

Seven Questions that could Help your Child's Prayer Life.

Pick a week and ask one question a day.

- 1. DO YOU PRAY ABOUT YOUR DOUBTS?** Do you doubt God is real? Do you doubt creation? Do you doubt invisible things like the Holy Spirit? Do you doubt God loves you? Pray about each doubt. Pray as long as it takes with as many people as it takes and then trust each doubt to God. Laying your doubts to rest will make prayer a joy...the heart of your relationship with God. James 1:5
- 2. WHEN YOU PRAY DO YOU QUIT HALFWAY THROUGH?** There are two parts to prayer. The first part is where we talk and God listens, and the second part where God talks and we listen. Don't skip the second part...it is the important part. *“Please Father help me to really listen for your voice...the Holy Spirit answering every prayer I pray, guiding me to pray thy will not my will... helping me trust that if I am faithful to believe your answer will surely come...Amen. Romans 8:26*
- 3. DO YOU PRAY BEFORE OR AFTER...**before you sin...before you get hurt...or after? Everybody prays when they are in trouble...Daniel in the Lion's Den, Joseph when his brothers threw him in a pit, Jonah when he got eaten by a whale. Jesus way of praying was BIGGER. He taught us to pray before we get into trouble, prayers like “give us this day our daily bread” and “Lead us not into Temptation”. Have you ever prayed in the morning maybe before you got out of bed. Try making a prayer bracelet out of a leather shoelace or piece of yarn. After you have made or bought a bracelet put it on a Bible by your bed then the next morning pray before you get out of bed, then after the prayer time put it on. A few good morning prayers are: for guidance, for safety, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. You might pray also for grace to love those who are not easy to love. In the evening as you remove the prayer bracelet and put it back on your Bible you might pray about your feelings, the problems of the day, and especially for forgiveness of sins, both those you know about and those you do not. Luke 22:40
- 4. DO YOU HAVE ANY PRAYER PARTNERS?** You should make a list of at least three people with whom you pray once a week...even if it is on the phone for just two minutes. Write their names in the blanks. (Include at least one old person...someone 40 or over.) A person who doesn't pray with others seldom prays by him/her self.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- 5. ARE YOU ASKING OR TELLING?** God wants us to ask for the things we need, comfort, forgiveness, guidance, peace, instruction. Asking God for these things is a very good habit. Demanding things of God is almost always proud or selfish or both. God has promised

to answer even those prayers...not by giving us what we demand...but by working in our lives to help us see what is most important.

6. HAVE YOU READ THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL? You can't pray rightly without Bible verses and you can't understand the Bible without prayer. Prayer and scripture go together like water and swimming...you can't swim well without water and you can't pray well without Holy Scripture.

7. DO YOU PRAY ABOUT THE FUTURE, WHAT YOU WILL DO... today... for the rest of your life? Many of us DRIFT through life. Drifting is not Christian. *Real Christians have two legs, praying and doing.* Don't hop around on one leg. PRAY first... then DO. PRAY in the morning, PRAY about your doubts, PRAY to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit...PRAY about your feelings, PRAY about your sins, PRAY about scripture, PRAY for God to take charge of your life. Then your doing will be guided by your praying. A **HABIT** of praying will make you one who changes the world-the world near you-and the world far away. **Don't hop around on one leg. Don't Drift. Pray!**

Authors Note: If you or someone you know has thoughts about teaching children the value of a prayer **HABIT**...something you would like to share... our very small group of day care providers would be happy to add it to a website we have maintained for nearly 30 years www.teachustoprayer.com.

One last thought...we have all heard it for years but the Family that prays together really does stay together. May God bless you and yours as you make prayer the one HABIT your family can't do without.