

# Teaching Children to Pray God's Word

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Children have wonderfully quick minds, and readily memorize Scripture, as evidenced by the vast numbers of verses they learn in Bible studies, Christian schools, and programs like AWANA. Such verses usually stay with them well into their adult years tucked away not only in their memory, but in their hearts as well.

Given the opportunity, even the young children are often eager to pray early in life. Most of us would agree there are few things more precious than the sight of a child in prayer. Most children learn to pray by saying simple prayers something like, "God, bless Mommy and Daddy, Jason, Taylor...." But they are capable of more! As parents and grandparents, we can teach them to begin at the youngest age to pray significant prayers from God's Word. Why not teach them to take the key thoughts from the Scriptures they are learning and turn them into prayers for the people for whom they typically pray?

Help \_\_\_\_ to pray all the time. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Help \_\_\_\_ to have faith. (Hebrews 11:6)

Help \_\_\_\_ to be strong in the Lord. (Ephesians 6:10)

Help \_\_\_\_ to love You with all his/her heart. (Matthew 22:37)

May \_\_\_\_ be thankful. (Ephesians 5:20)

Help \_\_\_\_ to be kind and good. (Galatians 5:22)

As the children get older and you introduce family prayer time, try copying favorite verses on index cards. Each week, let everyone in the family select a different card to pray for the others. You'll be launching a lifetime of praying God's Word.