

Praying the Scriptures

We know that prayer connects us to God. And we know that prayer changes things. But even with the best of intentions to pray, all the things we need to pray for may seem daunting. So let's make a Prayer Plan!

When searching for an acronym for PLAN, Google provided a list of nerd-a-nyms. They were all very specific and smart-sounding. Nothing that would go on a motivational poster... except one.

PLANNED LIFETIME ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Isn't that a great way to describe how we should view prayer? As a lifetime of planned communication with the one who made us?

God didn't make us and then say, "Hey, good luck in this life. I'll see ya if you make it to heaven."

Heck no! Our God *planned* to walk with us every step of this life. He *planned* to speak to us through His word. He *planned* a way for us to be free from sin and bondage by gifting us his son, whom he allowed to suffer and die, so that sin would no longer rule our hearts, but rather His grace and love.

God *planned* to stay close to us by allowing the Holy Spirit to live in us. And He is always ready to listen when his children come to him in prayer.

When we go to God in prayer, we are connecting with Him. We offer up our deepest hurts and desires to him. With a humble heart, we tell him that we can't do this on our own. We open our hands and the grip we try to control our circumstances with, and we cry out "Lord, I want to obey you. I want to honor you. I want to give you full control over my life and over my kids. Lord, I need your help!"

Please hear my heart... I do not want a Prayer Plan to hinder your ability to go to God spontaneously when you need to talk to Him. I don't want your plan to make your prayer life so rote that it becomes another checklist for you to work through. Rather, my desire is to use this as a guide to compliment your daily quiet time and prayer practices.

I know that there are many areas of my boys' lives that I need to be more committed to praying for. It's hard to think of my tweens getting married or how they will bless the world and the work force with their gifts. So using a Prayer PLAN and prayers backed with Scripture will help us stay steadfast in partnering with God and allowing him to reign in their lives.

LET'S MAKE YOUR PRAYER PLAN NOW!

I find it helpful to use similar sounds to help me remember what I am to be doing/praying. For instance: Salvation Sunday, Marriage Monday (in addition to praying for your children's future marriage partner, pray for your own marriage and that you and your spouse are modeling a healthy, God-fearing relationship for your kids), Teacher Tuesday, Forgiveness Friday, Strength Saturday, etc.

What will you regularly begin praying for your children and family each day of the week?

Sunday:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

ARE THERE OTHER SPECIFIC PRAYERS YOU HAVE FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

Write your prayer here and back it with scripture... or better yet, write the scripture to include your child's name.

CHILD 1:

CHILD 2:

CHILD 3:

Make **PRAYER** part of your mission!

How would your life look different (and your children's lives look different) if you made prayer part of your life mission? *YES... you have a life mission.*

Author Jodie Berndt, of the book *Praying the Scriptures for Your Children*, writes this about how to shape a mission/purpose statement:

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A family mission statement is not unlike the purpose statements developed and used by many of today's successful corporations. It will reflect your family's values and goals, and it can make all the difference between a family life that is merely "good" or "acceptable" and one that is marked by excellence, fulfillment, and genuine joy.

As you shape your own purpose statement, think about the things that are most important to you, the goals you most want to accomplish. Your mission statement should reflect these values and priorities.”

WRITE YOUR OWN PERSONAL MISSION/PURPOSE STATEMENT:

MAKE A MISSION STATEMENT WITH YOUR FAMILY.

Brainstorm the qualities, characteristics, values, and goals that your family deems vital to living a life that brings glory to God. Write them here. Then work through your brainstorm list together to write a family mission statement.

OUR FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT IS:

Don't just leave your mission statement as writing on a page you've stuck into the back of your Bible. Pray it regularly with your family. Declare your mission with passion and thank God in advance for helping your family to live a life that points to Him.

XO Alisha