

DEVOTIONAL

# Hollywood Prayer Network

## CHILDREN

There is something divinely miraculous about children. And as adults, we have a responsibility to love them, protect them, and train them in the ways they should go – whether they are biologically ours or not. This week as you focus on God's children, keep singing, "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world."

DAY 1

# CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM THE LORD

“LIKE ARROWS IN THE HANDS OF A WARRIOR  
ARE CHILDREN BORN OF ONE’S YOUTH.  
BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE QUIVER IS FULL  
OF THEM.”

-KING SOLOMON

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New International Version

Psalms 127:3

Sons are a heritage from the Lord,  
children a reward from him.

Proverbs 17:6

Children’s children are a crown to the  
aged, and parents are the pride of their  
children.

# DAY 1

**PRAY:** Dear Father, As I look to You as my Father, I thank You that You have promised us that children are a heritage and a reward from You. Thank You that even our children's children are a crown to the aged. And I am so deeply grateful that I can experience Your promise that parents are the pride of their children. The greatest gift You have given me, besides my salvation and my spouse, are my children. And I start this week praising You and thanking You for the miraculous journey of having children. I thank You in Jesus' name. Amen.

**REFLECT:** Based on these verses, we should all be treasuring the children in our lives. God so deeply loves children, and He wants us to love and protect them as well. Jesus defended the children multiple times in the Gospels and God tells us that they are a heritage, a reward, and a crown. Those are strong words, showing God's passion for our little ones. Are we loving and valuing our children as we should be? Sometimes we confuse love with spoiling, not disciplining or guiding. How can you love the children in your life with God's love? Ask Him what more you can do to love, guide, protect, discipline and train up a child in the way he should go, as Jesus would do.

# DAY 1

**ACT:** Take a moment and go to or call a child in your life. Tell him or her how much they mean to you. Tell them you love them, that you're thankful they are in your life, and tell them something particular you value about them. This one visit, call, or note could change their life and give them the confidence to move forward in something, to seek Jesus more, or to show love to someone else. Your words of love can make an eternal difference in a child's life.

DAY 2

# TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO

“IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN  
THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN.”

-FREDERICK DOUGLASS

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New International Version

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should  
go, and even when they are old they will  
not turn from it.

## DAY 2

**PRAY:** Father in heaven, may You help me to be the parent I need to be so that my children will go in the way they should go, and when they get old they will not turn from You. My children are a gift from You so help me put them in Your hands. Please hold on to them, guide them and protect them. Give me wisdom in the process of raising my children, so that they will stay on the right path, and not turn from it. And if they do, Lord, then give me peace to know they are Yours and You love them more than I do. I can raise my children, but I must trust You to hold them in the palm of Your hand. Thank You and Amen.

**REFLECT:** Every parent makes mistakes while raising their children and yet every healthy parent wants his/her children to do well in life. Raising children is complicated and difficult, but as parents, we want to raise our children, training them to have God's principles, truths, and scripture in their hearts. We pray for them to stay on God's path so that when they are old, they will be following Jesus and living godly lives. How do we completely put our children in God's hands? Regardless of their age or yours, you can start today!

# DAY 2

**ACT:** If you are not yet a parent, would you memorize this verse so that you are prepared to follow it from the moment you become a parent? If you are raising children right now or caring for others, would you memorize this verse and commit daily to ask God for wisdom in raising them? If your children are grown, would you memorize this verse and pray for them to be the kind of parents who will seek Jesus and start their children off on the way they should go so that they will not turn from it? If your parents did not raise you well, will you memorize this verse and forgive them? It's never too late to start anew.

DAY 3

# DO NOT EXASPERATE YOUR CHILDREN!

"THE MOMENT YOU HAVE A CHILD, IN AN INSTANT YOUR LIFE IS NOT FOR YOU, AND YOUR LIFE IS COMPLETELY, 100 PERCENT DEDICATED TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING, AND THEY WILL ALWAYS COME FIRST. IT CHANGES YOU FOREVER. IT CHANGES YOUR PERSPECTIVE, AND IT GIVES YOU A NICE PURPOSE AND FOCUS."

-ANGELINA JOLIE

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New International Version

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

## DAY 3

**PRAY:** Lord, I know that there are some things that my parents did or said that were hurtful to me. They exasperated me, instead of bringing me up in the training and instruction of Your Word. Those choices by my parents may even be why I am struggling with some issues today. So, would You help me to break those chains and not exasperate my children. Would You start now to help me bring up my children wisely and with Your training and instruction? I trust You to make me a good parent. Amen and Amen.

**REFLECT:** Hollywood is a place that often attracts people who have broken relationships with their fathers. Many who come here are trying to find the love, acceptance, and value they never got from their fathers. Ironically, they have come to the worst possible "stepfather" for that. We all long for fathers and mothers who don't exasperate, frustrate or devalue us. Please have patience and understanding for the "exasperated" celebrities and decision-makers in Hollywood who never grew up with the Lord's training and instruction. Pray for them, don't curse them or talk against them. They just don't know the love of Jesus!

# DAY 3

**ACT:** Pray for the people in Hollywood whose names come to mind right now. You may not realize that they didn't get the love of their fathers and their broken, sad, or even abusive childhoods have made them who they are today. If you don't like the decisions or content coming out of Hollywood, you can be assured that the people behind those decisions are probably from non-Christian, broken, or dysfunctional homes, and they need your prayers. You can make an eternal difference by praying for culture-shapers in Hollywood. Pray also for their children! Listen to godly songs about Fathers at: <https://www.fathersongs.com/>

DAY 4

# DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN

“IF WE NEVER HAVE HEADACHES THROUGH  
REBUKING OUR CHILDREN, WE SHALL HAVE  
PLENTY OF HEARTACHES WHEN THEY GROW  
UP.”

-CHARLES SPURGEON

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New International Version

Proverbs 13:24 & 29:15

He who spares the rod hates his son, but  
he who loves him is careful to discipline  
him. ... The rod of correction imparts  
wisdom, but a child left to himself  
disgraces his mother.

# DAY 4

**PRAY:** Dear God, I need wisdom to understand the fine line between disciplining my children and being too strict. I need Your help to let me discipline my children through love, not anger. Let me understand that a reprimand imparts wisdom and that a lack of discipline will disgrace me as a parent, teacher or guardian. I need Your Holy Spirit to lead me, teach me, and guide me. Lord, let me follow Your Word so I can raise godly children. Amen.

**REFLECT:** Raising children is difficult. Every parent knows that. But we also all have varying opinions on disciplining our children, to the point of being divisive. What do you think God means when He tells us not to spare the rod, for that shows we hate our children? Or, that the parents who love their children are careful to discipline them? If a “rod” and a “reprimand” impart wisdom, and children who are not disciplined will disgrace their mothers, then how do we wisely implement that into our parenting? How did your parents do at it? What would you, or have you, done differently?

# DAY 4

**ACT:** Did you or will you “spare the rod?” Seek God for answers on what that means. Maybe you need to seek wisdom from professionals or parents who are great parents. Do you need to give your parents grace, forgiveness, or a compliment regarding this issue? Plan your next step in either becoming a better parent or evaluating your parents. You could give your parents a compliment or ask their forgiveness, or ask your own children for forgiveness and give them a compliment on how well they turned out. Decide your next step and take action right now.

DAY 5

# THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO CHILDREN

“LITTLE CHILDREN ARE GOD’S ONGOING WITNESS OF HIS KINGDOM: A PERPETUAL REMINDER OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BELONG TO THE FATHER. CHILDREN ARE AN UNSPOKEN SERMON IN EVERY HOME FOR SIMPLICITY, JOY, AND HUMILITY OF THAT WHICH MAKES THE WORLD WORTH LIVING IN. THEY REMIND US WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A REAL CHRISTIAN.”

- WINKIE PRATNIE

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New International Version

Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

# DAY 5

**PRAY:** Dear Jesus, You love little children and You tell us not to hinder them from coming to You, for Your Kingdom belongs to them. Help me to love little children, and to tell them about You, whether they be mine, my neighbor's or my relative's. Don't let me ever say or do anything to keep a child from knowing You, or hinder them from loving You and experiencing the kingdom of heaven. And may I encourage others to do the same. You place such a high value on children that I want to be like You and celebrate them, empower them and love them, just as You would. I commit to do this, in Your name. Amen.

**REFLECT:** Have you ever considered that we are told it's up to us to lead children to Jesus? And He doesn't say, "Let only YOUR little children come to me..." Jesus told us to let ALL the little children in our lives come to Him and not to hinder them. That means it's our responsibility as believers to point all the children in our lives and in our kid's classes, clubs, sports teams and neighborhood, to know about Jesus. Are you more of a help or a hindrance for any children in your life to know Jesus? How do you prepare to bring more children to learn about Him? How can you more effectively obey this commandment?

# DAY 5

**ACT:** Choose one child in your life whom you can love and can tell about Jesus, and then ask the Lord to show you the best, most effective way to do that. Could it be through getting them a children's Bible or book, writing a note, or spending more time just with them? Could you share your faith with their parents? Decide right now what child is on your heart to reach out to so that you won't be a hindrance to them learning about and falling in love with Jesus!

DAY 6

# TEACH GOD'S TRUTHS TO CHILDREN

“RECOMMEND TO YOUR CHILDREN  
VIRTUE; THAT ALONE CAN MAKE THEM  
HAPPY, NOT GOLD.”

-LUDWIG VON BEETHOVEN

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New International Version

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

# DAY 6

**PRAY:** God my Father, I want to fix Your words in my heart and my mind. Please tie them as symbols on my hand and bind them on my forehead. Let me be sure to teach my children Your truths, Your commandments, and Your promises. And I want to offer this wisdom to others. Let Your truths be a part of my every breathing moment that my days and my children and their children may be many in the land that You swore to give me. Thank You! Amen.

**REFLECT:** Our heavenly Father wants us to not only know His truths, but He commands us to teach them to our children and grandchildren. And that's for all of us – whether we are single, married, or parents. We all should have spiritual “children” in our lives whom we are teaching, loving, guiding, and encouraging. Do you have anyone in your life like that? Have you written God's commandments on your heart and everywhere in your house as a reminder to share them with others? How can you be sure that you and your “children” may have many in the land – “as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth”?

# DAY 6

**ACT:** Make a list of the, biological, physical and/or spiritual “children” in your life. Then write down how you can touch each one with the love of Jesus. You could spend more time with them, write them a note, call them, and pray for them. Choose what would be most effective to touch as many children with the love, promises and commandments of our heavenly Father as you can. And then make the first move. This could be your first step toward leaving a legacy behind you through the generations. Now that’s exciting!

DAY 7

# BECOME LIKE A LITTLE CHILD

"WHEN OUR CHILDREN SEE US CLINGING TO THE PROMISES OF GOD, THEY WILL GROW UP TRUSTING IN HIS GOODNESS. IF WE FAIL AS ADULTS IN PRAYING FOR AND PRAYING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION, THEN THEY WILL BECOME SPIRITUALLY UNSURE."

-MICHAEL YOUSSEF

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New International Version

Matthew 18:2-6

He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

# DAY 7

**PRAY:** Dear Lord, As an adult and as Your follower, I want to be child-like in my spirit. Would You help me become like a little child so I can fully experience the Kingdom of Heaven! Please never let me hinder anyone else from seeking You and Your Kingdom. I never want to stumble in loving and encouraging other people to come to know You and to grow deeper in their love for You. Thank You for your strength and wisdom. Amen.

**REFLECT:** We don't think much about changing to become a child in God's eyes. And we probably don't think enough about how to welcome others into God's Kingdom, whether they are children or adults. Knowing that God warns us about not causing others to sin, what would you need to change to not hinder other "children" of His to find and follow Him? It's a responsibility with consequences, so ponder the options.

**ACT:** Now is the time to change. Re-read Matthew 18:2-6 and choose one thing that you can change about yourself to humble yourself and become more of a child in God's eyes and to reach out to others so that they can find Him and love Him as well. Write it down and then check back to see how you're doing. And remember, we can't change ourselves on our own; we need the Holy Spirit to do the changing. So why don't you start with a prayer!