

Article 03 – For Parents

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Teaching Your Child to Pray

One of the most life-giving, eternal gifts you can give your child is not just how to make a bed, solve a math problem, or say “please” and “thank you.” It’s teaching them **how to pray**, how to speak to the God who hears them, loves them, and walks with them through every season of life.

Prayer is not just for adults. Children are not too young to hear God’s voice, to feel His presence, or to cry out to Him in their own words. In fact, Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”* (Matthew 19:14). Teaching your children to pray is not optional, **it’s essential** to their spiritual growth.

Why It Matters Now

We live in a world of constant noise, fleeting attention, and increasing anxiety, even for children. But prayer anchors them. It gives them language for their fears, a place to lay their worries, and a friend they can trust when life feels uncertain.

If they learn to pray now, they won’t have to learn when they’re broken. If they know the sound of God’s voice now, they’ll recognize Him in the storm. If they learn to run to God in the small things, they’ll know where to go when big things come.

Prayer is a relationship. It teaches your child that God is not far off or reserved for church Sundays. He’s near, listening, and deeply involved in every detail of their lives.

Simple Ways to Teach Prayer

- **Pray aloud in front of them.** Let them see that prayer is part of your daily rhythm, before meals, in traffic, when you’re stressed, or when you’re thankful.
- **Encourage short, simple prayers.** “Thank You, Jesus, for my toys.” “God, help me not to be scared.” These are seeds that grow.
- **Pray with them at bedtime.** Make it a treasured moment to talk to God together, thanking Him for the day and lifting up tomorrow.
- **Use Scripture in your prayers.** Show them how God’s Word and prayer go hand in hand. Try, *“When I am afraid, I will trust in You”* (Psalm 56:3).
- **Let them lead.** As they grow, give them space to talk to God on their own terms. Their words may be simple—but their faith is deepening.
- **Give them a Format:** I always gave my children the traditional prayer form: *‘Praise, Forgive me, My Needs, Thank you for answered prayers’* With time, they kept expanding as they grew older. So yes, help them with a simple format.
- **Let them Lead Family Prayers:** Yes, teach them how to lead, irrespective of old so they eventually learn how to be a prayer leader. Yes! Prepare them for Leadership.

A Biblical Foundation for Urgency

In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul praises the sincere faith passed down from Timothy's grandmother and mother. That legacy didn't begin in a pulpit, it started in a home. And in Proverbs 22:6 we're told: *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

This training isn't just moral instruction, it's spiritual discipleship. It's you, as a parent, opening the gate between your child and heaven, teaching them that God is always near, always good, always listening.

Prayer is not just a habit, it's a **lifeline**. It's how your child learns to walk with God before they ever face the weight of the world on their own.

So yes, teach them to say their ABCs and tie their shoes, but more than that, **teach them to bend their knees, open their hearts, and speak to their Heavenly Father and Creator**. Their future depends on it.

Love from the TiEV Team