

Prayer Jar

Take home sheet for parents

Childhood memories are precious and can last a lifetime, memories like learning to read or to ride a bicycle. One of those memories should be learning to pray. A great way to get started is a prayer jar, a small project to help our children stick with at least one prayer until it is answered. It is the one thing most likely to connect your child to a church for the rest of his life.

Making the prayer jar itself is simple. Plastic peanut butter jars are probably safest and easiest to find. For the jar to work *you should make one for each child and one for yourself.* Using a gummed label and magic marker label one side of each jar: “From me to Jesus” and the other side “From Jesus to Me.” This teaches a child the **two** most important parts of prayer: “God listens and **then He Answers.**” Help your child (each child) write a one sentence prayer and put it in the jar. Then he/she prays the prayer each day until it is answered. Only the child will know when that is. If he needs help ask who *he 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 very important that the child’s 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 he/she believe?

It is my prayer that every home and Sunday School Class in the Country has a shelf lined with prayer jars, one for each child and one for the leader and that we all stick with our prayers until we get the answer. We pray that our website (www.teachustoprayer.com) offers real help in completing the process, especially the prayer mechanics checklist. 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 the rewarder of those who seek him”.

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, shame, guilt etc. Asking God to help with the emotion opens the door to the realm of the invisible and a new way of looking at God. May you be blessed as you witness to this next generation God’s faithfulness in answering every prayer you ever prayed.



Project Pray 2010

Our message is not getting out. People are not forwarding our slide show to other churches and young families. Could you be one of those who does forward our slideshow? We have worked on it very hard and would appreciate your help.

Personal Prayer for myself, Charles White: Hope you might pray for my lungs. I have had problems with them since early childhood. Most recently I seem not to be recovering from a bout with swine flu last August. Both my Doctor and his P.A. said my lungs sound OK to them but did not want to take another xray as I was overexposed to xrays as a child (way overexposed because of an experimental treatment). The cough is getting worse and I am getting quite concerned...hope you/your church might pray?

The second problem is my left knee which I seriously injured nearly 50 years ago. Before Christmas the pain at night was so bad I was unable to sleep. A cortisone shot has helped with that problem but our small group has a lot of things to accomplish this year and I would like to put off a knee replacement as long as possible. Hope your church might pray?

Could your church continue to pray for my Mother Dorothy: That her faith be strengthened, that she is able to sleep at night and that she find as much joy as possible in each day. She has something of a heart problem and misses my dad very much. All of this combined with the terrible weather is getting her down.

In His Service and Yours:
(Thank you for praying)

J. Charles White
Project Facilitator