

SHARING this PRAYER CUP bulletin
With the parents in a church
Is the one thing most likely to start children
On a LIFELONG habit of prayer.



The key part of prayer is not us talking to God. It is the learning to listen for his answer. It is sticking with each prayer until we hear back from HIM, saying thy will be done and not my will. This learning to listen to God is the one thing most likely to connect a child to God and a church for life. May the following “Prayer Cup” be a miracle for each member of your church/famiy, a perfect first step toward a lifetime of LISTENING to God.

Start with a Styrofoam cup...

One for each child in the family or Sunday School Class and one for each adult. On one side of each cup (in the language of your choice) write; “From me to Jesus” on the other side write “From Me to Jesus”. The point is that every prayer has two halves...first we talk to God...then we listen. *No prayer is complete until a child hears from God...in his heart.* In the words of Charles Stanley: “The ONE thing that has molded my life is learning to LISTEN to God at an early age.”

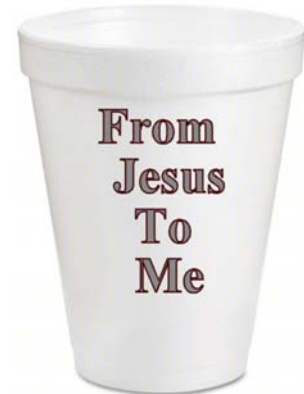
THEN take turns praying one sentence prayers with each child. After 2 or 3 days help the child choose one of his prayers to put in the cup. Write the prayer on a slip of paper and put it in the cup. Put the cup near the child’s bed and each morning remind him or her to pray it as often as possible.

The central goal of the prayer cup is helping children develop a Habit of prayer...to help them form a personal and lifelong relationship with God.

A prayer cup by a child’s bed should be as much a part of childhood as riding a bicycle or learning to read...something the child will remember all his or her life...something that helps them CONNECT to God...something they SEE daily.

Explain to the child that after the Amen our job is to listen...to keep praying and TRUSTING that God truly loves us and will answer...that we should not give up believing until we hear from God...his invisible spirit speaking to ours. After a week if the child does not think he has heard from God he should ask others to pray with him. (Matthew 18:20) It could be a family member, someone in his Sunday School Class, even a pastor. If necessary ask the entire church to pray with the child until he believes he has heard from God...BUT...no child should reach age 18 without at least on prayer ANSWERED.

Learning to pray (form a RELATIONSHIP with God) will take a lifetime but a prayer cup in the home will REMIND everyone, every day of their lives, that God is real, that he takes our fears and hurts and replaces them with his comfort and peace. For prayer to become a habit in a child’s life practice is the family’s number one need...then...more and more practice. THEN try adding a Bible verse to the cup and praying for God to move it from heads to hearts.



Charles White is a retired inner city pre-school teacher and web editor of www.teachustoprayer.com. He prays that visitors to the site choose from the Lord’s Prayer Coloring pages in 84 languages AND this Prayer cup insert.