

Invitation to Prayer

“Talk, talk, talk, all they seem to do is talk.” You’re either saying that OR, “I don’t know why they’re not talking more.” Between the ages and 2 and 3 kids’ vocabulary is EXPLODING.

Regardless whether or not your child talks early or late, this year is one filled with words. We want to capitalize on that time by helping you write a simple prayer that you can begin praying over your child daily. If you’re child has the words now, he/she can begin praying these words as well with you. If not, no fear, pray it anyway. Eventually you’ll find your child praying this same prayer.

Kickstarter 1: What is prayer?

Prayer is simply communication with God. Have you ever had a one sided conversation, ever known someone who talks so much you can’t get a word in edgewise? Are you ever THAT person to God? Yes, communication is supposed to be one sided, so, technically, prayer is talking and LISTENING to God.

In Matthew 6:5-8 Jesus tells us what He thinks about prayer:

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your

Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

The two big ideas Jesus shares with us is that he doesn’t like us to pray for show or use meaningless words. Process that for a minute. What does it mean to pray just for show? What would it sound like if someone was using meaningless words when they prayed?

So the opposite of this is that Jesus wants prayer to be personal and intimate, and He wants us to be genuine and honest with what we say. The best way to learn about prayer is to START and start with privately talking with God about what’s really going on in your life.

Kickstarter 2-Why do we pray?

Maybe you’ve heard the analogy that God isn’t Santa Claus. He isn’t just sitting in heaven on His throne waiting to hear what we want so that He can drop things from the sky for us. Prayer isn’t a time to get what we want from God. It’s a time for God to give us what He wants for us.

King David is called “a man after God’s own heart.” If you read Psalms you see evidence of David’s constant seeking

to know God's heart. David often inquired of the Lord, and, therefore, knew God's heart. The main goal of prayer is to build our personal relationship with God. We get to know His heart through prayer.

John 15:4, 5

4Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

When you look at these verses in John you can see that John was communicating to those of us who'd read this that the only way can accomplish anything of any significance is by abiding in Jesus, living life IN Him. The only way to do this is to know Him and the only way to know Him is to communicate with Him. We pray to be close to God. If you find yourself feeling distant from God, reconnect through prayer. In order to teach our children to pray we need to know what prayer is and why we should do it.

Kickstarter 3-What do we pray for our child

We can pray LOTS of things for our children. We want to help you figure out a couple things that you specifically pray for your child so that he/she knows exactly what you're praying because they hear it over and over again. We can all easily get off track and off focus on our call to help our children know the love of God. Let's face it, it's easy to let life get in the way. Our desire is that this helping develop a prayer for your child will provide direction and focus as you parent.

Let's take a look at the sweet words Luke uses to describe Jesus in **Luke 2:52**, *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*

This is a simple verse that illustrates the simplicity we should seek as we write a prayer for our child's life. A simple sentence that illustrates who Jesus was. It's what He was known for as He did ministry on Earth.

As you get ready to formulate a prayer for your child that you'll consistently pray over your child, take some time to consider what's most important to pray for. There are tons of options, but you know your child. You know how God has created him/her. You know their personality traits and what makes them tick. Process a few of these things as you consider a simple prayer that illustrates this.