

## **PRAYER FOR MY CHILDREN**

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### **PRAYER -1**

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You've heard of people who play music so their unborn child can learn Chopin? I prayed for our child. Then we prayed for the children as they grew. How quickly I learned that it was easier to care for them in toddler seats than in the teen tunnel. After surviving triumphantly four teenagers, my husband and I can assure parents, "Yes, there is life after the teen years." The romance comes back into the marriage! But, the praying intensifies. With our first now in his 30's I've learned that there is no retirement in prayer. Often I wish that I knew better how to pray for them when they were infants. As they have grown, so have I and now I've learned to pray The

Word.

Recently I took Psalm 119 from the Message and rewrote the Psalm as a prayer for my own children. This first prayer is a prayer that they will follow God's plan. You might want to pray this prayer putting in the names of your own children. Make it personal.

Lord, bless our children by keeping them on your course. Help them to walk steadily on the road You have revealed to them. Remind them to follow your directions, and to do their best to find YOU. Don't allow them to go off on their own, but to walk steadily along the road you have marked for them. You've prescribed the right way for us to live, now help each of us to keep your expectations in life. Make their steps steady, keeping the course you have set; So that they will have no regrets in comparing their life to your counsel. Thank you for speaking straight to their hearts; for teaching them the pattern of your righteous ways; Make them willing to do what you tell them to do. And don't ever walk off and leave them.

### **PRAYER 2**

Published on 2 February 2006

My mother-in-love said, she would like to have never sent her children to school because they learned things that she would never have taught them. It's easy to blame a lot of the actions of our children on school, friends and society. I couldn't help but notice how our children became tense and irritable. The sibling rivalry raged and then vacation came! My little cherubs returned to normalcy and I, too, wished that vacation would last forever.

We can't teach our children everything! Some are making wonderful efforts at home schooling. While overseas it was necessary for us to be the English teachers of our children, but God used others to teach them lessons as well. One thing I learned was that He was a much better teacher than we were. This week's prayer is for our children to learn from God's Word and God himself so that they rely on His promises.

Lord, teach our children to live clean lives. Make their hearts thirsty for reading your Word to guide them in life. Make them O Lord, to be single minded in their pursuit after you. Don't allow them to miss the road signs you have posted for them. Teach them to bank on your promises hidden in the vault of their heart, so they won't sin themselves bankrupt. Be blessed God; train them in your ways of wise living. Put your words of counsel on their lips. May they delight far more in what you tell them about living than in gathering a pile of riches. May they ponder every morsel of wisdom from you, as they attentively watch what you have done for them. May they relish everything you've told them about life, may they not forget their Spiritual Inheritance.

### **PRAYER 3**

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People are surprised when I tell them I don't pray for my children's happiness. We do pray that they will be blessed and that they will be protected from those who would spiritually harm them. This week we will use Psalm 119 to pray God's blessings on our children and protect them from those who would cause them spiritual harm. Some of our children's greatest spiritual lessons

are seeing the change God has made in our lives; thus the prayer that the children will see what God has shown us.

Be generous with my children, Lord, that they may live a full life; not for a minute will they take their eyes off your road. Open their eyes so they can see what you've shown me of your miracle – wonders. They are strangers in these parts; give them directions. Their soul is starved and hungry, ravenous! May they find Your Word to be satisfying and your commands nourishing. And those who think they know so much, ignoring everything you tell them – let them have it! Don't let them mock and humiliate my children; help my children to be careful to do just what you've said. While bad neighbors maliciously gossip about them, may my children be absorbed in pondering your wise counsel! May your sayings on life be what give them delight; may they listen to them as good neighbors!

#### **PRAYER 4**

Remember when you were a child and couldn't wait to grow up? Remember when you thought it was only you and your friends as kids who had problems – caused by the adults of course! We read about childhood depression at astounding rates. This week we will pray for our children in the difficult times; those times when we as parents can't pick them up to make them feel better. There problems get tougher and there comes a time when we can't kiss it and make it all better. Even when they are 'all grown up' and you find yourself in an 'empty nest', they never out grow their need for prayer.

Lord, when my children are down, lift them up. Get them on their feet again. Keep your promise to them. Train them in your deep wisdom. Help them to understand this life inside and out; so they can ponder your miraculous wonders. When their world is falling apart build them up again by your Word. Barricade the road that goes to nowhere; and give them the grace of your revelation for their problems today. Teach them to watch your road signs at every curve and corner in the Road of Life. Teach them to hold on to what you tell them. God, don't let my children down. May they purpose to run the course you've laid out for them. Teach them how... and make them teachable.

#### **PRAYER 5**

How do we pray for our children? We pray that they will be blessed, for their physical and spiritual protection. Some pray for their happiness, but I pray that they will live in the center of His will knowing that only there will they find lasting joy. This week's prayer gives us some more specifics to pray for. We would like our children to learn from our experience, but they need their own "lessons for living". Often they do not want our insight into their life plans, so we pray for godly wisdom and a desire for His counsel. We all need to be obedient. It is a life long lesson. We all need God's affirmation that His promises hold true for us today. We all have critics, so we pray that the critics of our children will be silenced. And most of all it is my prayer that all my children (spiritual as well as born to me) will be hungry for the word of God (Matthew 5:6). Here's the prayer for this week:

God teach my children "lessons for living", so they can stay on course. Give them insight so they can remember what you tell them. May their whole life be one long, obedient response? Guide them down the road of your commandments. May they love traveling this highway! Give them a bent for your Words of Wisdom, and not for riches and the things of this world. Divert their eyes from toys, trinkets and the temptations of sexual sin. Energize them on their Christian Walk. Affirm your promises to them – promises made to all who fear You. Deflect the harsh words of their critics. Speak words of correction to them gently. May they always be hungry for your counsel. Preserve their life through your righteous ways!

#### **PRAYER 6**

The world is going to mold our children or they will be shaped by God's love. The pressures children are under today were unthinkable when we were growing up. It is important that we understand those pressures so that we can pray more intelligently for our children. They are being offered lies and we must pray that they be presented with the truth of a God who loves and cares for them. We can teach them by our living lives of love and stories of real life heroes (ourselves) who are making the spiritual journey. The obstacles we have found and the truth

that helped us to get around those stumbling blocks will bring the Truth of God's Word to reality if we are willing to share our weakness and falling as well as the victories. Our children live in a world that is not teaching them the Ten Commandments. We as parents and grandparents must begin teaching them now in order to mold them in God's love.

Let your love, God, shape the children's lives with salvation, exactly as you promised; Then they'll be able to stand up to mockery because they trusted your Word. Please don't ever deprive them of truth, not ever. May your commandments be what they depend on. May they guard with their life what you've revealed to them. Guard it now, guard it ever; and may they stride freely through wide open spaces as they look for your truth and your wisdom. May they tell the world what they've found, speak out boldly in public, unembarrassed. May they cherish your commandments – oh, may they love them! May they relish every fragment of your counsel.

## **PRAYER 7**

As I write this, we are packing up to go to Columbus Citadel, Ohio. One of the boxes is journals. An entire box of my writing to God and things He has taught me. When my older daughter was 14, she begged me to read some of my journaling when I was her age. One of the things that amazed me was my tender heart for God at that age. I desperately desired that my children be disciples of the Lord. Years later when there was a strong discussion about life's issues, my daughter asked, "How did you learn the will of God?" I answered that I listened to God. She responded, "Then why don't you let me listen to Him, too?" The thought stopped me in my tracks. I needed to trust my children to God and stop ordering them around spiritually, deciding what God's will was for their life. So I started praying this prayer for them from Psalms 119 49-56:

Lord remember what you said to me when you called me, "This is the way. Walk in it. Do not go to the left nor to the right. (Isa. 30:21)" Please Lord, speak to my children and keep my children in your Way. May your Words hold them in bad times; Yes, and let your promises rejuvenate them. When the insolent ridicule them without mercy, may they not budge from Your Revelation. May they watch for your ancient landmark Words, and know they are on track. When they see the wicked ignore your directions, may they feel righteous anger. May they set your instructions to music and sing them as they walk The Journey. May they meditate on your name all night, God, Treasuring Your Revelation, O God. When they walk through the rain of derision, may they be still because they live by your Word and counsel.

The following have not been submitted. The prayers are written only.

Because you have satisfied them, God, may they promise  
To do everything you.  
I beg you from the bottom of my heart: smile,  
Be gracious to my children just as you promised.  
May my children take a long, careful look at your ways,  
And keep their feet on the trail you blazed.  
May they be up and ready, never dragging their feet,  
Quick to follow your orders.  
When the wicked hem them in – and there is no way out –  
May they not forget your plan for them.  
Lord, I get up in the middle of the night to pray for them,  
And to thank you:  
Your decisions are so right, so true – I can't wait till morning!  
May my children always be friends and companions of all who respect you,  
Of those committed to living by your rules.  
Your love, God fills the earth!  
Train my children to live by your counsel.

Be good to my children, God  
Be as good as your Word.  
Train them in good common sense;  
May they be thoroughly committed to living your way.  
Before we learned to answer you, we wandered all over the place,  
Keep each of us in step with your Word.  
You are good, and the source of good;

Train my children in your goodness,  
The godless spread lies about them,  
Help them to focus their attention on what you are saying;  
The godless are bland as a bucket of lard,  
May my children dance to the tune of your revelation,  
May troubles turn out all for the best –  
May troubles force them to learn from your textbook  
May truth from your mouth means more to them  
Than striking it rich in a gold mine.

With your very own hands you formed me;  
Now breathe your wisdom over me so I can understand you and  
be an understanding mom.  
When my children see me waiting expecting your Word,  
May they take heart and be glad.  
I can see now, God, that your decisions are right,  
Your testing has taught me what's true and right.  
Oh, love me – and love my children. Hold us tight right now  
just the way you promised.  
Now comfort us so we can live;  
Teach us to dance to your revelation.  
Let the fast-talking tricksters be exposed as frauds;  
Those who tried to sell us a bill of goods,  
Keep our mind fixed on your counsel.  
Let my children fear you and turn to me  
For evidence of your wise guidance.  
And let me live whole and holy, soul and body,  
So I can always walk with my head held high.

This prayer is for the spiritual warfare we find in our children's lives.

I'm homesick, Lord. I'm longing for the salvation of my children. I'm waiting for your word of hope that they will be saved. My eyes grow heavy watching for some sign of your promise: "Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life." (Pr 22:6 TEV); "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your family." (Ac 16:31 TEV). Lord, I'm trusting you for the salvation of my WHOLE family. How long must I wait for your comfort? My eyes are swollen from crying for my children's salvation. I keep a steady gaze on the instructions you post in your Word. How long do I have to put up with all this foolishness of my children? How long till you haul the tormentors, the drug dealers into court? The ones who provide alcohol for miners. The ones who sexually abuse our children. The arrogant and godless try to throw our children off track. They are ignorant of God and His ways. Everything, you command is a sure thing, but the world harass my children with lies. Help! They've pushed and pushed – they never let up – But I haven't relaxed my grip on your counsel, O Lord. In your great love revive me as I pray, so I can alertly obey your every word.

On this particular day, I just didn't know how to pray anymore. I had left writing prayers for a time – due to a disturbance in my spirit over a situation with one of the children. Then there was more delay due to scheduling. This day when I prayed for them, I said, "Lord, I don't know how to pray for them anymore, so I'll just ask that you let your will be done in their lives." That was when I had the release in the Spirit to get back to Psalm 119.

"What you say goes, GOD, and stays, as permanent as the heavens."

What do you say about my children? What do I pray? Teach me how to pray for them.

Your truth never goes out of fashion; it's as up-to-date as the earth when the sun comes up. The young people are so into fashion, Lord. Attract them with your 'state of the art' fashion.

"Your Word and truth are dependable as ever; that's what you ordered – you set the earth going."

The world is filled with untruth, Lord. Attract the children with your Truth. Excite them with the dependability of your Truth. Stir them with the stability of your Truth. Revive them with the reality of your Truth. Set them in motion to the symphony of your Creativity.

" If your revelation hadn't delighted me so, I would have given up when the hard times came."  
Delight my children with your revelation!

But I'll never forget the advice you gave me; you saved my life with those wise words.

Save me! I'm all yours.

Give my children words of advise as you gave me. Save them from folly with wise words. Save them! Give them a desire to be sold out for you!

Teach the children to look high and low for your words of wisdom. The wicked lie in ambush to destroy them. Make them only concerned with your plans for them.

Help us all to see the limits to everything human, but the horizons that can't contain your commands! Give us a desire to obey your commands.

(selected verses from Psalms 119: 89-96 THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language  
© 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.) Selections from Psalms 119 The Message

### **PRAYER - 8**

Be good to my daughter Bethany, God and our new son Damien. Be as good as your Word to them. Train them in good common sense in this new walk of life they have chosen. May they be thoroughly committed to living your way in their marriage. Before each of us learned to answer You, we wandered all over the place. Keep each of us in step with your Word. You are good, and the source of good; Train Damien and Bethany in your goodness. The godless spread lies to them. Help them to focus their attention on what you are saying. The godless are bland as a bucket of lard. May Damien and Bethany dance to the tune of your revelation. May troubles turn out all for the best – May troubles force them to learn from your textbook. May truth from your mouth mean more to them than striking it rich in a gold mine.

Because you have satisfied them, God, may they promise to do everything you say.

I beg you from the bottom of my heart: smile, be gracious to my children just as you promised. May my children take a long, careful look at your ways, and keep their feet on the trail you blazed. May they be up and ready, never dragging their feet, quick to follow your orders. When the wicked hem them in – and there is no way out – may they not forget your plan for them. Lord, I get up in the middle of the night to pray for them, and to thank you: Your decisions are so right, so true – I can't wait till morning!

May my children always be friends and companions of all who respect you, of those committed to living by your rules. Your love, God fills the earth! Even Australia.

Train my children to live by your counsel.

### **PRAYER 9**

Our 'baby' fell in love with a young man from Australia who worked at a Salvation Army Camp. After courting four years long distance, she decided to go to Australia and get married during Christmas! Unable to attend the wedding due to duties here, I sent them this prayer.

Be good to my daughter Bethany, God and our new son Damien. Be as good as your Word to them. Train them in good common sense in this new walk of life they have chosen. May they be thoroughly committed to living your way in their marriage. Before each of us learned to answer You, we wandered all over the place. Keep each of us in step with your Word. You are good, and the source of good; Train Damien and Bethany in your goodness. The godless spread lies to them. Help them to focus their attention on what you are saying. The godless are bland as a bucket of lard. May Damien and Bethany dance to the tune of your revelation. May troubles turn out all for the best – May troubles force them to learn from your textbook. May truth from your mouth mean more to them than striking it rich in a gold mine.

### **PRAYER 10**

Our daughter-in-law had tried unsuccessfully to conceive a child for five years. Finally the announcement came in October that she was indeed with child. As a family they had carved five pumpkins and put one inside of the other asking us to guess where the sixth pumpkin was (counting their two Rottwilers as part of the family) and our first grandchild, Skyler Joy.

Then the renter decided not to pay his rent and he always has to deal with employees who do not work for their wages or people who come into the store to steal. We began to pray for the business man – our son.

With your very own hands you formed these dear children. And know 'Pumpkin Seed' grows in the womb of our daughter – in – love, Liz Joy. Breathe your wisdom over them as parents so they can understand you and be understanding parents. Remind my children of seeing me waiting expectantly in your Word. May they take heart and be glad in you Word. Help my daughter – in – love to see, God, that your decisions are right. I pray that your testing has taught them what's true and right. Oh, love me – and love my children and their children. Hold us tight right now just the way you promised. Now comfort us so we can live. Teach us to dance to your revelation. Let the fast-talking tricksters be exposed as frauds. Those who tried to cheat my son in business, bless my son for trying to do well by them. Keep their mind fixed on your counsel. Let my children respect you and turn to you. Daily show them evidence of your wise guidance.

And let them live whole and holy, soul and body, so they can always walk with their head held high.

Isa 62:6-7

I've posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem.  
Day and night they keep at it, praying, calling out,  
reminding GOD to remember. They are to give him no peace until he does what he said,  
until he makes Jerusalem famous as the City of Praise.  
(THE MESSAGE: Is. 42:6,7)