





#### 52 Weekly Devotions for Family Prayer

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# What Is Prayer?

Week 1

**Family Beatitude:** Happy is the family who understands prayer, for they know God listens.

Focus: Understanding prayer

**Weekly Bible Verse**: Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Revelation 3:20

#### **Activity Options**

- Prayer is spending time connecting with God, talking and listening. Do some connect-the-dot puzzles to discover the picture. Discuss how prayer helps us know God.
- ☐ Make a doorknob hanger with words that welcome Jesus.
- ☐ Write a prayer to God. Start with the greeting, "Dear \_\_\_\_\_."





### Learning to Talk 2 minutes

"Mommy! Billy said 'Dada.'" Jenna squealed as she played with her little brother.

"He's learning to talk." Mommy smiled.

"What was my first word?"

"Duck. You loved feeding the ducks. You would grab oats in your hands and run down the hill yelling 'Duck, duck.' The ducks would waddle to you and eat as oats fell out of your hands. Then you'd sit and the ducks gathered around you."

"That's funny."

"You were so excited to see them. God wants us to be that excited when we pray. He loves to hear you call his name."

"When did I start to pray?"

"We prayed over you every night and at meals like we do now. One day you started to clap as we folded our hands to pray. Then you started to repeat phrases we said, like 'God bless,' 'thank you,' and 'amen.'"

"I'm still learning more about how to talk to God and to stop and listen."



# MORE TIME?

#### **Bible Story Connection** 3-4 minutes

Read Nehemiah 1:5-11. Discuss what Nehemiah said to honor God, confess, show he knew God, and what asked for.

#### **Chat Prompts**

 When Moses came down Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, he wasn't aware that his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the LORD. Exodus 34:29

Moses had such a close prayer life with God that his face shone. He lit up! Talk about what gets you excited about praying.

 When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Matthew 6:7

Discuss how we don't need big words or to impress God. What do you need?

• Search for the LORD and for his strength; continually seek him.1 Chronicles 16:11

What does this verse remind us about prayer?



## **Prayer Journal Options**

Make a memory about what you read, did, and learned this week.

- Nehemiah prayed for his country. Write one for your country.
- Write your first words and some new words to God.
- Draw body parts and write prayers for each picture (see below).

### Family Prayer: Head to Toe

Pray for God to help you with each part of you. As you read the prayer list below, touch each corresponding body part, then read the verse.

- Give me the mind of Jesus; 1 Corinthians 2:16
- Guide my eyes to seek you and opportunities to help others; Matthew 6:22
- Open my ears to listen and obey; Luke 11:28
- Help me open my mouth with kindness and praise; Ephesians 4:29
- Fill my heart with love for everyone you created, and also for you; Luke 6:45-46
- Help me use my hands for good works; Psalm 134:2
- I kneel to honor you Almighty God; Psalm 95:6
- Guide my feet; Proverbs 4:26

Then say, "I follow God from my head to my toes!"

#### Wrap-Up

Prayer is communicating and building a relationship with God.

# What Is Worship?

Family Beatitude: Happy is the family who worships

God, for God will empower them.

Focus: Worship

Weekly Bible Verse: Honor the LORD for the glory of his name. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. Psalm 29:2

#### **Activity Options**

- ☐ Worship honors God for being great. List all the words that describe God's abilities (his attributes). Then use the list to worship God.
- ☐ Jesus is the light of the world. He wants us to be lights to reflect his greatness. In the dark, shine the light from a solar powered light or flashlight onto a mirror and see if you can send the beam to another mirror. Chat about how you serve as lights.
- ☐ Jesus said that if people did not worship him, the stones would cry out (Luke 19:40). Write words that praise God on stones and place them in a container. Pull one out before bedtime and fall asleep worshiping God with that word.



# **Rocks That Cry Out**

#### 2 minutes

"Look Dad! I found a pink-colored stone that looks like glass," Liam said, gleefully waving it.

Dad nodded, "That's pink quartz. You can add it to your collection."

Liam placed the stone in his pocket. "I'm glad God made so many types of rocks and little stones. It makes collecting rocks really fun."

"You bet! Did you know that the Bible calls God our rock?"

"Cool. Rocks are strong and solid. God is like that."

"Yes, son, and Jesus said that the stones could cry out to praise him."

Liam thought for a moment. "I never heard a rock talk, although rolling stones can rumble and be noisy. Is that what Jesus meant?"

Dad shook his head, "When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, some of the religious leaders got angry because people kept yelling 'Hosanna!' and that means *God saves*. The religious leaders ordered Jesus to tell his followers to stop praising him. But Jesus said—"

Liam blurted, "If the people don't praise him, the stones will! I remember this from Sunday School."

Dad high-fived Liam. "Exactly. Also, in Romans 1:20, it states that God shows us his power and ability, through his creation. Jesus created the world with God the Father, right down to little pebbles and mountains of rocks."

"Dad, I'll say, 'Hosanna' every time I pick up a rock."

Dad chuckled. "I think God will like hearing you say that."

#### **Bible Story Connection** 3-4 minutes

Read Matthew 21:1–9. Talk about the parade for Jesus and how people worshiped him.

#### **Chat Prompts**

• Praise the Lord; praise God our savior! For each day he carries us in his arms. Psalm 68:19

What loads does God carry?

• You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased. Revelation 4:11

Why is God worthy of worship?

 "Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Psalm 100:2

Discuss worship songs you like. Do you like the lyrics? The melody? The meaning? Sing your favorites if you have time.



## **Prayer Journal Options**

Make a memory about what you read, did, and learned this week.

- Draw stones and write praises for God.
- Write your favorite words for God and draw designs around them.
- Write your prayer needs and prayer answers.

## Family Prayer: ACTS Acrostic

Acrostics help us remember facts. Each letter represents a word about prayer. This week use ACTS to remember what to pray and say words for each of these prayer elements:

 Adore means worship, and it's a word that comes from the word worthy. Only God is worthy of worship. We honor God who is the greatest, and know he is in control.

 Confess means to admit you are guilty of sinning.

- Thanks means to show gratefulness.
- Supplication means to ask God for something.

## Wrap-Up

Worship is showing respect and honor to God. We honor God by praise him for our blessings and we respect him by obeying his rules for peaceful living.

#### Family Devotions Made Easy!

# Enjoy having 52 weekly family devotions that you can do in as little as 5 minutes!

(Extended Time Options Available)

When your schedule is packed with errands and extracurriculars, making time for family prayer can feel like a chore. How can you keep little kids, preteens, and parents engaged in prayer? 52 Weekly Devotions for Family Prayer offers a year's worth of unique family prayer methods to keep everyone interested.

From stackable cup prayers, to popcorn prayers, to sing-spiration prayers, this book gives you a plan to nurture your family's faith journey with 5-minute devotionals and optional questions and activities to use throughout the week. As short as five minutes or as long as an hour, the flexible design of 52 Weekly Devotions for Family Prayer fits quality time and Bible learning right into your schedule! Perfect for families on the go.



#### 5-minute Devotions and Bible Reading

Covers topics that matter to your family, such as praying, belonging in our family, overcoming fears, trusting in God, and more!



#### Optional Chat Prompts That Will Get Your Family Excited to Talk about God!

Your family will connect with God and with each other as they answer these discussion-generating questions based on key Bible stories.



#### Fun Family Activities (Optional)

Features 150 Hands-On Devotional Activities, including crafts, games, scrapbooking, team-building challenges, and even snacks! You'll be amazed at what happens if you start spending regular time as a family with God's Word.

Perfect for children ages 4–12. The activities range from easy (preschool) to more thoughtful (middle school). So, you can engage with your children at their age level!

