



CREATIVE & FUN FAMILY PRAYERS

SON'S LIGHT – Wake the kids before sunrise and pile them into the car, bundled under cozy blankets. Drive to a convenient or scenic vantage point and wait for the sun to rise over the horizon. As you contemplate the cold, dark scene, ask your kids to think about what life would be like if Jesus hadn't come – a life with no hope and no assurance of God's love. Pray and thank Jesus for all the different blessings you thought of. You may wish to supplement your children's ideas by reading aloud some of the reasons Jesus gave for coming to earth. Some relevant verses are John 6:38-40; John 10:10; John 16:7,13; John 14:2-3; John 14:12-14; John 12:44-46.

PRAYERS BY FLASHLIGHT – In the evening, make prayers before bed special by huddling together under a "prayer tent." Sit side-by-side on your child's bed and throw a spare sheet over top of you both to create your prayer tent, then pray together by flashlight. For some good Scripture verses to pray through in your prayer tent, check out Psalm 139.

SHARING THE MOMENT – "Share the moment" prayers help kids remember that Jesus is with them every minute of the day. Just before you experience something special and wonderful, take a moment to invite Jesus to share the experience with you. For example, at the top of the toboggan run, you might pray, Be with us, Lord, and share this cool sled ride right along with us. We're so grateful that You created this for us to enjoy!

SHARING INTERESTS – Reassure your child that Jesus wants to hear about anything that's on their mind. Simply invite them to pray by saying, God loves to hear about the things that you love. Would you like to talk to Him about trucks today? To get their ideas flowing, you might first wish to read a book about your child's favorite subject, then tell Jesus some of the things you learned.

HAND STACK – To help little ones stay focused during family prayer, have one person place their hand in the middle of the table, then have everyone else in the family place one hand on top to create a "stack" of hands. The person whose hand is at the base of the stack goes first, praying a single sentence prayer as they pull out their hand out and place it on top of the "hand stack." Then, the next person, whose hand is now on the bottom, prays as they pull their hand out and place it on top of the stack. When you sense it is time to stop, the adult (whose hand is on the bottom) raises up the pile of hands. That's the signal for everyone to say "Amen!" and high five the person next to them.



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CENTER OF ATTENTION – Choose a specific day of the week to pray for one person in the family, then pray together at the dinner table after your evening meal. For example, on Mondays you might pray specific blessings for Dad; on Tuesdays, for your eldest child; on Wednesdays, for the next eldest, etc. Your child is sure to listen intently to hear what you pray for them! In the process, they'll learn how to pray for others. Building this habit can be helpful in the teen years when your child may be reluctant to make their prayer needs known.

EGG TIMER PRAYERS – This is a prayer with a challenge! Set an egg timer for a minute or two, then pray for one particular person. See how many different blessings you can pray over that person before the egg timer beeps.

FACEBOOK FAVORITES – This is similar to the newspaper prayer. Have each of your older children check recent Facebook posts from friends and contacts in full-time missions work. Pray together over the prayer requests you discover.

PRAYER DECK – Prepare a small stack of cards with each card displaying the photo of someone you pray for regularly. Each night after supper, shuffle the cards and deal one or more cards to each member of your family. Take turns praying for the people featured on the cards you receive.

SILENT PRAYER – To introduce the concept of a “silent prayer,” deliberately interrupt your child several times during a conversation. Then explain that sometimes we can talk too much during prayer and interrupt Jesus when He is trying to tell us something. Add a time of waiting and listening at the end of a prayer of praise, or after praying through Scripture.