

Family Prayer Log

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:

The family sits together and discusses what it wants to pray. Each member of the family makes suggestions for prayers. As the suggestions are made, each suggestion is written in the Family Prayer Log. After all the suggestions are made and written, the prayers are brought before the Father.

HOW DISCUSSING THE PRAYER HELPS:

Discussing the prayers in advance gives the family an opportunity to come to an agreement as to what it wants to pray. This keeps the family from praying at crosspurposes. It also carries out what Jesus said:

“If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 18:19 KJV

Discussing prayers also helps take the strain out of family relationships. When the problems and aspirations of the family are discussed in an atmosphere of prayer, no one feels threatened. Each one feels that the other members of the family are on his or her side. This helps each one to feel good about the family.

HOW RECORDING THE PRAYERS HELPS:

Writing the prayers helps in two ways:

1. It helps the person that speaks the prayers to remember all the suggestions.
2. It also provides a record of the requests.

As a result, members of the family can come back to the Family Prayer Log, at a later date, and read what the family prayed. It may then come as a surprise how many of the requests have been granted. When the evidence for answers to prayer is seen, faith in God is strengthened.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

HAVE THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY SIT TOGETHER.

They can sit in the living room, dining room, or wherever they feel comfortable.

HAVE THE FAMILY SUGGEST THINGS TO PRAY ABOUT.

Let the husband take the lead in the discussion and let all of the members of the family make suggestions. It will be

good if the suggestions are made as specific as possible. Don't pray only in generalities.

WRITE THE SUGGESTIONS IN THE PRAYER LOG AS THEY ARE MADE.

Write the suggestions in whole sentences, not just in words and phrases. Write the sentences as legibly as possible.

HAVE ONE OF THE MEN LEAD IN PRAYER.

The husband is the natural one to speak the prayers. Let the others listen and say "Amen." If there is a long list of things to pray about, other men, or boys, of the family might want to help with part of the praying.

WRITE THE DATE, PLACE, AND THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE PRESENT.

HOLD PRAYER SESSIONS REGULARLY.

It might be good to have prayer sessions often. When friends drop by for a visit, bring out the Family Prayer Log and invite them to pray with you.

EXPLANATION OF THE PRAYER SHEET:

You will notice that the prayer sheets already have certain words on them. They are,

“Our Father in Heaven”

This reminds you that prayer should be directed to God. Jesus said:

*“After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven...”*

Matthew 6:9 KJV

At the bottom of the prayer sheet you will find the words, “In Jesus Name!” This is to remind you that prayer should be brought before the Father in Jesus name. Jesus said:

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Whatsoever ye shall
ask the Father in my name,
he will give it to you.”*

John 16:23 KJV

A prayer has four basic parts: Thanks, Praise, Confession, and Requests. It’s not good only to ask for things and not to say “Thanks.” The apostle Paul wrote,

*“Be careful for nothing:
but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known unto God.”*

Philippians 4:6 KJV

1. Don't ignore the goodness and majesty of God. And don't forget to praise Him.
2. Remember to pray widely, not only for a few people. The Apostle Paul exhorted to pray "for all men." He wrote:

*"I exhort therefore, that, first of all,
supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and giving of thanks, be made for all men."*

1 Timothy 2:1 KJV

You will find other Suggestions for Successful Praying at the back of this book. We hope that your Family Prayer Log will be a blessing to you.

Richard & Elaine Walker

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL PRAYING

1. YOU NEED TO ASK!

GOD wants you to ask for things. The process of asking teaches you that you are not self-sufficient, but that you are dependent upon God. Jesus said:

*“And I say unto you,
Ask, and it shall be given you;
seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
For every one that asketh receiveth;
and he that seeketh findeth;
and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”*

Luke 11:9-10 KJV

Even physical and material things can be asked for, as long as you intend to use them properly. Nothing is too small to talk to God about. Anything that concerns you concerns Him. The reason why people sometimes do not receive the things they desire, is that they do not ask God for them. James wrote:

“Ye have not, because ye ask not.”

James 4:3 KJV

It is important to realize, however, that your motives in asking must be right. If your motives are wrong, God will not likely grant your request.

*“Ye ask, and receive not,
because ye ask amiss,
that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”*

James 4:3 KJV

God knows what you need, even before you ask. Yet He still wants you to ask. He wants you to ask, however, only for things that are truly good.

2. YOU MAY ASK OFTEN!

Jesus told a story about a widow who wanted a certain judge to punish her enemy; but the judge would not. So she kept going back to the judge until he finally did what the widow asked. The reason the judge did what the widow asked was because she was disturbing him. God, of course, is not disturbed by our prayers.

With regards to this story, Luke made this comment:

*“And he [Jesus] spake a parable
unto them to this end,
that men ought always to pray,
and not to faint.”*

Luke 18:1 KJV

Jesus himself did a lot of praying. He also taught his disciples to pray. Also, early Christians prayed a lot.

The Apostle Paul was a man of prayer. In many of his letters, Paul mentioned that he was praying for the people to whom he was writing. He also taught that God's people should pray. He wrote that they should:

“Pray without ceasing.”

Philippians 4:6 KJV

The Apostle Paul wanted people to pray rather than to worry. He wrote:

*“Be careful for nothing;
but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known unto God.”*

Philippians 4:6 KJV

If you pray more, you will worry less!

3. DON'T MAKE A PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF YOUR PRAYERS!

In Jesus' day, there were people who loved to pray in the synagogues and on the corners of the street. They did this so that people would see them. Jesus said that they would get no reward, other than being seen by people. He taught his disciples:

*“But thou, when thou prayest,
enter into thy closet,
and when thou hast shut the door,
pray to thy Father which is in secret;
and thy Father which seeth in secret
shall reward thee openly.”*

Matthew 6:6 KJV

Prayer is not for show. It is private communication with God. Much of the praying that a person does should be done in secret.

This does not mean, however, that it is wrong to pray in groups. Jesus said:

*“Again I say unto you,
That if two of you shall agree on earth
as touching any thing that they shall ask
it shall be done for them
of my Father which is in heaven.
For where two or three
are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.”*

Matthew 18:19-20 KJV

There was a group of people in Jerusalem, which was praying for the Apostle Peter while he was in prison. The church prayed for him without ceasing.

Further, the Apostles prayed as they were choosing a replacement for Judas. They also prayed as they selected seven men to look after the Grecian widows belonging to the church in Jerusalem. In addition, Paul and Barnabas prayed and fasted when they appointed Elders in Lystra, Iconium, and Derbe.

Paul prayed with the Elders from Ephesus, when he met them on his third mission journey. Paul also knelt down on the seashore and prayed when he said ‘goodbye’ to the brethren at Tyre.

So there is a place for praying, both as groups and as individuals. Praying as a family is very important, but it is no substitute for praying privately.

4. DON'T TALK NONSENSE IN YOUR PRAYERS!

God is an intelligent Being. He is far more intelligent than any human being. He wants you to communicate with Him on an intelligent level.

Jesus taught that Prayer should not consist of needless repetition. It should make sense. He said:

*“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions,
as the heathen do:
for they think that they shall be heard
for their much speaking.”*

Matthew 6:7 KJV

The heathen used all kinds of fancy words and formulas in Jesus' day. They do the same today. They repeat words and phrases over and over, sometimes without thinking what they are saying. This is not the way God wants you to pray.

In prayer you are to hold a conversation with your Father. Your words are not magic formulas that “manipulate” God. They have no magic power over Him. Yet He can be moved, like any father, by the heart-felt pleadings of His children.

5. FORGIVE OTHERS, IF YOU WANT GOD TO FORGIVE YOU!

One of God's attributes is fairness. He treats all people fairly. He shows no partiality. It would be unfair of God to forgive you, if you do not forgive others. Jesus said:

*“For if ye forgive men their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
But if ye forgive not men their trespasses,
neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

Matthew 6:14-15 KJV

Now, if you have trouble getting yourself to forgive a person that has done something wrong to you, pray about it. Perhaps, God will help you to forgive that person.

6. PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

At the bottom of each of the prayer sheets in this book you will find the words: “IN JESUS’ NAME.” These words are put there so you will remember to pray “in Jesus’ name.” This is something that Jesus himself said that you should do. He said,

*“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name,
that will I do, that the Father
may be glorified in the Son.
If ye shall ask any thing in my name,
I will do it.”*

John 14:13-14 KJV

God wants you to ask for things; but He also wants you to ask “in Jesus’ name.” He wants you to ask “in Jesus’ name” so that all people will know that Jesus is God’s Son. He also wants people to know that they have access to God through Jesus. Jesus said:

*“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name;
ask, and ye shall receive,
that your joy may be full.”*

John 16:24 KJV

7. LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS SAID IF YOU WANT GOD TO LISTEN TO YOU (IN PRAYER)!

Here is a promise that Jesus made:

*“If ye abide in me,
and my words abide in you,
ye shall ask what ye will,
and it shall be done unto you.”*

John 15:7 KJV

Jesus said that His words must “abide in you.” What did He mean? How do His words “abide in you?” You can be sure that Jesus’ words “abide in you” when you do two things:

1. If you read his words so much that you know them almost (or entirely) by memory, His words “abide in you.”
2. When you are trying to follow what Jesus taught, and are doing this every day, His words “abide in you.”

If you do both of these things, God is pleased with you. It shows that you respect what God had to say through His son, Jesus. If you respect what God said, He will also respect what you say (in prayer). The apostle John wrote,

*“And whatsoever we ask,
we receive of him,
because we keep his commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”*

1 John 3:22 KJV

However, if you go your own way, paying no attention to what God has said through Jesus, God is displeased. It is a lack of courtesy (or worse) on your part. He will treat you the same way you treat His Son. If you ignore Jesus, God will ignore you and will not feel obligated to grant your requests.

8. YOU MUST BE “IN CHRIST” BEFORE GOD IS OBLIGATED TO DO WHAT YOU PRAY FOR!

It is difficult to predict what God will, or will not, do. There is always a chance, of course, that God will answer your prayers if you are not in Christ; but here's the difference: God has not OBLIGATED Himself to answer your prayers if you are not in Christ. Whereas the person that is in Christ has a promise from God that He will answer his prayers. Jesus said:

*“If ye abide in me,
and my words abide in you,
ye shall ask what ye will,
and it shall be done unto you.”*

John 15:17 KJV

To “abide” in Christ means to be in Christ. Before you can be in Christ, however, you have to get into Christ. How do you get into Christ? Do you get into Christ by your good deeds? Do you get into Christ by your prayers? Do you get into Christ by your faith? Here is what the Bible says:

*“For as many of you as have been
baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*

Galatians 3:27 KJV

You can’t be in Christ and not be dead to the world. It is in baptism that you die to the world and are made alive to God:

*“Therefore we are buried with him
by baptism into death:
that like as Christ was raised up
from the dead by the glory of the Father
even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

Romans 6:4 KJV

9. YOU MUST BE LIVING RIGHT, BEFORE GOD WILL HEAR YOUR PRAYERS!

In one sense, God sees and hears everything; but you want Him to “hear” you in a special sense. That is, you want Him to *grant* your requests.

God wants to grant your requests, but He will not do so, unless you are living as He wants you to live. The holy Scriptures say:

*“For the eyes of the Lord
are over the righteous,
and his ears are open unto their prayers:
but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”*

1 Peter 3:12 KJV

In this passage, God is pictured as a great King, sitting on a throne. A person comes before Him. The question is, will the King receive that person? If the King looks at the person, this shows that He will receive him; but if the king turns his face away, this shows that the person is rejected. The scriptures say:

*“Confess your faults one to another,
and pray one for another
that ye may be healed.
The effectual fervent prayer
of a righteous man availeth much.”*

James 5:16 KJV

If you are living in the way that God wants you to live, your prayers will be heard in Heaven. If you are not, you will have no access to the Throne of Grace. You need to bring your life in order so that your prayers will be heard in Heaven. The apostle John said,

*“And whatsoever we ask,
we receive of him,
because we keep his commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”*

1 John 3:22 KJV

10. ASK ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL!

You might think that asking for the things that God wants makes praying less interesting than asking for what you yourself want; but this is not the case. Praying according to God’s will makes praying more interesting; for when you pray what God wants, you enter into God’s work and become His partner.

It is not difficult to learn what God wants. All you have to do is to read the Bible. Praying and reading the Bible go hand-in-hand. Reading the Bible teaches you what you ought to pray.

As you grow in the ability to pray what God wants, the percentage of your prayers that are answered will increase. The Apostle John wrote:

*“And this is the confidence that we have in him,
that if we ask any thing according to his will,
he heareth us:*

*And if we know that he hears us,
whatsoever we ask we know that
we have the petitions that we desired of him. ”*

1 John 5:14-15 KJV

Praying becomes exciting when we see that God is granting our requests. When He gives us what we pray for, He is saying, in effect, “You prayed well!”

You should always leave the possibility open, however, that what you asked for may not be good. It may have appeared to be good at the time you asked, but God knows what is best. Therefore, you should pray that God’s will might be done, in preference to your own. Jesus prayed this way. He said:

*“O my Father, if it be possible,
let this cup pass from me:
nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. ”*

Matthew 26:39 KJV

11. ASK IN FAITH

God delights to answer your requests. He also wants you to believe that He will act on your behalf. That is why He wants you to ask in faith. The Scriptures say:

*“If any of you lack wisdom,
let him ask of God,
that giveth to all men liberally,
and upbraideth not;
and it shall be given him.*

*But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.
For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea
driven with the wind and tossed.
For let not that man think
that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”*

James 1:5-7 KJV

God wants you to have confidence in Him. He wants you to know that He will say “yes” if your requests are for the best and if they are prayed according to the Scriptures. Indeed, God wants you to *expect* a “yes.” The apostle John said,

*“And this is the confidence that we have in him,
that, if we ask any thing according to his will,
he heareth us;
And if we know that he hears us,
whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions
that we desired of him.”*

1 John 5:14-15 KJV

12. CONFESS YOUR SINS TO GOD AND ASK FOR FORGIVENESS!

God knows everything you do. He is aware of your sins. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for you to come before Him and to act as though you had not sinned. Rather, you should confess your sins to God. That is what David did. He said:

*“I acknowledged my sin unto thee,
and mine iniquity have I not hid.
I said, I will confess my transgressions
unto the LORD; and thou
forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”*

Psalm 32:5 KJV

One of the great privileges of being in the family of God is that you can confess your sins to God with confidence that He will forgive you.

*“If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

1 John 1:9 KJV

This is a privilege that is reserved for God’s spiritual family. If you are just starting out, and are not in the family of God as yet, here are Scriptures that apply to you. You should:

BELIEVE IN CHRIST AS GOD’S MESSIAH (KING).

*“To him give all the prophets witness,
that through his name whosoever
believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”*

Acts 10:43 KJV

REPENT OF THE SINS YOU HAVE DONE AND TURN FROM THEM.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted,

*that your sins may be blotted out,
when the times of refreshing
shall come from the presence of the Lord.”*

Acts 3:19 KJV

CONFESS YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST.

*“That if thou shalt confess
with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
and shalt believe in thine heart
that God hath raised him from the dead,
thou shalt be saved.*

*For with the heart man
believeth unto righteousness;
and with the mouth confession is made
unto salvation.”*

Romans 10:9-10 KJV

BE BAPTIZED FOR THE REMISSION OF YOUR SINS.

*“Then Peter said unto them,
Repent, and be baptized every one of you
in the name of Jesus Christ
for the remission of sins,
and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

Acts 2:38 KJV

After you have done these things, you will be “in Christ.”
Baptism is the final act that puts you into Christ.

“For as many of you as have been

baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ”
Galatians 3:27 KJV

When you are in Christ, all spiritual blessings are yours.

*“Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us
with all spiritual blessings
in heavenly places in Christ. ”*

Ephesians 1:3 KJV

Once you are in Christ, you still need to repent and pray,
if you sin.

*“Repent therefore of this thy wickedness,
and pray God,
if perhaps the thought of thine heart
may be forgiven thee. ”*

Acts 8:22 KJV

SUGGESTIONS FOR DOWNLOADING THE “FAMILY PRAYER LOG”

1. Download all the pages.
2. Put all the pages in plastic sheet protectors, except page number five, the Prayer Sheet.
3. Make multiple copies of the Prayer Sheet.
4. With a 3-hole punch make holes in the copies of the Prayer Sheet.
5. Put all the pages and sheets in a 3-hole binder.
6. Add copies of the Prayer Sheet as needed.

DATE: _____

PEOPLE PRESENT:

PLACE: _____

“Our Father in heaven,

In Jesus' name, Amen!"