

### 3. Teach Children To Pray Out Loud

#### **Popcorn prayers:**

An adult begins and ends the prayer. Ask your child/ children to add a word or two to the prayer. This can be done by quickly going around the circle or by allowing the children to simply call out at random.

Dear God thank you for making... (adult)  
flowers (child 1) my toe (child 2) a beautiful world  
(child 3) ... Amen (adult)

#### **Prayer circle:**

Have the family sit in a circle. Pray around the circle. After each person prays they squeeze the hand or tap the shoulder of the person beside them.

#### **Prayer lucky dip:**

Put a photograph of each member of the family in a box. Children then select a photograph and pray for that person.

This resource was downloaded from:  
[www.kidswise.com.au](http://www.kidswise.com.au)

© 2006 Kidswise [www.kidswise.com.au](http://www.kidswise.com.au)

# Teaching Children To Pray

Activities suitable for use in the home for  
children aged 2 to 6 years old

### 4 Teach Children To Pray By Themselves

Provide children with scrapbooks and get them to create their own prayer dairy.

Spend a day taking photos with your child and allow them to use these photos to help them pray. Provide something for them to store the photos in. (i.e. a box or flip photo album)

Model spending time alone with God.

Children need to hear their parent/s pray regularly

# 1. Teach Children To Pray Regularly

## Pray at a set time each day:

Evening meal, bedtime, breakfast, when you read a Bible story together.

## Pray regularly as a family:

Before you eat, at the beginning of a family day out, for the birthday person, in the car on your way to playgroup or pre-school.

## Model stopping to pray in your family life:

The birth of a brother, mother in hospital, told friend about Jesus, an accident etc.

## Prayer triggers:

These are everyday events (like eating) that can help the child to remember to pray about a wide range of things.

At this age, prayer triggers need to be parent directed.

Stop and pray with your child when:

- a) Cleaning teeth  
(pray for health, theirs, their families, their friends...)
- b) Putting on shoes and socks  
(thank God for your clothes, toys...)
- c) Wrapping a birthday present or making a birthday card (pray for the person whose birthday it is...)
- d) Having a bath (thank God for the water and bubbles)

# 2. Teach Children To Vary Their Prayers

## Prayer collages:

Collect photos of significant people and things (pets, creation photos, holiday photos, relatives...) in your child's life. Help your child make a group collage on the refrigerator or a large noticeboard. Or, buy a flip booklet to store the photos.

\* Direct your child/children to pray in response to what they have learned from the Bible (i.e. Dear Go, thank you that you have saved the Israelites. Thank you that you saved us. Amen).

\* At this age, encourage the children to pray a prayer like you.

## Activity

### How Do You Feel?

(download the resource file titled, *How Do You Feel?* from the Kidswise web site, [www.kidswise.com.au](http://www.kidswise.com.au))

Make a copy for your child/children.

Have the child/children select a face and pray/talk to God about when they feel like that or about someone they know who may feel like that.

## Prayer beginnings:

Introduce and use the following prayer beginnings to help the children vary what they pray about.

Dear God, I'm sorry for... (confession)

Thank you Lord for... (thankfulness)

Loving Father, thank you for being ... (praise)

Dear Jesus, please help me when I feel ... (tell God your pain, your laughter)

Dear God, please help me ... (requests)

Dear Father, please help \_\_\_\_\_ (name) ... (petition)

## Brainstorm before praying:

e.g. What has God given us that we can thank him for?

- Make a cube with your child/children that has different pictures on it. Children roll the cube and pray for what is on the picture.
- Draw a circle. Divide the circle into 8 sections. Help your child/children draw pictures or glue pictures from a magazine into each section of the circle. Cut an arrow out of cardboard and attach with a split pin to the centre of the circle. Have children spin and then pray about what is in the picture.

## Family prayer diary:

Keep a list of things you are praying for as a family. Look back as a family and thank God for answered prayers.