

Teach us to Pray

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



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The Bible Basket for Busy Moms

By Melani Shock



Soon after the birth of my first-born, Kendra, and then the birth of her brother, Bradyn, I realized I had just been handed one of life's greatest challenges: the challenge of training godly children in an ungodly world to become adults who love God, understand and believe what the Word of God says, and choose a mate that shares that love and understanding. I quickly realized I was in over my head.

Values are caught more than they are taught. To teach a child a value means you have to live it, you have to understand it, you have to be convinced of it, and you have to understand the child's method of communication in order for them to properly catch what you are teaching. Oh my! What a challenge!

The only answer to this seemingly insurmountable, overwhelming dilemma is prayer and the Word. In my opinion, we cannot separate prayer and the Word. Prayer is us talking to God. The Word is God talking to us. It is relationship. There is no more powerful way to train our children

than to pray for and with them. And there is no more powerful way to pray for our children than to pray directly from the eternal Word of God.

Here is a suggestion for moms who find it hard to study and pray the Word during this busy, frantic season of life.

Get a basket and put it in a prominent place in your home where you work frequently (such as the kitchen). It can be a basket, or a bowl, or whatever you like.

Name it the Bible Basket.

Write out a card for separate categories such as the exhausted mom, the barren woman, the wayward child, disciplining a child, the unplanned pregnancy, etc. Label cards with any other area of your life in which you need strength, clarity, and direction. Write on those cards as many scriptures as you can that are a prayer for that certain situation.

Then, each time you are overwhelmed, go to your Bible Basket. Choose the card which relates to your present circumstance. Pray the Scriptures-not just once, but as many times as it takes for you to feel His Presence and His peace.

Head to the Bible Basket FIRST each morning. Take a card from the Bible Basket at noon, or when you arrive home from work. Before going to bed, stop by the Bible Basket and eat from the Living Bread.

It is best to write out the entire scripture on the cards. Write as many scriptures as can fit on a card, and then have as many cards on any particular topic as you like. This will fill your days with strength, and will also teach your children by example how they should rely on the Word to pray the will of God for their lives.

Instead of having them "catch" your frustration, have them "catch" your reliance on praying Scripture prayers for every need.

Note: Melani Shock is from Alexandria, Louisiana and is most content when in the same room with her husband, Terry, her two children, Kendra and Bradyn, and her schnauzer, Roxy. As coordinators of Leadership Development International for the UPCI, she and her husband travel full-time teaching leadership and pastoral development both in North America and globally.

Teach Us to Pray

By Barbara Hilderbrand



Approaching the Wall, I thought I heard it. A groaning, that seemed to come from the very stones themselves. This certain place-hushed and holy-where the fervently devout had gathered, was very near where Jesus had said, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:40).

What I heard, of course, came from the throats of the few hundred shawl-clad Jews who were giving voice to the stones of the Western Wall in Jerusalem that night. It was a moving sight.

Literally. Men and boys on one side of the partition, women and girls on the other, all with faces to the Wall. All moving-bobbing, swaying, walking, nodding as they poured out their prayers to the Almighty. Exactly as Jews have prayed for centuries. Our tour group only had a few minutes to linger, so I wanted my prayers there to be my best, my highest, my most eloquent. "Lord Jesus, teach ME to pray-HERE."

" And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray"(Luke 11:1).

Something dawned on me as I glanced around at the other pray-ers that night. These were Jews, mostly. If there is one thing that observant Jews learn at a very young age, it is how to pray. Judaism has always been a religion of the home. Prayer is a fundamental element of their earliest training-especially for the boys. For countless generations, the very youngest Jewish child is taught to lisp out "Shema Israel, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echod" before he learns anything else.

How was it, then, that the Twelve-certainly all raised as good Jewish boys-would ask their rabbi, Jesus, to teach them how to pray? Certainly, before they ever learned to fish or mend nets or count tax money, they would have learned how to pray!

"Teach us to pray, like John also taught his disciples."

Like every good rabbi, John would have led them to pray the words of the Scriptures. Their custom was not to only pray the words of the Torah and Tehillim (Psalms), but they most likely had large portions of it memorized. "One who is wise should submit his prayers like King David" wrote one of their sages.

In response to their request, Jesus immediately led the Twelve in what may have seemed to them a new way of praying. Instead of rote recitation, He taught them to pray with words straight from the heart. Jesus wasn't giving them yet another generic prayer to memorize; rather He was encouraging them to simply pray through their personal and present circumstances. "Father-give us daily bread- forgive us-deliver us." Not so much a formula of how to, or where to, or when to pray. Jesus taught them simply TO pray. To spontaneously inject praise, thanks, intercession, and petition into the movement of the day. Every day. Jesus, teach us simply TO pray.

Note: Barbara Hilderbrand lives and works in Wausau, Wisconsin. She is Wisconsin District Ladies Ministries president, and she serves Lighthouse Pentecostal Church where her husband, Derrald, is pastor.

Teach by Example
By Fanny Cooney



Our son Jaylon is bilingual, speaking English and French. From the time he was born, I have spoken to him in French so he can communicate with his family in France.

I have also always prayed in French with him as it is easier for me. This has resulted in him praying in French as well, not only at home but at church. Up until a few months ago, the bedtime prayer was more or less repetition of the same thing, almost said by heart and one could think, without any real conviction.

Last Christmas, we got to spend time with family. For our time of prayer, Jaylon and his cousins took turns praying.

A couple of weeks after returning home to Northern Ireland, Jaylon started to venture out of his "recited" prayer and pray from his heart for people around him, friends struggling at school, church members, etc. I realized that night and every night since, the influence of his cousin's prayers in his life. His cousins are older than he is; and even though he did not ask them to teach him, he followed their example.

The disciples were all together when Jesus was praying. As they heard Him pray, they asked, "Lord, teach us how to pray too" (Luke 11: 1).

As much as spending time in prayer on our own every day is essential, corporate prayer is vital as well. I have personally learned how to expand my prayers from other people while in prayer meetings. We learn from each other, by listening to how requests and petitions are made for specific needs.

No, our prayers don't have to be fancy and elaborate, but as we grow in our relationship with God, our prayers should not stay the same as when we first started praying.

We need to pray for our children, but also pray with our children. Let them repeat after you from a young age. Take them to prayer meetings. Your prayers and the prayers of other will be their best teacher.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deuteronomy 6: 5-7).

Note: Fanny Cooney was born and raised in France. Together with her husband, Joe, and their son, Jaylon, they serve as missionaries to Ireland.



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From the Editor



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Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (1 John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).



Ministries we support...

TUPELO CHILDREN'S MANSION

Children live in an environment with opportunity to grow spiritually, physically and emotionally.

NEW BEGINNINGS Maternity care for birth mothers considering adoption and child placement for adoptive couples.

HAVEN OF HOPE A program for girls ages 13-16 with behavioral and emotional issues.

LIGHTHOUSE RANCH for BOYS Healing broken and hurting lives of teen boys.



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