

The MOST CERTAIN way to **CONNECT** a child to church, to God and family is...  
a lifelong **HABIT** of DAILY prayer.

The best sure way to create that **HABIT** is...  
practice...Practice...PRACTICE.

Something **ONLY** Parents can guide.

May your church make use of the following  
**8 WEEKLY PARENT TAKEHOMES**

Click any image to print great Parent TAKEHOMES

# Our FAVORITE BY FAR is THIS Prayer Cup!!!

## We PRAY you find a way to SHARE IT!!!!

### One Child, One Prayer Cup

Connecting children to God and the Church.

For forty years our group of Christian Day Care Providers has asked ourselves and God what is the one thing that would give children worldwide a deep sense that God is real...a sense of being CONNECTED. Scripture of course comes immediately to mind. But what about God's second life line, his second path to him. What about prayer. Do we make a conscious effort to support children in a HABIT of prayer...a habit of taking prayer seriously... sticking with a prayer until they hear from God?? May the following prayer cup be a miracle first step for millions of children.



Pick up a Styrofoam cup for each child in the family 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 write "From Jesus to me". The point is: every prayer has two halves...first we talk to God then we listen. *No prayer is finished until a child **experiences God's** comfort either in the world around him or ... in his heart.* In the words of Doctor Charles Stanley: "**The ONE thing** that has molded my life is learning to **LISTEN** to God at an early age".

For one week take turns praying one sentence prayers with each child. Explain that prayer is not guaranteed to move God's hand. His hands belong to him but he has given us his heart and every prayer we pray goes from our heart to his. Prayer is a great way to get to know God personally. After choosing a prayer each child gets their own cup. Explain that after the Amen our job is to listen...to keep praying and TRUSTING that God will answer...that we should not give up believing until we hear from God...his invisible spirit speaking

to ours. Line up the cups near where you eat breakfast and each day for a week invite each child to read their prayer out loud. Praying the prayer last thing at night is also a good idea. After a week if the child does not think he has heard from God then 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 the age of 18 without at least one prayer answered.*

**The central goal of helping children develop a HABIT of prayer is to help the child form a personal relationship with God... to CONNECT to Him.** Part of that connection will be including scripture in prayer... we can't pray rightly without scripture and we can't understand scripture without prayer. After a child has had at least one prayer answered and is comfortable with a prayer cup try putting a Bible verse in the cup and asking God to help move it from the paper into your heart. *Learning to pray (connect with God) will take a lifetime but a prayer cup in the home will REMIND him/her every day of their lives that God is real. For prayer to become a habit in a child's life reminders are the family's number one need. Needs 2,3 and 4 are practice, Practice and MORE PRACTICE.* A prayer cup at the breakfast table 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 him CONNECT to God... something he SEES every day. Four great examples from scripture are Joseph, Moses, Daniel and Samuel. They ALL felt abandoned and faced SERIOUS problems but **THEY PRAYED...** and god was with them. Each of them became strong men, LEADERS of their nation...FRIENDS of GOD.

**Charles White** is a retired inner city pre-school teacher and web editor of [www.teachustoprayer.com](http://www.teachustoprayer.com).

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# OR...this full color alternative

A beautiful quote from Corrie Ten Boom: "*Jesus was a member of the Ten Boom family. It was just as easy to talk to him as with my mother or father or aunts or brothers and sisters. He was just there.*" Would that every soul who reads this sets her family as a **MODEL** for your own.

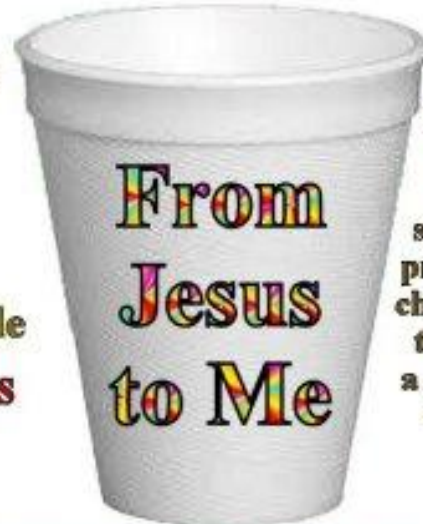


Minimum Daily Spiritual Requirement  
**A verse a day - with prayer.**  
Verses about "Prayer"  
[www.teachustoprav.com](http://www.teachustoprav.com)

**A great STARTING PLACE is a PRAYER CUP!**

Label one side of the cup  
**"From Me to Jesus"**

The other side  
**From Jesus to Me**



For 7-10 days take turns praying one sentence nightly prayers with each child. THEN help the child choose a prayer to put in his or her cup.

Pray WITH the child until he believes he has heard from God PERSONALLY. If the child does not feel he has gotten an answer by day three ask "WHY" he prayed what he did. Most often the heart of the child's prayer will be a feeling. Explain that we all love prayers that move God's mighty hand in visible and miraculous ways but God is not our servant...that most often our prayers do not move his hand but that they ALWAYS touch his heart. If after seven days the child is still feeling he has not gotten an answer take the prayer to your pastor/church.

**Why should a child believe in God or his family if reaches age eighteen without a single answered prayer??**

For more helps visit [www.teachustoprav.com](http://www.teachustoprav.com)

whatever we ask  
we receive from Him,  
because we keep  
His  
commandments  
1 John 3:22 (NKJV)

It is never too late to pray.  
"Jonah prayed to the  
LORD his God  
from inside  
the fish."  
Jonah 2:1 (NLT)

you answer our  
prayers, and to  
you all people  
will come.  
Psalm 65:2 (NLT)

"If you abide in Me,  
and My words abide in  
you, you will ask what  
you desire, and it shall  
be done for you.  
John 15:7 (NKJV)

Pray  
without  
ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17

build each other  
up in your most  
holy faith, pray in  
the power of  
the Holy Spirit,  
Jude 1:20 (NLT)

Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it  
is in heaven.  
Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

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# Our second choice for SHARING is THIS one...

## Seven Days to a better Prayer Life.

### Seven Days/Weeks to a Better Prayer Life

**(Take a child along for the ride.)**

(To use as a church bulletin insert  
print double-sided and cut in half.)

**Monday/Week One.** Pray about your doubts. Do you doubt God is real? Do you doubt creation? Do you doubt invisible things like the Holy Spirit? Do you doubt God loves you? Take your doubts to God. **TRUST** that he will help you replace them with certainty. **Doubt and prayer do not go together. You have to get rid of one or the other. God will help.** Pray with your child about his or her doubts. James 1:5

**Tuesday/Week Two.** The first part of prayer is where we talk to God. The second part, the best part, is where he talks to us. A great help for children is a prayer jar. Write the prayer on a piece of paper and place it in a jar or ziploc bag. Continue to pray until the child can write the answer on the back. Involve as many people as it takes. Why should a child believe in prayer if there is no answer? ***Amen is not the end of the prayer. It is the beginning.*** It is our commitment to trust God until the answer comes. Luke 11:13.

**Wednesday/Week Three.** Pray at the beginning of the day. Everybody prays when they are in trouble...Daniel in the Lion's Den, Joseph when his brothers threw him in a pit, Jonah when he got eaten by a whale. **Jesus way of praying was BIGGER.** He taught us to pray before we get into trouble, prayers like, "Give us this day our daily bread," and "Lead us not into temptation". Even a very quick look at The Lord's Prayer shows that it is all about praying before troubles come. There is no better habit for child or adult than praying in the morning. **It is what Jesus taught.** Luke 22:40

**Thursday/Week Four.** Make a list of at least three prayer partners. Help each child do the same. Follow through by praying with each person on your list at least once a week... even if it is on the phone for just two minutes. Write the names of your prayer partners in the blanks. **A person who doesn't pray with others seldom prays by him or her self.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**FRIDAY/Week Five.** Read the Instruction manual, starting with one or more of these five verses: John 5:39, Hebrews 11:6, Isaiah 40:29, 1 John 3:22, Jude 1:20.

**SATURDAY/Week Six.** Pray with a pure heart. Are you angry with someone? Forgive them. Have you sinned? Repent and ask God to cleanse your heart. Are you ungrateful? Thank God for past prayers answered. Are you praying selfishly? Make a list of others to pray for.

**SUNDAY/Week Seven.** Pray to be more sensitive to God's Holy Spirit. **The only way for a child to break free of the worldly influences that surround us all is an ever increasing sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.** That path begins with prayer...with a HABIT of prayer. Today pray with your child for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you pray. Romans 8:26

Author's note: The four great secrets of prayer are: practice, practice, practice and more practice. We invite interested parents and teachers to visit [www.teachustoprayer.com](http://www.teachustoprayer.com) for enough FREE coloring pages and prayer activities to last the children you love an entire year.

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# The God side of Prayer is Perfect. The human side is not. Asking God to help us fix OUR prayers is VERY important.

## Prayer Mechanics Checklist

Helping children tune up their prayers.

Imagine a school teacher saying to his class: "Math is fun. Math is useful. Math will never fail you. Class dismissed." How much math has he really taught? Absolutely nothing. In this way math and prayer are very much alike. No child can hope to learn either without daily PRACTICE. The shame of our nation is not that we fail to teach prayer in the schools but that we fail to teach it in the home and the church. We can view prayer as a car that needs maintained and repaired or like math as a skill that needs practiced. It really doesn't matter. When you look under the hood you ALWAYS find Jesus and his great love. Share this checklist with your children. Like riding a bike and learning to read, learning to pray should be a part of every childhood.

1. Are you praying first thing in the morning? The first prayer of the day is many times as important as the last. Pray before you get into trouble...not after. Pray early...not late. Psalm 5:3
2. Are you asking in faith? Do you believe God is real and that he is on your side? Can you picture God leaning over the edge of heaven looking for ways to bless you and reward you? Or do you tend to blame God for the bad behavior of Satan and other human beings? Nothing can hurt a prayer more than a wrong idea of God. He is a fixer. He is a friend. He is a healer. He can be trusted. Trust in this FACT is what faith is all about.

3. Do you tell God what to do or do you ask him. If you have been ordering God around you will never learn the very best thing about prayer... God's gentle spirit leading you to him. Jer. 33:3
4. Are you praying with a pure heart? Are you angry with someone? Forgive them. Have you sinned? Repent. Are you ungrateful? Thank God for past prayers answered. Are you praying selfishly? Make a list of others to pray for. Matt 6:14-15, Proverbs 28:13
5. Is there an altar in your home, even a small table with an open Bible? There should be. An altar reminds us of the one great rule of prayer...practice, practice, practice. If there is no altar we will not develop the prayer muscle, a daily prayer HABIT.
6. Is your prayer in line with scripture? We cannot pray rightly without Bible verses but we cannot understand those verses without praying for the Holy Spirit to help us. Scripture and prayer...you can't do one without the other. Psalm 107: 19-20
7. Have you prayed with someone else? Scripture gives only two ways that human beings are joined: in marriage and in prayer. If you want your children connected to the church for life find them at least 3 adult prayer partners and two peers. Praying with others is habit forming ...and addictive. Get connected... join a prayer group. 1Peter 5:13
8. Are you praying in Jesus name? This could be many things because Jesus has many names: healer, savior, deliverer etc. but for sure it means praying with LOVE because God is love. Praying in His name also means letting him come into your heart and guide the prayer as he would. John 14:26

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# A very important Foundation of Prayer is asking God to change us.

## Following are some very good STARTING PLACES.

### After Memorization PERSONALIZATION (for children 8-10)

WHEN I call God "Father" ... **I KNOW** he will help me to grow up like Jesus, my older brother.

WHEN I say: "Who art in Heaven"... **I KNOW** Jesus can teach me to see with my spirit all the things my eyes cannot.

WHEN I say: "Hallowed be thy name." ... **I KNOW** Jesus comes first.

WHEN I say: "Thy Kingdom come,"... **I KNOW** the kingdom he wants most is my heart.

WHEN I say: "Thy will be done" ... **I KNOW** that does not mean following my feelings.

WHEN I say: "On earth as it is in Heaven." **I KNOW** that is not someday. It is today.

WHEN I say: "Give me this day my daily bread." **I KNOW** God has work for me.

WHEN I say: "Forgive me my trespasses" ... **I KNOW** that if we repent of our sins God forgets the past. He is the God of the present and the future.

### After Memorization (continued)

WHEN I say: "as I forgive those who trespass against me"... **I KNOW** Jesus will help me no matter how badly I have been hurt.

WHEN I say: "Lead me not into temptation." **I KNOW** God can save anyone from any feeling.

WHEN I say: "Deliver me from evil." **I KNOW** I must study his word, the word that teaches right from wrong.

WHEN I say: "Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever." **I KNOW** we are being prepared for life after earth.

WHEN I say: "Amen" **I KNOW** God will help me remember everything I prayed.

**IF PRAYING WERE JUST SAYING  
I COULD SKIP THE OBEYING  
BUT PRAYING IS STAYING  
IN STEP WITH OUR LORD  
WITH ALL YOUR HEART**

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# **I wrote this Prayer for my preschoolers. Maybe the children in your class room could take turns praying for each other??**

**The only way to be a Christian is Daily.  
May the following MORNING prayer  
bless the children in your family, church,  
and all the world.  
Best used Daily.**



**Dear Jesus;  
Today and every day  
in every way**



**I want to be more like you.**



**Take my fears.  
Forgive my sins.  
Cleanse my heart and  
Teach me right from wrong.  
Help me understand your word,  
trust your love  
and pass it on to others.**

**Amen**

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**Amen**

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# A British review affirms that a child who lives a life of prayer is over 3,000 times as likely to be listed in “Who’s Who?” as the average child.

## STRONGER AND STRONGER

*Which is true? A child who lives by prayer is 3 times as likely to succeed as an average child, 30 times as likely, 300 times as likely OR 3,000 times as likely.* The correct answer is nearly 3,500 times as likely to succeed as an average child. The actual statistics are taken from a little book “Who’s in Who’s Who?” and are based largely on income but also on general level of satisfaction, happy marriage etc. The point is that children who are helped to take prayer seriously are happier as are their families.

Most of us are prayer wimps. We avoid faith lifting exercises and have no idea how to move a feather let alone a mountain. (Please believe that more often than not I do include myself in this group.) Since we are often poorly equipped to teach our children to pray the only hope is to ask God to be the teacher. The following prayers are guaranteed to get you your very own personal trainer... straight from heaven. Pray them with your child one sentence at a time or put this article on the refrigerator.

**God help me to see who you really are,** a kind God leaning forward over the edge of heaven looking for ways to keep people safe and protect us from sin. Trusting you is not easy for me God. I know it is people who do selfish things and Satan who loves evil. So help me not to doubt you? Help me see you Father as the fixer: giving love for hate, forgiveness for sin, health for sickness and most of all comfort for fear. **Guide my prayer Lord...help me overcome by doubts.**

**Jesus help me pray in your name.** I know you have many names healer, savior, deliverer etc. but for sure your name is LOVE because God is Love. Help me to pray always with love. I know you can help because you are a living God. Let your Holy Spirit come into my heart and guide

each prayer so that it truly is a prayer of love. But when I am not sure of your presence Lord and I have no love in my heart help me pray anyway because I know you are the God who can change my heart and fill it with your love.

**Guide my prayer Lord... by your love.**

**Father help me to recognize the sound of your voice.** The only hope any of us have is listening to you. Help me pray and pray and listen and listen until I really do hear, UNTIL I know it is you. This week I will not stop praying until you speak to me. **Guide my prayer Lord...and help me listen better.**

**Holy Spirit show me when my heart is not pure.** Remind me of the people I have been angry with so I can forgive them and of my sins so I can repent. Help me pray thank you prayers. And father help me not to be selfish. Bring to my mind the faces and problems of other people so I can pray for them...at least one person each day. Thank you Holy Spirit for chasing the darkness out of my heart and making it your home. **Guide my prayer Lord...and clean my heart.**

**Jesus I know the Bible** is your book but sometimes it makes me feel like I will never understand or get it right. Help me take it a tiny bit at a time and then help me understand how that little bit is good for me. Help me choose the verses that I should use when I pray. Remind me to decorate my room with those verses. It is like a puzzle God. I can't pray without the Bible and the Bible doesn't make sense if I don't pray. Help me solve the puzzle God. Help me choose one Bible verse a week and pray and pray and pray about it until God makes it real. **Guide my prayer Lord ...by your word.**

*For hundreds more prayer helps visit [www.teachustoprayer.com](http://www.teachustoprayer.com).*

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# How we hope your children will take prayer seriously and often.

## Booklist for Teens and Pre-Teens

Our thanks to Dr. Tino Ballesteros of The Crystal Cathedral and Warren Wiersbe of Back to the Bible for their help in compiling the following list. Bold entries should be available in most Public Libraries.

Ask your librarian...OR...purchase a copy for your church library. Any of these books would make a great gift for a child graduating from the fifth grade or higher.

**"The Art of Listening Prayer: Finding God's Voice Amidst Life's Noise"** by Seth Barnes

**"The Power of a Praying Kid"** by Stormie Omartian

**"The Power of a Praying Teen"** by Stormie Omartian

**"Pray Big for Your Child:"** by William Davis Jr.

**"The Believer's School of Prayer"** by Andrew Murray.

**"The Prayers of Peter Marshall"** by Catherine Marshall

**"Prayer: A Holy Occupation"** by Oswald Chambers

**"Adventures in Prayer"** by Catherine Marshall

**"The Possibilities of Prayer"** by E.M. Bounds

**"Anybody can be Cool but Awesome takes practice."** by Lorraine Peterson

**"My Soul's Adventure with God"** by Dr. Robert H. Schuller

**"Sense and Nonsense about Prayer"** by Laman Straus

**"Handle with Prayer."** by Dr. Charles Stanley

**"The God Who Hears Prayer"** by Dr. Bingham Hunter.

**"Experiencing God"** by Henry Blackaby and Claude V. King

**"Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer"** by Eugene Peterson

**"Daring to Draw Near: People in Prayer"** by John White

**"Don't Just Stand there Pray Something"** by Ronald Dunn

**"Every Prayer and Petition in the Bible"** by Larry Richards

**"Finding Deeper Intimacy with God: Only a Prayer Away"** by John Guest

**"How to pray When Life Hurts: Experiencing the Power of Healing Prayer"**

by Roy Lawrence

**"Living the Lord's Prayer"** by Richard Andersen

**"Intimacy with God"** by Thomas Keating

**"Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home"** by Richard J. Foster

**"Prayer-The Great Adventure"** by Dr. David Jeremiah

**"Too Busy Not to Pray"** by Bill Hybels

**"A Praying Life:"** by Paul E. Miller and David Powlison

**"Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God"** by Timothy Keller

**"Praying the Bible"** by Donald S. Whitney

**"Praying the Prayers of the Bible"** by James Banks

**"Prayers for a Lifetime"** by Karl Rahner

Seeking God is not something we can do FOR A WHILE. It's every day or drift away. Drifting is the easy thing to do. It is what most of us do. Fortunately some children will be serious about God and serious about prayer. This booklist is for those children. They are the ones who will change the world. The one thing parents can do for these children is JOIN them in reading the books on the list. If we don't join them they will find others with more time.

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**[Make a small EASY desktop prayer calendar...click here](#)**

**Everyone struggles with their feelings. The great sadness of childhood is not having anyone to help. Praying with your children is a great place to start.**

**And Lead us  
Not into Temptation**



Feeling angry, afraid, or lonely  
can make you want to break  
a rule.



That is called temptation.  
Pray, so God can help with  
your feelings.

**[Click Here for Seven parents guide "Seven Days \(Weeks\) to a better prayer life."](#)**



# Where could YOU put a bowl of Bible verses??

By each child's bed?  
By the front door?  
On the dining table.  
By the TV?  
By your favorite chair.

**Dear parents:** Aside from salvation God's greatest gift to us is probably prayer. Sadly very few of adult or child have taken it for more than a single test drive. We quit before getting our answer and park prayer along the side of the road for the rest of our lives. Just like riding a bike and reading, prayer must be learned in childhood. Our children need our help. We hope that each parent or grandparent reading this message will cut up these 40 verses and put them in a bowl on the table where you eat or put them in a jar with a bow on top and give them as a gift to a child you love... daily reminders that God is waiting to CONNECT.

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. 1 Chronicles 16:11	Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12	we do not know what to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes. Romans 8:26	If...my words remain in you, ask what you wish. John 15:7
In the morning I will lay my requests before you. Psalm 5:3	pray for each other. James 5:16	I know the plans I have for you... Jeremiah 29:11	Call to me and I will answer you. Jeremiah 33:3
O you who hear prayer, all men will come to you. Psalm	Who trusts in him will never be put to shame. Romans 10:11	My Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. John 16:23	The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16
Call him Immanuel which means God with us. Matt. 1:23	he hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29	And lead us not into temptation. Matt: 6:13	We live by Faith. 2 Cor. 5:7
pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16	anything we ask, <b>because</b> we obey his commands ... 1 John 3:22	your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:6	Then you will call and the Lord will answer; Isaiah 58:9
I am with you always. Matthew 28:20	Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find. Matt. 6:7	He will respond to the prayer of the destitute. Psalm 102:17	If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. John 5:14
he will deliver the needy who cry out. Psalm 72:12	Your kingdom come, your will be done. Matt: 6:10	Pray Continually. 1 Thes. 5:17	Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors. Matt:6:12
ask me for anything in my name and I will do it. John 14:14	Let the word of Christ Dwell in you richly. Colossians 3:16	He rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6	the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
you will cry for help and he will say: Here am I. Isaiah 58:9	He gives strength to the weary. Isaiah 40:29	According to your faith will it be done to you. Matt: 9:29	the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. James 5:14
approach the throne of grace with confidence. Hebrews 4:16	Heal me O Lord and I will be healed. Jeremiah 17:14	Add to your faith goodness. 2 Peter 1:5	The Lord is my helper. Hebrews 13:6

