

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles and Friends,

As a part of the “take Jesus home” approach to our mission, we would like to offer this guide to praying for 12 different character traits for your child(ren). You will receive a new character trait to pray for in the same format each week. There will always be a scripture reference (or two) followed by a sample prayer. Feel free to use this prayer or use it as a guide for your own. The inspiration for this guide is from a book entitled “While They Were Sleeping”, by Anne Arkins & Gary Harrell.

Praying for your child(ren) is a true blessing and gift from God our Father. As we pray for our children, we are surrendering them to Him, trusting that He will hear our prayers and mold our children into loving and mature adults with a hunger for His Word and filled with His Holy Spirit.

When we use scripture as the basis for our prayers, we are essentially praying God’s Word back to Him. It is a powerful way to pray and it gives us great confidence in the One who hears the prayer. At the same time, God sees great faith in us, His children, as we turn to Him as the source for our provision. When we believe that God exists (go to Him in prayer) and that He rewards those who seek Him (hears and answers our prayers) – this pleases our God greatly!

God’s word tells us:

Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to Him for the lives of your children . . . Lamentations 2:19

## CHARACTER TRAIT: KINDNESS

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)

## PRAYER EXAMPLE

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise you for your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her parent/guardian. I pray that (child's name), by the power and teaching of your Holy Spirit, will learn to look at the needs of others with mercy and tenderness. My hope is in you, Lord, that you will encourage (child's name) to become a lifeline to those around him/her who need a meal or even a drink of water. Cause (child's name) to be sensitive to those who may need a friend or even a smile. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

## CHARACTER TRAIT: HUMILITY

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise you for your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). I pray that (child's name), by the power and teaching of your Holy Spirit, will learn to humbly consider others to be better than him/herself. I ask that You open the eyes of his/her heart to see beyond his/her own interests to those of others' and that he/she would give them priority over his/her own desires. While it is an act of worship to You, our loving Lord and Savior, to cherish and experience the many blessings You give (child's name), I thank You that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, Your desire is to give him/her a servant heart so that he/she will put less and less importance on his/her own ambitions or importance. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

CHARACTER TRAIT: TEACHABILITY

... guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior and my hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 25:5b (NIV)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). God and Savior, I am convinced that You alone are able to guide my child in the right path. I place (child's name) in Your loving care knowing that Your love for him/her is even greater than mine. I ask that You would give him/her ears to hear Your voice and instruct him/her in Your truth and teach him/her Your way. May (child's name) hope be in You each and every day of his/her life. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

CHARACTER TRAIT: FORGIVENESS

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8 (NIV)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Father, I pray that (child's name) would come to recognize the deep need to not retaliate in revenge but to forgive those who offend him/her. I thank you Father that it is Your will to release him/her from any desire for revenge in his/her life. May (child's name)'s eyes be on You Jesus and not the insults of others. Merciful Lord and Savior, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, bring to (child's name)'s mind his/her own weaknesses so that he/she might have compassion for the weaknesses of others. Help him/her to see that love covers a multitude of sins. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray.  
Amen

## CHARACTER TRAIT: OBEDIENCE

... God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

### 1 Samuel 16:7b (NASB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Lord, I thank You and trust You for a child that is obedient in his/her behavior. Lord I pray that Your Holy Spirit might drive deeper into (child's name) heart and soul an attitude and spirit of obedience. Give (child's name) the understanding that You see the things he/she does in secret – the things he/she does when no one else is around - and that You even know his/her innermost thoughts. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

\*\*\* \*\* \* \* \* \* \* \*\* \*\*

But if you are unwilling to obey the Lord, then decide today whom you will obey. ... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.

### Joshua 24:15 (TLB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Lord, cause (child's name) to see that although many people choose not to obey You, he/she must make his/her own choice and commitment to do so. Give him/her the strength to uphold his/her commitment to You even when it gets tough to do so. Heavenly Father, may (child's name)'s own resolve to obey You be a shield and protection upon him/her from the forces that he/she will face daily that desire to press him/her into the world's mold. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

CHARACTER TRAIT: DISCERNMENT

My Son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:1-6 (NIV)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). God, help my child, (child's name), to listen to wisdom and try with all his/her heart to gain understanding. Cause him/her to listen to what I say and remember what I have asked of him/her. Lord, thank You that You will graciously lead (child's name) in earnestly seeking wisdom and understanding. Open his/her eyes to search for it just as relentlessly as he/she would search for silver or for hidden treasure. Then (child's name) will understand what it means to respect You, Lord, for only You give true wisdom and true knowledge and true understanding. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

\*\*\* \*\*

A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless.

Proverbs 14:16 (NASB)

Merciful heavenly Father, I ask You to give my dear child, (child's name), discernment and wisdom. In this world full of subtle evils, may he/she be sensitive and cautious about his/her decisions and directions in life. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

## CHARACTER TRAIT: PURITY

Follow God's example in everything you do just as a much loved child imitates his father. Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, for Christ's love for you was like sweet perfume to him. Let there be no sex sin, impurity or greed among you. Let no one be able to accuse you of any such things. Dirty stories, foul talk and coarse jokes – these are not for you. Instead, remind each other of God's goodness and be thankful.

Ephesians 5:1-4 (TLB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Loving and faithful Father, I confidently ask you to help (child's name) as he/she faces the temptation to live a life apart from You. Stand by him/her so he/she can be strong and follow Your example in everything he/she does. Lord Jesus, give (child's name) a special love for others – Christ's love – who gave Himself as a sacrifice to take away (child's name) sins. Father, I truly pray that You will not allow any sexual sin, impurity or greed to enter into (child's name) life. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen



## CHARACTER TRAIT: RESPONSIBILITY

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10 (NASB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Heavenly Father, You are the Giver of every good and perfect gift. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, I ask that You give me eyes to see how You have gifted my child so that I might encourage him/her in that way. Thank You Lord that it is Your will to give (child's name) the sense of responsibility to use his/her gifts to glorify You and serve others. Thank you for moving in his/her life and causing him/her to be a blessing to other people. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

\*\*\* \*\*

And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand.

Matthew 7:26 (NASB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Heavenly Father, protect (child's name) from being only a hearer of Your Word. Jesus, You are Faithful and True and so I have confidence when I ask You to help him/her to be a doer of the Word – a young man/woman of action. Deliver (child's name) from being captured by that spirit of laziness that leads to repeated acts of irresponsibility. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

CHARACTER TRAIT: COURAGE

... So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and rescued him. "O man of little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

Matthew 14:29-31 (TLB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Loving Father, give (child's name) the grace needed when he/she finds himself overtaken by fear. Lord God, there are so many situations in life that could cause him/her to live in fear. Thank You, oh God, that it is Your will to keep the eyes of his/her heart focused on Jesus when he/she finds himself/herself surrounded by the "high waves" of life. Thank you that because I know it is Your will, I can have confidence as I pray that he/she learns to turn to the You, Jesus in his/her fear and finds that You are always sufficient. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

\*\*\* \*\*

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go".

Joshua 1:9 (NASB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Almighty God, You are the One who stands strong above every other power in heaven and earth. I pray that You will give (child's name) a strong courage that he/she will cling to. May he/she be able to face the dangers of his/her world (people, places, things) without panic and fear but with strong, steadfast confidence in You. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

## CHARACTER TRAIT: SERVANTHOOD

“for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me.”

Matthew 25:42-43 (NASB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Father God, deliver (child's name) from this great weakness of the flesh – selfishness! Help him/her Lord Jesus to become a servant to others as You were. Help him/her to become sensitive to the physical and emotional needs of those around him/her. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

\*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*    \*\*\*

Don't think only of yourself. Try to think of the other fellow, too, and what is best for him.

1 Corinthians 10:24 (TLB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Father, it is so hard to think of the other person first – or at all sometimes. Being a servant sounds nice but it takes effort. I am asking You, Lord Jesus, to give (child's name) a willingness to become the kind of servant that doesn't mind putting out the effort to serve others and looks out for the good of the other person. Glorify Your name Jesus in the life of my son/daughter (child's name). I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

CHARACTER TRAIT: CONTENTMENT

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:13-14 (NASB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Lord, I ask that You send Your Holy Spirit to teach (child's name) to have the kind of contentment that hopes in You. Give him/her the assurance that leads to inner peace, tranquility and contentment. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

\*\*\* \*\*

And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Phillipians 4:19 (NIV)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Loving and merciful God, Prince of Peace, comfort (child's name) when he/she is hurting. Sustain him/her with Your grace so he/she remembers that You will always meet his/her needs for with this, his/her faith will grow. As (child's name) learns to depend on You in this way, help him/her to experience true contentment. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

## CHARACTER TRAIT: ENDURANCE

And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.

Galatians 6:9 (TLB)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Heavenly Father, merciful God, I pray that You gently build endurance into (child's name) life. Give (child's name) a heart that helps him/her to keep on pressing on. Cause him/her to feel Your presence going before him/her, standing beside him/her and guarding behind him/her - protecting and defending him/her in every battle. I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen

\*\*\* \*\*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

Lord Jesus, I thank you for loving (child's name) and I praise You for Your faithfulness to him/her and to me, his/her (parent/guardian). Lord, You have sovereignly marked a path for (child's name) to walk and I know that You have a plan for his/her life. I ask that You enable (child's name) to run the race of life with great endurance. Keep (child's name) from being tripped up, distracted or losing heart in the race. Help him/her to keep his/her eyes on You so that he/she may go do great things! I thank you for (child's name)'s life Lord and I regard him/her as a true blessing from you Jesus. In your holy, precious and powerful name I pray. Amen