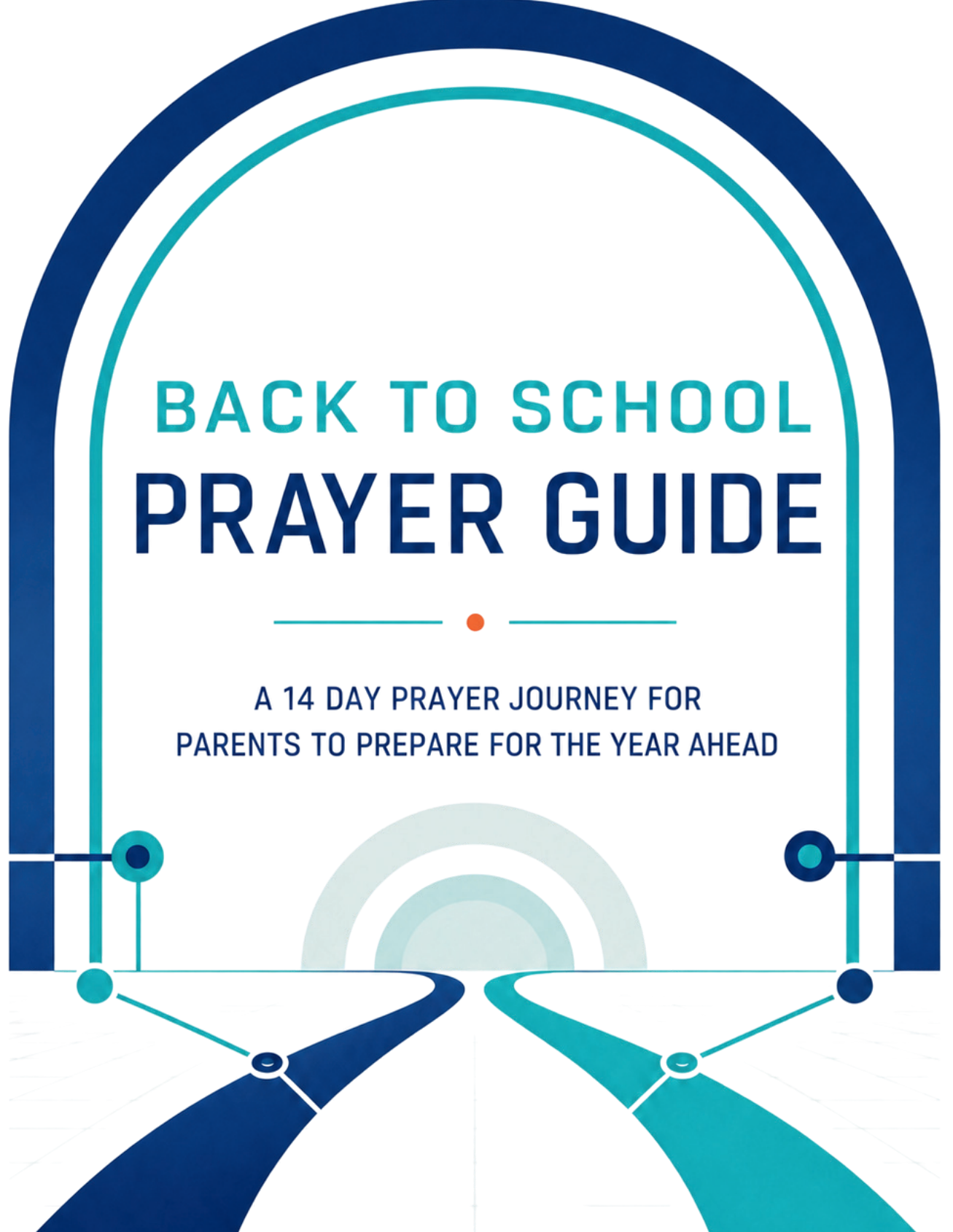


The graphic features a large, stylized arch at the top, composed of a thick dark blue outer line and a thinner teal inner line. Below the arch, a horizontal line with a small orange dot in the center separates the title from the subtitle. At the bottom, two paths—one dark blue and one teal—curve upwards towards a central point, flanking a light gray sunburst graphic. The paths are decorated with small circles and lines. The background is white with faint, light gray lines suggesting a floor or ground.

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER GUIDE

A 14 DAY PRAYER JOURNEY FOR
PARENTS TO PREPARE FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

WELCOME!

A new school year brings fresh opportunities, new relationships, important decisions, and unfamiliar challenges. This 14-day prayer journey is an invitation to prepare more than schedules and school supplies. It is a chance to prepare our hearts.

Each day includes a Prayer Focus, a passage to read in the New Living Translation, the scripture rewritten in the form of a prayer, a Pray For prompt, and a Prayer in Action experience. Use the writing space to be honest with God, record what he brings to mind, and remember how he answers. You may complete the journey independently or alongside a parent, student, friend, or prayer partner.

There is no perfect way to pray. Come as you are, give God your attention, and trust him with the school year ahead.

14-DAY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

- Day 1 — Surrendering the School Year | Proverbs 3:5–6**
- Day 2 — Knowing Your Identity | Ephesians 2:10**
- Day 3 — Choosing Your Priorities | Matthew 6:31–33**
- Day 4 — Growing in Wisdom | James 1:5**
- Day 5 — Approaching Academics Well | Colossians 3:23–24**
- Day 6 — Developing Godly Character | Galatians 5:22–23**
- Day 7 — Building Healthy Friendships | Proverbs 27:17**
- Day 8 — Showing Kindness and Compassion | Ephesians 4:32**
- Day 9 — Facing Fear and Anxiety | Philippians 4:6–7**
- Day 10 — Responding to Pressure & Temptation | 1 Cor. 10:13**
- Day 11 — Respecting Teachers and Leaders | 1 Thess. 5:12–13**
- Day 12 — Including and Serving Others | Philippians 2:3–4**
- Day 13 — Being a Light at School | Matthew 5:14–16**
- Day 14 — Persevering with Hope | Romans 5:3–5**

DAY 1

SURRENDERING THE SCHOOL YEAR

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART; DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. SEEK HIS WILL IN ALL YOU DO AND HE WILL SHOW YOU WHICH PATH TO TAKE.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Lord, I trust in you with all my heart. I don't want to depend on my own way of thinking about my student this school year. I want to seek your will in all that they do this year, because I believe you will show them which path to take. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Tell God your hopes, expectations, and concerns for the coming school year. Surrender your student's experiences, relationships, opportunities, and challenges, trusting God to direct both of you.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Write the areas of the school year you are carrying most heavily. If your student is participating, place your journals beside each other and pray over both lists. Otherwise, place your hand over your list and release each concern to God.

DAY 2

KNOWING YOUR IDENTITY

FOR WE ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE. HE HAS CREATED US ANEW IN CHRIST JESUS, SO WE CAN DO THE GOOD THINGS HE PLANNED FOR US LONG AGO.

EPHESIANS 2:10

PRAY SCRIPTURE

God, you call my student your masterpiece. I believe they have been created anew in Christ. Show them the good things you had planned for them long ago. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to help your student understand that their identity is rooted in being his workmanship—not in performance, popularity, appearance, or others' approval. Pray that your words and responses will reinforce that truth.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Write three God-given qualities or signs of growth you see in your student. Share one with them through a note, conversation, or message. If you are completing the journal independently, pray those truths aloud over them.

DAY 3

CHOOSING YOUR PRIORITIES

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THESE THINGS, SAYING, 'WHAT WILL WE EAT? WHAT WILL WE DRINK? WHAT WILL WE WEAR?' THESE THINGS DOMINATE THE THOUGHTS OF UNBELIEVERS, BUT YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER ALREADY KNOWS ALL YOUR NEEDS. SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
MATTHEW 6:31-33

PRAY SCRIPTURE

God, I give you the worries I will have this school year for my student. I trust that you already know all their most important needs. I want to seek you and your ways above everything else. I know you will give them what they need. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God for wisdom as your family balances faith, relationships, schoolwork, activities, responsibilities, and rest. Pray that your own priorities will model what it means to seek God first.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Sketch your family's expected weekly rhythm. Circle anything that may need prayer, adjustment, or healthier boundaries. If possible, invite your student into a brief, pressure-free conversation about the priorities that matter most this year.

DAY 4

GROWING IN WISDOM

IF YOU NEED WISDOM, ASK OUR GENEROUS GOD, AND HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. HE WILL NOT REBUKE YOU FOR ASKING.

JAMES 1:5

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Generous God, I ask that you give my student wisdom as they walk through this school year. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to give your student wisdom for decisions, relationships, responsibilities, and difficult situations. Pray for wisdom to know when to offer direction, when to ask questions, and when to give them room to grow.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Ask your student where they most need wisdom this year, then pray specifically for that area. If that conversation is not possible, choose one area yourself and ask a trusted Christian to join you in praying for both you and your student.

DAY 5

APPROACHING ACADEMICS WELL

**WORK WILLINGLY AT WHATEVER YOU DO, AS THOUGH YOU
WERE WORKING FOR THE LORD RATHER THAN FOR PEOPLE.
COLOSSIANS 3:23-24**

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Lord, help my student see that their school work is not something they are doing for me, or even simply for themselves. but ultimately for you and for your glory. Amen

PRAY FOR

Pray for wisdom about how to support your student's academic growth without making achievement the measure of their worth. Ask God to help you encourage diligence, honesty, teachability, and a healthy attitude toward work.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Choose an object connected to your student's education—a backpack, book, device, schedule, or school supply. Hold or touch it as you pray for their effort, integrity, learning, and growth this year.

DAY 6

DEVELOPING GODLY CHARACTER

BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES THIS KIND OF FRUIT IN OUR LIVES: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL. THERE IS NO LAW AGAINST THESE THINGS!

GALATIANS 5:22-23

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Holy Spirit, help my student to produce these fruit in their life this year in school: love joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask the Holy Spirit to develop his fruit in your student's life and in yours. Pray that your responses at home will model the same character you hope to see growing in them.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Choose one quality from Galatians 5:22–23 that your family especially needs. Write it somewhere visible. If your student is participating, compare the qualities you each chose and pray for one another without correcting or evaluating each other.

DAY 7

BUILDING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, SO A FRIEND SHARPENS A FRIEND.

PROVERBS 27:17

PRAY SCRIPTURE

God, surround my student with the kind of friends who can sharpen them in their character and their faith, and show them how they can sharpen others in their character and faith. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Pray that your student will form wise, healthy, and encouraging friendships. Ask God to make you a safe and discerning listener who offers guidance without reacting in ways that cause your student to hide relational struggles.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Write the names of your student's friends, classmates, or future friendships as God brings them to mind. Pray for each one and for their families. Consider sending encouragement to another parent who is also praying for their student.

DAY 8

SHOWING KINDNESS & COMPASSION

**INSTEAD, BE KIND TO EACH OTHER, TENDERHEARTED,
FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS GOD THROUGH CHRIST
HAS FORGIVEN YOU.**

EPHESIANS 4:32

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Jesus, give me a tender heart as I go through this school year. Help me show kindness and to experience kindness from others who follow you. Help all those who have experiences forgive-ness through you (especially me) to live out forgiveness to each other. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to give your student compassion for people who feel lonely, excluded, or hurt. Pray that your home will be a place where kindness, patience, forgiveness, and hospitality are consistently practiced.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Choose one person connected to the school community who may need encouragement—a student, parent, teacher, aide, counselor, or staff member. Write a note or send a message expressing genuine appreciation and care.

DAY 9

FACING FEAR AND ANXIETY

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING; INSTEAD, PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING. TELL GOD WHAT YOU NEED, AND THANK HIM FOR ALL HE HAS DONE. THEN YOU WILL EXPERIENCE GOD'S PEACE, WHICH EXCEEDS ANYTHING WE CAN UNDERSTAND. HIS PEACE WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS AS YOU LIVE IN CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Jesus, I give you all my worries and I thank you for all you have done in my student's life. Give them your peace that exceeds anything I could understand, and guard their heart and mind as they live in you. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Bring God the fears you carry for your student and the concerns your student may be carrying. Ask for discernment to recognize anxiety, patience to listen well, and wisdom to respond with peace rather than adding pressure.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Practice the same breath prayer offered in the Student Journal: breathe in while praying, "God, you are with us." Breathe out while praying, "We give you our fear." If appropriate, invite your student to practice it with you.

DAY 10

RESPONDING TO PRESSURE AND TEMPTATION

THE TEMPTATIONS IN YOUR LIFE ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT OTHERS EXPERIENCE. AND GOD IS FAITHFUL. HE WILL NOT ALLOW THE TEMPTATION TO BE MORE THAN YOU CAN STAND. WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED, HE WILL SHOW YOU A WAY OUT SO THAT YOU CAN ENDURE.
1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Faithful God, I know my student is going to face temptations in the year to come. I know that these are not new temptations to people their age. When those temptations come, help them to look to you and see the way you are providing for them to not give in. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to strengthen your student when they face pressure to compromise their faith, character, or integrity. Pray that your relationship will provide a safe place for honest conversations, confession, wisdom, and restoration.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Think of one difficult situation your student may encounter. Instead of planning a lecture, write one thoughtful question you could ask and one truth you want them to remember. Pray for the right opportunity and tone to have that conversation.

DAY 11

RESPECTING TEACHERS AND LEADERS

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HONOR THOSE WHO ARE YOUR LEADERS IN THE LORD'S WORK. THEY WORK HARD AMONG YOU AND GIVE YOU SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE. SHOW THEM GREAT RESPECT AND WHOLE-HEARTED LOVE BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK. AND LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH EACH OTHER.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

PRAY SCRIPTURE

God, thank you for bringing people in my student's life who are going to be teaching and leading me this year. Thank you for the hard work they are putting in to guide them. Help me show them the respect and love they deserve because of their work, and to live peacefully around them. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Pray for your student's teachers, coaches, administrators, counselors, and other school employees. Ask God to help you communicate with them respectfully, assume the best when possible, and handle disagreements with wisdom and grace.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Send a teacher or school employee a brief message of encouragement, appreciation, or prayer. If your student is participating, consider choosing different people so that two members of the school community are encouraged today.

DAY 12

INCLUDING AND SERVING OTHERS

DON'T BE SELFISH; DON'T TRY TO IMPRESS OTHERS. BE HUMBLE, THINKING OF OTHERS AS BETTER THAN YOURSELVES. DON'T LOOK OUT ONLY FOR YOUR OWN INTERESTS, BUT TAKE AN INTEREST IN OTHERS, TOO.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

PRAY SCRIPTURE

God, keep my student unselfish, humble, and give them a mindset that is not out to impress others but instead thinks of others as better than themselves. Help them take an interest in others, not just themselves. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to help your student notice and include people who may feel overlooked. Pray that you will recognize practical ways your family can serve others without seeking attention or expecting something in return.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Make a simple “notice and serve” plan for the opening weeks of school. It might involve welcoming a family, helping with a school need, offering transportation, sharing a meal, or encouraging someone who feels alone.

DAY 13

BEING A LIGHT AT SCHOOL

"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD—LIKE A CITY ON A HILLTOP THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN. NO ONE LIGHTS A LAMP AND THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BASKET. INSTEAD, A LAMP IS PLACED ON A STAND, WHERE IT GIVES LIGHT TO EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE. IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR GOOD DEEDS SHINE OUT FOR ALL TO SEE, SO THAT EVERYONE WILL PRAISE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

MATTHEW 5:14-16

PRAY SCRIPTURE

Jesus, my student is the light of the world. I know that light is not meant to be hidden under a basket, but instead meant to be put on a stand to give light to everyone around them. Help my student shine their light in their school and throughout this school year in a way that honors you. May their actions shine out for others to see, so that they could praise you, Father. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to help your student reflect Jesus through their words, attitude, courage, compassion, and choices. Pray that you will support their witness without pressuring them to perform or treating other people as projects.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Pray for your student's school by name. If your student is participating, pray together for the people and places they will encounter each day. If not, consider praying with another parent or Christian friend for the school community.

DAY 14

PERSEVERING WITH HOPE

WE CAN REJOICE, TOO, WHEN WE RUN INTO PROBLEMS AND TRIALS, FOR WE KNOW THAT THEY HELP US DEVELOP ENDURANCE. AND ENDURANCE DEVELOPS STRENGTH OF CHARACTER, AND CHARACTER STRENGTHENS OUR CONFIDENT HOPE OF SALVATION. AND THIS HOPE WILL NOT LEAD TO DISAPPOINTMENT. FOR WE KNOW HOW DEARLY GOD LOVES US, BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN US THE HOLY SPIRIT TO FILL OUR HEARTS WITH HIS LOVE.

ROMANS 5:3-5

PRAY SCRIPTURE

God, help me find a way to rejoice when we run into problems and trials. I want those challenges to help us develop endurance and strength of character. May that also strengthen our confident hope of salvation. I know how dearly you love us because you gave us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with your love. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to help you keep going when the year becomes difficult. Pray that challenges will produce endurance and character rather than discouragement, bitterness, or a desire to give up.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Write a short prayer to your “future self” for a hard day later in the year. Ask someone you trust to pray it over you today, then keep it somewhere you can find when you need encouragement.