Praying With Our Children

Shawn Jeffries · Philippians 4:6–7

INTRODUCTION

- What about us as parents carving out some time every single day to pray and talk to God with our kids?
- I want to suggest that we need to be doing that because prayer is a great privilege given to us by God.
- We can actually talk to him at any time we desire, and we can trust that he will hear us.

1 Teach Them How to Pray

Luke 11:1–4

- When we make time to pray with our kids, we're able to teach them. We're able to teach them how to pray.
- Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.
- Prayer is a learned activity. Prayer is a learned discipline. It is a taught practice.
- As the parents, we got to teach our children how to pray.
- What prayer does at the end of the day is it demonstrates trust. It demonstrates faith. It demonstrates daily dependence and reliance upon God.

2 Help Them Nurture a Relationship With God

Luke 11:2; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12

- Jesus, he starts his prayer by calling God Father. Father implies relationship.
- Notice how prayer was a big part of Jesus' life. It was something that he was doing all the time.
- Through reading the Bible, and only through reading the Bible, God speaks to us. But through prayer, we speak to him.
- We pray to deepen our relationship with God. We pray to constantly keep God on our minds.

3 Teach Them to Prioritize God

Luke 5:15–16

- When we make time to pray with them, that forces all of us to slow down.
- But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.
- Even though he's got all this going on in his life. He still made prayer happen.
- We show them by our example, God matters. God is important. God is important even in our busy lives.

4 Teach Them to Prioritize Others

Colossians 4:2–4

- Devote yourselves to prayer with an attitude of thanksgiving, praying at the same time for us as well.
- Paul here is urging the Colossians to prioritize others in their prayers.

- We're gonna make time to pray for the grieving and for the hurting.
- We're also gonna make time to pray for our country.

5 Immerse God's Word in Their Hearts

John 15:7

- When we make time to pray with them, we immerse God's word in their hearts.
- If you abide in me and my words in you ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- Notice how he connects prayer to the word of God.
- We're supposed to be their primary teachers, not the Bible class teacher.
- Prayer is first and foremost about God. It is about God's will and desiring for God's will to be done.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Prayer is something that we gotta be doing with our kids all the time. We must be regularly praying with our kids if we're gonna be a family that serves God.**

MY NOTES