

Prayer Cup or Jar

A beautiful quote from Corrie ten Boom is “Jesus was a member of the Ten Boom family. It was just as easy to talk to him as with my mother or father, aunts or brothers and sisters. He was just there.” Would that every child in the world was born into such a family. Would that your family do it’s best to create such a family.

A sound first step, something any parent can do is prayer cups. Set out a Styrofoam cup for each child in the family and one for each adult. On one side of each cup write “From Me to Jesus”. On the other write “From Jesus to me.”. The point is that every prayer we pray has two sides...first we talk to God then we listen. No prayer is finished until a child definitely and clearly hears from God. As each child writes his prayer on a slip of paper explain that Amen is not the end of the prayer it is the beginning. Share with the child what hearing God’s voice, the Holy Spirit, is like for you.

After putting his prayer in the cup the child prays it each day until it is answered. Only he or she will know when that is. If a child needs help ask who *they would like to pray with*. It may be friends from his Sunday School class, a parent/grandparent or everyone in your church. No matter how long it takes or how many people must get involved it is very important that a child’s first prayer is answered and that he knows it was answered and that he knows it was God. Without at least one personal experience with answered prayer why should any child believe?

It is our prayer that every home and Sunday School Class in the Country has a shelf lined with prayer cups, one for each child and one for the leader and that we all stick with our prayers until we get the answer. We pray further that parents and youth leaders will use the prayer jar with older children and teens. To allow 18 year old’s to leave a family or a church without getting at least one prayer answered personally by God makes us guilty of not teaching the most important life lesson of all: “God is real and he wants to be PERSONAL.”

Authors note for leaders and parents: We all love the prayers with answers that reveal God’s mighty hand in visible and miraculous ways. Most prayers however are more likely to move God’s spirit than his hand...to bring us comfort and encouragement rather than a new bicycle. A good way to help a child move prayer toward the spiritual is to ask WHY he prayed what he did. Usually the answer will be an emotion: hurt, anger, fear, loneliness, guilt etc. Asking God to help with the emotion opens the door to the realm of the invisible and a new way of connecting with Him. May you be blessed as you witness to this next generation God’s faithfulness in answering our every prayer and helping them learn to recognize his spirit speaking to theirs.

PS. A more permanent prayer jar can be made from a plastic peanut butter jar. Use mailing labels to mark one side “From Me to Jesus” and the other side “From Jesus to Me.”