



BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER GUIDE



A 14 DAY PRAYER JOURNEY FOR STUDENTS
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 this school year. I want to seek your will in all that I do this year, because I believe you will show me which path to take. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Tell God what excites you and what concerns you about the coming school year. Ask him to direct your choices, activities, relationships, and plans.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Create a simple list or drawing of the things you are carrying into this school year. Place your hands over the page and pray, "God, I trust you with all of this."

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 me your masterpiece. I believe I've been created anew in Christ. Show me the good things you had planned for me long ago. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to help you see yourself as his workmanship—not according to your accomplishments, appearance, popularity, or other people's opinions. Pray that you will recognize opportunities to live out his purpose.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Write three truths about who God says you are. Share one of them with someone you trust, and ask that person to pray that you will remember it this year.

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. I trust that you already know all my most important needs. I want to seek you and your ways above everything else. I know you will give me what I need. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to show you what should receive your time and attention this year. Pray for the courage to put him first when your schedule becomes crowded or distracting.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Draw a circle and divide it into the areas that may occupy your time—God, family, school, friends, activities, rest, and others. Talk with God about what you drew and any priorities that may need to change.

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 me wisdom as I walk through this school year. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Pray for a willing and teachable attitude toward your schoolwork. Ask God to help you work with honesty, diligence, and your best effort—even when an assignment is difficult or uninteresting.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Choose one school supply or object you will use regularly. Hold it as you pray, asking God to help you honor him through your attitude, effort, and integrity.

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, I recognize that my school work is not something I'm doing for others, or even simply for myself. It is ultimately for you and for your glory. Amen

PRAY FOR

Ask God for wisdom in the decisions you will make at school. Pray that you will pause, listen, and seek his direction instead of reacting quickly or following the crowd.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Choose one school supply or object you will use regularly. Hold it as you pray, asking God to help you honor him through your attitude, effort, and integrity.

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 me to produce these fruits in my life this year in school: love joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask the Holy Spirit to grow his fruit in your life. Choose one quality from Galatians 5:22–23 that you especially need at school, and pray for opportunities to practice it.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Write your chosen character quality on a card, note, or phone background. Ask a Christian friend or family member to pray with you that this quality will become visible in both of your lives.

DAY 7

BUILDING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

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

PROVERBS 27:17

PRAY SCRIPTURE

God, help me surround myself with the right kind of friends that can sharpen me in their character and their faith, and show me how I can sharpen them in their character and faith. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to help you identify the right close friends and for courage to be a trustworthy friend. Ask God to help your friendships move you toward what is wise, healthy, and honoring to him.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Pray by name for your friends and for people you may meet this year. If possible, contact a Christian friend and pray together that your friendship will encourage both of you to follow Jesus.

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 experienced forgiveness through you (especially me) to live out forgiveness to each other. Amen

PRAY FOR

Ask God to help you notice people who feel overlooked, lonely, or hurt. Pray for a heart that responds with kindness, patience, forgiveness, and compassion.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Write an encouraging note or message to someone who may need kindness today. Before sending or giving it, pray that your words will help that person experience God's 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. Give me your peace that exceeds anything I could understand, and guard my heart and mind as I live in you. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Name the situations that make you nervous about school. Give each concern to God, ask him for peace, and pray that you will remember his presence when anxious thoughts return.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Practice a breath prayer: breathe in slowly while praying, "God, you are with me." Breathe out while praying, "I give you my fear." Take your time with each breath in and out. Repeat this seven times, then write down any truth God brings to mind.

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 that I'm going to face temptations in the year to come. I know that these are not new temptations to people like me. When those temptations come, help me to look to you and see the way you are providing for me to not give in to it. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God for strength to recognize and resist pressure to compromise your faith, integrity, or values. Pray that you will look for the faithful way out that God provides.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Think through one difficult situation you might face and write a faithful response you could choose. Share it with a trusted person and ask them to pray for your courage and accountability.

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 life who are going to be teaching and leading me this year. Thank you for the hard work they are putting in to guide me. 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 a respectful and cooperative attitude toward your teachers, coaches, administrators, and other school leaders—even when you disagree or feel frustrated.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Choose a teacher or school employee and send them a short message of encouragement. If appropriate, include a written or recorded prayer for them as they prepare for the year.

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 me unselfish, humble, and give me a mindset that is not out to impress others but instead thinks of others as better than myself. Help me to take an interest in others, not just myself. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to free you from being consumed with your own interests. Pray that you will notice who needs help, encouragement, friendship, or a place to belong.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Make a “notice and serve” plan. Write one way you could include or help someone during the first weeks of school, then pray for the courage to follow through.

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, you called me 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 me. Help me shine my light in my school and throughout this school year in a way that honors you. May my actions shine out for those around me to see, so that they could praise you, Father. Amen.

PRAY FOR

Ask God to help your words, choices, attitude, and actions point others toward Jesus. Pray for the heart of a missionary as you enter your school each day.

PRAYER IN ACTION

Pray with a Christian friend for your school. Ask God to show both of you how to demonstrate his love and goodness without hiding your faith or treating others without respect.

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 me develop endurance and strength of character. May that also strengthen my confident hope of salvation. I know how dearly you love me 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.