



➔ EFFECTIVE PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

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As adults, we continue to learn how to pray; and as we prepare to pray with children, we will influence them to become children who pray. Remember the words of Jesus in Mark 10:15, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." Children can pray because they believe God and believe what you teach them. What a powerful investment of your time and efforts to pray with children and model prayer for them at church and in the home.

Strategic Approaches to Prayer with Children:

First and foremost, praying with children begins at salvation; not only praying for, but making children a vital part of the prayer. Make sure they understand that God loves them and listens when they pray, and that God responds to their prayers. Guide them in prayer as they repeat after you. Then ask them to express simple words of thanks to Jesus for dying on the cross and for forgiveness of their sins (wrong things they have done). Boys and girls delight in being expressive.

Lead children in prayer asking forgiveness. Taking a short amount of time for each one to name a wrong thing (as talking back to parents, lying, or acting bad). When children can write, you could have them write a note to Jesus asking Him to forgive them for a particular sin, and place in a bag. Have a child pray a prayer asking forgiveness. Then throw the bag in the wastebasket.

Praying with children to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Receiving this great gift should not be a mystical or unreal experience, but rather, the Holy Spirit becoming their Helper to live, pray and serve their Lord. What a blessed experience over the years to teach children the simplicity of receiving his empowering gift and then praying with them! In the group when one child receives, take that child to pray with another child and so on. It is a real eye opener to see how children respond and pray one for the other, and how God hears and answers their prayers.

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Seven things a child must know to build their personal prayer life:

God desires our praise and adoration.
God can do all things.

God is everywhere, and you can pray at all times.

God listens, understands and answers prayer.

God wants us to ask for all our needs and desires.

God wants us to pray for others.

God always answers prayer. Even if the answer is wait, or.

Use a Variety of Methods to Introduce Children to Prayer:

1. With very small children use a telephone and help them have a conversation of prayer with God. They have a vivid imagination and you can teach them to listen to what God is telling them in their heart.
2. Use the Scriptures in prayer and Bible stories. Children who struggle with forgiveness or getting even might pray, "Dear Lord help me not to do wrong to those who have treated me bad. Help me to pay back good for wrong" | Thessalonians 5:15.

NEW THIS FALL!



Holy Spirit Discovery for Kids

What it is:

Everything you need to introduce children to the fullness of the Holy Spirit in one place, on-line, and it's all free, starting September 2005 at <http://ce.foursquare.org>!

Benefits:

- Foursquare Doctrine especially for kids
- Developed by Foursquare Children's Pastors
- Field-Tested In Foursquare Churches
- Excellent for Use at Church, Home, or in School
- Easy to Use On-Line Navigation
- Downloadable PDF Files

Includes:

- Seven Complete Lesson Plans
- Teaching Activities
- Interest-Sparking Games and Crafts
- Skits and Puppet Scripts
- Tips for Introducing Kids to the Fullness of the Holy Spirit
- Devotional Helps for Parents and Teachers
- Practical Ministry Resource Links



3. Prayer using visuals – When praying for Missionaries, dress in native costume or interact with a puppet dressed as someone from the country you are praying for. Allow the character to share about their need and then have children pray for the request.

Pray with children realistically, specifically, and with faith. Pray with children and encourage them to pray, always remembering their great spiritual capacity to know and respond to God and to put into action what they are taught by their leaders and the Word of God.

For 27 years, Sheila Ransford served as a Foursquare Missionary in Chile focusing primarily on leadership development throughout that country. Since 2003, she has worked with Foursquare Missions Press, coordinating literature distribution to Latin America.