

Day 1

July 20



Pray | Ask God to make you sensitive to the Holy Spirit

We cannot grow spiritual fruit—it must be grown for us by the Holy Spirit

The world we live in promotes and values self-sufficiency and independence; but as Christians, the God we serve calls us to something different. When we make Jesus our Lord, we commit to a life of increasing dependence on God and decreasing dependence on ourselves. On the surface, that appears to be the ultimate dilemma that we face as Christian adults seeking to raise

Christian children—balancing the demands of teaching them the skills to succeed in the world and the desire to live for Jesus. In reality, there is no dilemma. God promises that when we seek his kingdom first, he will provide everything we need to not only survive, but to thrive in this world.

As we pray for spiritual fruit to be evident in the lives of our kids, we are, first and foremost, trusting in the promises of God. We are asking God to make our kids sensitive to the Holy Spirit living inside of them—that they would respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit and, as a result, their lives would be overflowing with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



Read | Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 6:28-34



Reflect | Pray this scripture-based prayer for your kids, grandkids, the kids of Five Oaks, or other kids in your life:

Father in heaven, I praise you for sending Jesus to this earth to make it possible for all humans to have a relationship with you. Jesus, I praise you for willingly sacrificing your life for me, for conquering sin and death, and for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside me as a comforter and counselor until your final return. I pray that my kids will see the confidence that I have in you and your promises, that they will put their trust in you as well, and that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit. I trust your words revealed in Galatians 5:22-23 and pray confidently that because of the Holy Spirit's presence in the lives of these kids, their lives will be full—overflowing with *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*. This is the life you desire for all of your children; help me to desire this most for the kids you've entrusted to me as well. Amen.



Pray | Pray for the World

Pray for our Ministry Partners in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA): For many to feel God's call to partner with those who are ministering to the refugees and others in desperate need of hope and peace. Please pray that the seeds of the gospel will spread as new believers leave refugee camps and return to their home countries, for the resettlement process, and that those with the needed skills would be called to go. Please also pray for the protection of these new believers-many will be targeted and will have no legal protection.

Day 2

July 21



Pray | Give God praise for his awesome power and love

You can be confident because an all-powerful God loves you and is always by your side

It goes without saying that it's not easy to raise / teach / mentor kids. There is no checklist or user guide to follow; and because every kid, every family, and every situation is different, there's lots of opportunities for mistakes, setbacks and learning. Fortunately, if you've made Jesus the Lord of your life, you have an ever-present, all-powerful, loving companion to support you and give you confidence through it all.



Read | Psalm 121



Reflect | Pray this scripture-based for your kids, grandkids, the kids of Five Oaks, or other kids in your life:

Father God, “*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.*” Thank you, God for your promise to always be with me. It is truly amazing to have such a promise from the creator of the universe. I pray for your constant presence in my life, Father, especially as I influence the kids you have placed in my life. I'm so grateful for the confidence that comes from your promise to protect everyone who puts their trust in you. “*He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber or sleep.*” It's impossible for me to protect my kids all the time. Thank you, Father for loving and protecting my kids, even when I can't. *The Lord watches over you—the Lord is the shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, or the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and your going both now and forevermore.*” Father, it's difficult to see my kids grow up and need me less and less; but I know this is normal and right. I pray, Father God, that they will never stop recognizing their need for you and remembering your promises to them. Amen.

Day 3

July 22



Pray | Give God thanks for the hope that comes from Jesus' death and resurrection

Faith in Jesus makes it possible to live in confident dependence on God.

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, if you have put your faith in Jesus, you have been granted access to God at all times and in all situations. While the Bible assures us of this AMAZING fact, it can be difficult to apply it in our day-to-day lives. As parents and adults entrusted to raise and influence children, it's critical that our lives demonstrate our confidence in Jesus and our full dependence on God. This dependence is revealed in many ways, five of which are mentioned in our scripture reading:

- Regularly drawing near to God through prayer and scripture reading
- Holding unswervingly to our hope in Jesus
- Considering and encouraging others to put their trust in Jesus
- Meeting together with others who have put their trust in Jesus
- Looking forward to the day of Jesus' return

We pray today that our kids see these in us and choose to live them out.



Read | [Hebrews 10:22-25](#)



Reflect | Pray this scripture-based prayer for your kids, grandkids, the kids of Five Oaks, or other kids in your life:

Father God, as I confidently draw near to you, my sincere prayer is that the hope that I possess because of Jesus' death and resurrection will be reflected in the way I live. I pray that the kids who I encounter each day will see that I am living a joyful and love-filled life of dependence on you. I pray, Lord, that my kids will establish habits of confidently approaching you through prayer and scripture reading. I pray that those habits will allow my kids to hold fast to you and have hope because of you, in the good times and the bad. I pray the lives of my kids will draw others to you Jesus; and I pray that when that happens, my kids will recognize it and support and encourage those who respond. Jesus, I pray that my kids will connect themselves to a community of believers in you—a community that encourages and energizes them to greater levels of dependence on you and greater levels of service in your name. Finally, I pray that you will fill my kids with hope and excitement for your final return to this earth when you will establish your eternal kingdom. I pray that hope and excitement will overflow into their actions and words and that others will be drawn to you because of it. Amen.

Day 4
July 23



Pray / Give God praise for his incomprehensible greatness

Don't ever underestimate God; he is greater than you can possibly imagine.

It's not uncommon to hear kids ask the very profound question, "How big is God?" In reality, that's a question we end up asking, in various forms, throughout our whole lives. With very little kids, you might be able to satisfy the question with a "Sooooo big" and spread your hands really wide; but as we grow older, that answer gets less and less satisfying. As we grow older, the challenges and complexities of living a life for Jesus in this fallen world increase and the need for a better answer to "How Big is God?" becomes absolutely critical. Until Jesus returns and establishes his kingdom here on earth, our answer to that question will always be incomplete. But God, through his word and creation, has given us more than enough detail to assure us that he is "Big Enough" to be worthy of our praise, worship, and confidence.



Read | Isaiah 40:28-31



Pray this scripture-based for your kids, grandkids, the kids of Five Oaks, or other kids in your life:

Father in heaven, I thank you for continuing to reveal yourself to me through the Bible and the beauty and majesty of your creation. I pray today that you would also reveal yourself to the kids that you have placed in my life. Unless you open their eyes, they will never understand the reality of your greatness and be willing to entrust their lives to you. I pray that they would read the Bible and see your creation and recognize that the creation could only have come from the hand of you, the almighty God. I pray that their minds will recognize the reality that you are so great, that you can hear and respond to their prayers and the prayers of billions of other people on this planet all at the same time. I pray that they will embrace this reality even though they really cannot comprehend it. I pray that every time my kids need strength or are lacking confidence, that they will go to you first, as you have promised to give power to the faint and increase the strength of those who have none. I pray that after asking you for what they need, they will have the faith to be patient and wait on you, Lord, for what they need, and be confident that you will provide at the right time. I pray, Father, that they will experience renewal from you regularly; that they will soar like they have the wings of eagles and that they will be able to endure when needed; running and not growing weary; walking and not growing faint. Amen.

Day 5

July 24



Pray | Praise God for the power of his enduring word, the Bible

The Bible tells the story of God—the source of everything we need for a life of meaning here on earth.

Throughout history, stories have played an important role in the lives of all humans. It's through stories that we learn about history, our family, traditions, great discoveries, tragic events, and so much more. Stories are particularly impactful for kids as they are growing—shaping their hearts and minds in ways that can last a lifetime. As followers of Jesus Christ, we know the most important and impactful story for kids to hear and embrace is the story of God as told in the Bible. That story allows our kids to put all the other stories they hear in the proper context, which is why it's so important that they hear the story of God early and often. We pray today that God will fill the hearts and minds of our kids with a delight for his story.



Read | Psalm 19:7-12



Reflect | Pray this scripture-based for your kids, grandkids, the kids of Five Oaks, or other kids in your life:

Father God, thank you for your words of wisdom, instruction, and promise given to us in the Bible. Today I pray for the kids that you have put into my life. I pray that you would fill them with a love and appreciation for your story; a love and appreciation greater than they have for any other story. I pray that they would recognize and acknowledge that your words are perfect, and that each time they read your words, they would find new meaning and encouragement for the circumstances they are in. I pray that when they are faced with difficult choices, they would recall that your instructions are just what they need despite the enticements of the world around them; and when they make the right choice, based on your word, Father, I pray that you would help them see the wisdom in their choice and give them joy, even though it may hurt for a time. I pray, Lord, that my kids would have eyes to see that your ways are pure and clean and more desirable than any toy, phone, friend, paycheck, or car that the world can offer. Please give my kids an other-worldly, eternal perspective, an anticipation for your final return, and a desire for their ultimate reward that trumps their desire for things of this world. Please fill my kids with your spirit so they can truly be salt and light in this world. Amen.

Day 6

July 25



Pray | Ask God for the ability to see all people as he sees them

Followers of Jesus should be the first to say, “We can all get along!” and then live every moment to make that happen.

In the age of coronavirus and George Floyd, the words of Titus 3:1-2 are particularly convicting and amazingly clear. As followers of Jesus, we are called to model obedience and respect for authority and be primed and ready to do every good work that God puts before us. Our interactions with all people need to be filled with gentleness, perfect courtesy, and meekness. Yes, that’s ALL PEOPLE, regardless of their behavior, beliefs, or inclination to reciprocate. This is one way we take up our cross and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Charles F. Stanley, in his Life Principles Bible Notes on Titus 3:2, paints a picture of this calling with these words, “*The way of the cross is the way of potent tenderness*”. Today we pray that our kids will see these words lived out in our lives and that they will practice this calling in their lives.



Read | Titus 3:1-2



Reflect | Pray this scripture-based for your kids, grandkids, the kids of Five Oaks, or other kids in your life:

Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to this world to live the life of a human, teaching and modeling the behaviors that you call me, as your child, to live in my life. I pray, Father, that the kids that you’ve put in my life will see the behaviors of Jesus on display in my life. I pray they would be drawn to seek out your words and instructions in the Bible and that they would see how important it is to respect the earthly authorities that you have put in place. Through the power of your Spirit, I pray they would be able see all people as you see them, Lord, and always be ready to serve those in need and to do whatever is good. Father, I pray that my kids would never tell lies about people—an action that both hurts those people and brings dishonor to your holy name. I pray that my kids would make every effort to live at peace with all people, treating them with gentleness and with the consideration due all human beings who are created in your image. Lord, none of this is easy. Living a life of distinction in this manner can be painful and is truly an act of taking up their cross and following their Lord Jesus. Please give my kids the will and the strength to be obedient in this manner. Amen.

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