

Week #7 – ORANGE PAGE: Resources for Parents

Leading Your Children in Prayer

Kid's Prayer Principles

- God has placed within kids a desire to pray. It is our job to release it and mentor children in prayer. “Release” means to “set free from restraint.” “Mentor” means “to coach.”
- Teach kids that prayer is simply talking to God and listening to Him (as with any of our friends).
- Teach kids to pray with faith and authority. Kids often use expressions like “I wish You would heal grandma” or “I hope You will heal grandma.” Neither of these expresses faith that God will answer.
 - > There are times to pray a prayer of petition such as “Father God, heal Grandma’s leg in Jesus name.”
 - > There are other times to declare something in faith such as “I command all sickness and pain to leave in Jesus name.” The Holy Spirit will lead us regarding what type of prayer to pray, but either is okay when kids are learning to pray.
- Kids often ask, “Who do I pray to?” The Biblical answer is that we pray to the Father in Jesus’ name and the Holy Spirit moves upon earth to answer the prayer. But, since the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one, I don’t think it is critical to get things in the right order, especially with kids.
- Not receiving an immediate answer that they want will also make kids question. Any prayer we pray that is according to God’s will, He will answer according to 1 John 5:14-15. But, the timing of the answer, and how God answers it is up to Him.
- Sickness and death always generate questions regarding prayer. I teach kids that it was NEVER God’s will for us to get sick or die, but that we live in a fallen and sinful world where sickness and death are a reality. God is not the source of sickness and death. I am honest with them and I tell them that I don’t know why everyone I pray for is not healed, but that does not discourage me from praying for other people who are sick. As we all grow in our faith, more and more people will be healed when we pray. We are getting better with this, but we have a long way to go.

Encouraging Kids Who Are Reluctant to Pray

- Ask for ideas of what we can pray about, and then ask them to pray about the need they suggested.
- Ask them to pray about a specific need if they are stuck: “Why don’t you pray for the Lord to heal Grandma’s leg?”
- Suggest a specific prayer if they are still stuck, like: “Why don’t you pray, ‘Father God, heal grandma’s leg in Jesus name.’”
- If they are really stuck or afraid, ask them to repeat a prayer after you: “Repeat after me: ‘Father God... Heal grandma’s leg... in Jesus’ name.’”
- If they are really self-conscious and shy, refocus them on God. Prayer is simply talking to God about what’s on their hearts. It’s not about sounding good in front of others.

Praying the Scriptures

Read a Scripture and then turn it back into a prayer to God. Try praying Psalm 23. “Lord, you are my shepherd. Lead me today into all of your will.” Turn each verse into a prayer.

Conversational Prayer

- Pray short, simple, natural, to the point, “kid” prayers.
- Pray for one topic at a time.
- At least one person agrees with a new topic and builds on it. Silences are OK and usually indicate it is time to move to a new topic.

Neighborhood Prayer Walks

Walk around the neighborhood and pray for the things you see. Kids really enjoy these! Prayer walks can be organized, where you pick certain locations to focus your prayer, or they can be spontaneous. Just pray for what you see and the needs that God speaks to your heart. The Spirit may even lead you to talk to someone and ask if you can pray for them. You could say: "We are praying for your neighborhood. Is there any way we can pray for you?" Give people the choice of praying then and there, or praying for them later when you return home.

50/50 Prayer

A child prays for a personal need. The same child then prays for someone with the same need in a different country.

The Q.T. Zone

There is a simple guide you can download called the Q.T. Zone. It is very self-explanatory and a child can pray through it in as little as 5 minutes or much longer if he or she desires. I look at the Q.T. Zone as a springboard for launching children into prayer. It is not a set formula or the only way to pray, but it is a good starting point. Our prayer will be as individual and unique as we are. If children start their day with a short quiet time, they are more likely to have an ongoing conversation with God all day long.