

### 3. Teach Children To Pray Out Loud

**Note:**

Don't ask, 'Would you like to pray?' Instead ask, 'What are you going to pray about?' Or simply say, 'Let's pray about what we've talked about.'

**Prayer card box:**

Children can write out prayers using the different prayer beginnings. These prayers could then be kept in a box ready to be used when they can't think of something to pray for. They simply select a card and read out that prayer. You may like to include The Lord's Prayer.

**Popcorn prayers:**

An adult begins and ends the prayer. The children 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 lucky dip #2:**

Put photographs of family and friends in a box. Children then select a photograph and pray for that person.

Pray for the person sitting to your right.

Encourage them to pray when they are with their

### 4 Teach Children To Pray By Themselves

- Provide children with scrapbooks or small booklets and help them create their own prayer diary.
- 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 photo in (i.e. a box or flip photo album). If using a digital camera, simply download the photos and divide them into the days of the month. You may be able to help your child download copyright free photos from the web to add to their collection. When praying, simply show the photographs for the day and pray about the people or ideas (i.e. creation, poverty...) on the photos. Note: this will only work if the computer is accessible (i.e. is a lap top or is in the room where the family prays).
- Provide Bible reading material that encourages the children to pray at the end of each reading.

**Examples:**

XTB (eXplore The Bible) - Suitable for 7-11 year olds.  
Discover - Suitable for 9-14 year olds.

**Available:**

Matthias Media [www.matthiasmedia.com.au](http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au) or  
The Good Book Company, UK  
[www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk)

- When your child has shared some news (good or bad) stop and pray together about it.
- Model spending time alone with God.

# Teaching Children To Pray

Activities suitable for use in the home for children aged 7 to 11 years old

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

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 school.

## Model stopping to pray during your family life:

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

## Prayer triggers:

The aim of prayer triggers is to help children to remember to pray throughout the day.

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

Note: it's important that the children work out what the best triggers are for them.

Introduce one trigger per week over a couple of weeks.

## Examples:

- Cleaning teeth - praying for health (theirs, their families, their friends...)
- Sitting down to do homework - praying for their teachers, their effort.
- Putting on shoes and socks - thanking God for their clothes, toys.

# 2. Teach Children To Vary Their Prayers

Direct children to pray in response to what they have learned from the Bible (i.e. Dear God, thank you that you saved the Israelites. Thank you that you saved us...). This is best done by the parent's first modelling a prayer.

## Prayer collages:

Collect photos of significant people and things (pets, creation photos, holiday photos...) in your child's life. Display the photos on a noticeboard (next to the dining room table), on the refrigerator, in a flip photo booklet.

Include photos of missionary families, people from the church family and sponsored children.

The aim is to help stimulate memory as the family prays together.

## Prayer lucky dip:

Make up a series of cards with the children which have a variety of things to pray about (i.e. names of friends and family, God's character, creation, problems in the world, special annual or weekly family events...).

Each member of the family selects a card and prays about what's on the card.

## Prayer beginnings:

Make up a flip booklet or a series of cards with the following prayer beginnings.

Prayer beginnings:

- 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)

- Psalm 75:1  
Write extra verses to Colin Buchanan's version of Psalm 75:1 (Remember the Lord, CD). This song can then be sung as a prayer to God or be used by the children to thank God for all the things mentioned in their version of the song.
- Brainstorm before praying. (e.g. What has God given us that we can thank him for?)

## 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.
- Pray through sections of the church newsletter or church prayer diary with the children.
- Use the school newsletter to help them pray about their school.
- Pray as a family about world news events that the children are aware of and may be worried about.
- Use the church's prayer and contact book to pray for church family members. Children may not know all the people at church. Select a page and ask the children to choose one family from that page to pray for.

## Prayers found in the Bible (for children aged 10 and 11):

Read through prayers in scripture (i.e. prayers prayed by Jesus, Paul, King David, etc.)

Compile lists of the things prayed for in these prayers.

Examples:

- Psalm 8
- Psalm 105
- Matthew 6:9-13
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Colossians 1:3-14