

PRAYER

Pt. 7 - Prayer in Our Parenting



Prayer in our Parenting...

This week's message can seem exclusive, but it is actually for everyone. Even though you may not have a child of your own, you do have the opportunity to pray for, teach and be a positive influence on children of all ages. You can even be a father or mother figure to a child who does not have that presence in their life.

In recent weeks we have talked about how to pray but now this weekend Jeanette Chase will lead *us* in teaching a child how to pray.

Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much

Jesse Rider
Senior High Pastor

Group Study Questions

1. Have each person in the group describe their favorite teacher when they were in school. What qualities did that teacher have that drew you to them?
2. Read Proverbs 22:6. Who was your main “trainer” as a child?
3. Where would you be if that person never took time to train you up right now? What lessons did you learn from them? If possible take some time and encourage and thank them for everything they taught you.
4. Read Proverbs 22:6 again. Who are you training up right now? If you are not training them, then who is?
5. Make a list of things that are present in our culture that have a negative influence on children.
6. Read 3 John 1:4. How does the reward mentioned in this verse encourage you in your training of a child?

Prayer Guide

Although the 5 finger prayer model is simplistic in its design, it is a very effective model for remembering who to pray for. Use this as a daily guide in your prayer time this week.

1) Your Thumb is nearest to you

So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said "sweet duty."

While praying for our loved ones is easy the Bible also tells us to pray for our enemies who, in a negative way, are also near us.

"Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Matthew 5:44) And again, "Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and he will bless you for it." (1 Peter 3:9)

2) The next finger is the Pointing Finger

Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, firefighters and pastors. They need support and guidance in pointing others in the right direction.

3) The next finger is the Tallest Finger

It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

When the king of Nineveh prayed to God he saved his nation from destruction (Jonah 3:6-10). We should pray that our decision makers repent and seek God's will as they lead us.

4) The fourth finger is our Ring Finger

Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night.

5) And lastly comes our Little Finger

The smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your Pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

When praying for ourselves we should first confess our sins because sin breaks fellowship with God and we don't want to be out of fellowship with Him. No matter how badly we've sin take heart and know that "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Then we should give thanks for all the blessings we have been given, "Offer to God thanksgiving, and pray your vows to the Most High" (Psalm 50:14)

And finally we lay out what is on our heart, the good and the bad, and we pray that God's will be done in our life. The Father loves you very much and will always do what is best for you. Trust Him and He will lead you and cause all things to work together for the good of those who love Him. (Romans 8:28)

Portions of this definition of the 5 Finger Prayer comes from BibleStudyPlanet.com.