 PREPARE FOR GOOD WORKS

"... to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (v 10).

James tells us that "faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2 v 17). Pray that your child's faith would overflow in good works that glorify God. Ask God to give you opportunities to see their faith in action as they clean up after dinner, respond kindly to a sibling, or pray for a friend in need.