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Foreword

Help Children Learn to Pray

Children need to learn to pray at an early age. In fact, as soon as they are old enough to utter phrases, they should be taught to say, 'Jesus loves me,' 'I love Jesus,' 'Thank you Jesus,' and 'Help me Jesus.' Parents can introduce them to these words by saying the words again and again, and by having the child to echo the words again and again.

As a little child, my grandmother encouraged me and my cousins to pray. If we had a simple problem, she would constantly make statements like, 'ask Jesus to help you,' 'Jesus can fix it,' and 'tell Jesus.' These statements encourage us as three and four year olds to pray and depend upon Divine help. I have carried them around in my memory from day to day.

Parents should pray with their children and allow their children to hear them pray. I remember as a teenager, waking up early one morning. My mom was not in her bed. I walked to the front of the house. I heard sounds coming from the front room. I looked into the room. My mom was kneeling in front of a chair with her arms and head placed on the seat of the chair. She was talking to God. The words she was uttering were precious. I will never forget the scene. She still has that chair. I named it the 'praying chair.'

There is a song I wake up singing during the morning hours. I also sing the words throughout the day. The title is, "I Found the Answer." The words to the chorus are: "I found the answer – I learned to pray. With faith to guide me – I found the way. The sun is shining – for me each day, I found the answer, I learned to pray."

Yes, I found the answer, I learned to pray. Thanks to a loving grandmother, I was introduced to the power of prayer, and, I learned to pray. Make a pledge to yourself! Help the children learn to pray!

Dr. Jewell Satchel
Courtland SDA Church, Alabama

Preface

Children's Prayer Ministry is the most important asset on the planet. It is the vehicle that a holy God has provided for sinful man to teach the children about getting in touch with Him. Therefore, especially leaders, should not wait until the children are old to teach them to pray. An early prayer lifestyle gives children a better chance at eternal life.

Remember that prayer is vital to our salvation; it is the "breath of the soul." Those involved in prayer ministry have a responsibility to teach both children and adults how to breathe spiritually, so they can live eternally.

Teach the little ones to pray to Jesus. Remember, while He lived on earth He said to His disciples, Let the little children come to Me, do not hinder them. Never send them away for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Luke 18:16 NIV: Liv Bib, RSV

I believe that this book will help us in our quest of reaching more children, and will prove to be a blessing to all.

Pastor Roy Rugless

Director of Prayer Ministries

South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Thanks to all,
C.A. Daly

Introduction

“Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock Heaven’s storehouse.” Anyone may hold that key anytime—even the little ones.” Forbid them not for such is the kingdom of heaven.” So they are here. Many little people are pushing and tumbling in a desperate effort to be first to slip in through an open door. The coordinator holds the door open for them anticipating a great time together. Yet they push and jostle with all the vibrant life that their little bodies hold. They all come not on tip toe but with pent-up energy that stimulates little selves to running, skipping, pushing, crawling, jumping to be ready for other activities. This is youth at its best and this is the main reason why there is the need for Children’s Prayer Ministry. So here we are ready to work with vibrant faces; the faces of the children.

Disclaimer

Much of the information supplied has been shared as original ideas from experiences of leaders and directors of local Children's Prayer Ministry groups. This book is a collection of activities that help make life and work easier for current leaders of children's Prayer Ministry groups, it is not meant to be the sole document or benchmark of any leader. This is only an additional instrument to augment the tedious work of handling the children so that they may fall in love with all that makes up a successful prayer ministry.

Children's Prayer Ministry and Its Mission Statement

The main purpose of any prayer ministry is to build a vibrant, consistent prayer life through varied prayer activities. Thus, its mission focuses on enhancing the spiritual development of families, individuals, and youth, as well as the church and it is stated below simply:

Mission Statement

To guide children and youth to spend more time alone with God daily through prayer, Bible study, and witnessing.

To get them to share information with others so-more prayer groups will develop.

Child of God, know that you nestle in, and are supported by the loving protective hands of your Father and His Son. Yet, you are bonded with other prayer groups into one grand tower of strength. Remember that your prayers rise to God as a sweet fragrance, and not one of these prayers is lost in heaven. So gather the children together, and encourage them to "Pray children, pray!"

Faces of The Children

I've seen them
I've watched them
I've read them.

I remember them too
Many faces, varied faces, but
Still faces of the children.

Happy Faces

Of a very special few
Loved, nurtured, contented
Funny, frolicsome, free.

Hungry Faces

With blank stares and whitened lips,
Telling of an empty stomach
And need of food to fill it.

Anxious Faces

Insecure, apprehensive, distressed
Seeking for calmness, stability
Nurturance and reassurance.

Blank Faces

Of the nonchalant day dreamer
Forever listening not to you, but
To the beat of a distant drummer.

Angry Faces

Reflecting hostile parents
Asking numerous questions yet,
Finding answers, only now and then.

Innocent Faces

Honest, curious, trusting
Priceless, unspoiled, sensitive,
With strange questions framing.

Mischievous Faces

With impish smiles
And busy fingers playing pranks
Frantically moving, touching, meddling.

Confused Faces

Young minds to jelly turning
In one panic-stricken moment
Embarrassed, terrified, yearning.

Saddened Faces

Imaging unhappy hearts and homes
With unfinished business, struggling . . .
Sending signals out for H E L P.

Puzzled Faces

With thought-wrinkled brows
Frantically working and problem-solving
Untiringly figuring, analyzing.

Excited Faces

Happy, full of pleasure and delight
Beaming with overflowing joy
That bubbles forth to bless the world around.

Disturbed Faces

Troubled, sad, disquieted
Affrighted, agitated, unsettled
Pursued with real or fancied fears.

Persistent Faces

Of goal oriented souls
With an "I must win!" clamor
Pressingly eagerly toward a prize

Victorious Faces

Reflecting a goal achieved and a winner born
Animated, elated, radiant
Energy-filled, successful, triumphant.
I've seen them one and all
Interpreted the different stories
Of those faces, faces of children.
Father, teach us how to relate
To accommodate and to educate
The minds of your various children.
So that someday, sometime soon
Each youthful face will reflect
An imprint of Your image O my Father.

Cecily Daly