***Family Prayer Time***

Communication is a basic building block for families so communicating with God should be viewed as a basic building block of the family’s faith. Beyond saying grace at meal times and saying night time prayers, here are a few suggestions to lead your family in prayer and nurture their faith. And remember, our children learn to pray by praying with others.

**Family Prayer Ideas:** (Ideas taken from several websites.)

*Sentence prayers:*

Young children sometimes need help knowing what to pray, but scripted prayers quickly lose their meaning and become repetitive. Stop just short of a script by starting a sentence and prompting them to finish it. This method provides the combination of structure and freedom that children need.

Use sentences like:

* “God, thank you for . . .”
* “God, forgive me for . . .”
* “God, help me be more . . .”
* “God, help my friend . . .”
* “God, give me the courage to . . .”
* "God, I pray for . . . "

*Highs & lows:* Have your children share their daily “highs” and “lows” each night before bed. Share yours, too, and then pray about all of them together. This works with children of all ages.

*Take a Prayer-Walk:* As you walk around your neighborhood, take time to quietly pray for each neighbor, and ask God for ideas on how your family can be a light for Jesus. (Also, drive and pray.)

*Make a Poster:* Have your children make a “Ten Most Wanted” list or poster. Have them think of ten people who need Jesus. These can be relatives, neighbors, famous people, or the man who works at the grocery store. Use this list or poster to remind you to pray for these people to come to know the Lord.

*Prayer Bag/Jar:* You need a jar or bag, slips of paper or popsicle sticks, etc. Write on each names of people you want to pray for regularly but don't: family members, friends, pastors, teachers, government leaders, etc. Include names of each member of your family. During family prayer time, each person draws a paper or stick and prays for that name.

*Use a Map:*Put a small world map on your wall or refrigerator, and use this area to display newsletters from missionaries you support (and their children), along with current international news updates. Pray regularly as a family, perhaps around the dinner table, for specific world needs and for people you know need the Lord.

*Current event prayers:* For older children, use a newspaper or a news website to lift their eyes to issues in the world at large. Take turns flipping through newspapers, and have every member of the family highlight items to pray about.