

Teaching Children To Pray

Facilitated by
Mark and Carla Wakefield
RMC Master Guide Coordinators

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and right way.”

1 Samuel 12:23

Teach

- Teach means to encourage by example
- Hebrew translation of teach is qohelet which is frequently used in reference to God as a teacher and means to guide by example.

“Teach me Your way, O Lord; that I may walk in Your path.”

Psalms 86:11

Pray

- Pray means to petition or commune with God in word or thought
- Hebrew translation of pray is *tevilla* which is to reach up to the Divine being or commune with God

Therefore we can say that teaching children to pray means encouraging children to have a spiritual communion with God.

What is Prayer?

- Prayer is simply a conversation with God – a two-way conversation, although the responses may not always be obvious.
- At times we may give thanks and praise, at other times we may ask for help.
- Prayer can be formal, a silent meditation, a joyous dance, or an abstract artistic expression.
- Prayer is a part of daily life.
- Prayer develops a relationship with God

- Keep it real:

“Behold, he whose soul is not upright in Him shall fail, but the righteous shall live by faith.”

Habakkuk 2:4

- Keep God first:

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seats of the scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”

Psalms 1:1-3

Ways to Teach

- Be a loving example
- Start with routines
- Make it personal
- Overcome spiritual stage fright

“But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you.”

John 14:26

Ways to Teach

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

- Be flexible
- Have flash prayer
- Create a book or box
- Use sentence prayers
- Use your hands
- Choose specific times to pray

Voice of the Heart

- We assume prayer is all about our spiritual lives and not our everyday life. But prayer is good for you. It can calm you and remove your burdens, whether they are spiritual or psychological.
- If you allow your child to see and hear you pray, you show him/her that you are trying to live a righteous life.

Values

- Make God first – Exodus 20:3
- Keys to dealing with Peer Pressure – Proverbs 3:5-6
- Teach Right and Wrong – Proverbs 13:12
- Protect their innocence – Romans 16:19
- Develop Self-Respect and Confidence – Eccl 9:10

Promises

- God hears ALL prayers
- God answers ALL prayers

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

HE WILL IMPART THE KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM THAT YOU NEED IF YOU WILL JUST GET ON YOUR KNEES AND PRAY!!!!!!!

Resources

- www.pcusa.org/spiritualformation
- Bea Hill – Adventurer Coordinator Gulf States
- <http://www.cogop.org/~cgpkids>