

Why pray for your adult children?



As the mother of adult children, you know that the “hands-on” stage of parenting is behind you. Yet your heart is just as connected to your children as when you had full oversight of their well-being. While you will always be a significant influence in their lives, your impact now takes a different shape.

The purpose of this study is to connect mothers with God on behalf of their adult children who are not actively engaged with Him—moms who want to maximize their impact through the power of Scripture-focused prayer.

The purpose of *Prayer Worth Repeating* is to provide women with a time and place for significant prayer. This resource offers inspiring devotionals and Scriptural prayer guidance, while you connect with women for powerful prayer. These women will encourage you to trust more deeply as God works in the lives of your adult children. This study provides space for you to journal your thoughts about the changes you see taking place within yourself, and your child, as you pray. Each mom will benefit having her own personal devotional guide to record and reveal how God answers her prayer.

Prayer Worth Repeating is designed to meet the needs of your group—whether you meet weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. All you need to do is gather together a small group of women who share your desire to pray more effectively for their adult children. Meet where you’ll be most comfortable and look forward to a time of focused praying and encouragement.

The format for your meetings may be established by the personality of your group. You may pray first or wait until after sharing the devotional together. You may use the Praying Scripture section at the end of each devotional to guide your group during prayer time, or as a personal resource between your group experiences—or both!

Fixing Your Focus on the End Result

Against All Odds



One of the Bible's most amazing stories of victory in spite of tremendous odds surrounds a young man named Gideon (Judges 6 and 7). When Gideon first appears in the book of Judges, he and all the Israelites are hiding out from the Midianites, who have been terrorizing them for years. When God calls Gideon to lead his people to freedom, Gideon's first response is disbelief—the circumstances appear impossible. God remains steadfast, however, and Gideon finally gathers together a band of men willing to go up against their fearsome foe.

Incredibly, God tells Gideon his army is too big.

God whittles their numbers until just 300 of them are left to go up against the mighty Midianite army of 120,000 soldiers. Gideon's story begins on a hopeless note, and God *appears* to be making it even more hopeless. Pure craziness! Do you ever feel, in spite of your many prayers for your child, things seem to go from bad to worse?

✂ What circumstances in your child's life do you see as being the biggest barrier to her engaging fully with Christ?

✂ What part of your child's life choices and/or attitude do you find most threatening to your ability to trust God to bring him into active faith in Jesus Christ?

God shows incredible patience with Gideon's lack of confidence and faith that his people would ever again be free. God is also patient with you when your confidence wavers regarding your child. He continually reassured Gideon.

To bolster his confidence, God tells Gideon to sneak down to the Midianite encampment the night before the battle and eavesdrop on a conversation between two soldiers. Read what happened in Judges 7:13-15:

“Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. ‘I had a dream,’ he was saying. ‘A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.’

“His friend responded, ‘This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.’

“When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshipped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, ‘Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.’”

Look at this passage again. Gideon did two things after hearing the conversation.

✦ What is the first thing Gideon did after hearing the conversation between the two Midianite soldiers?

To understand the significance of this, you need to get a picture of where Gideon was when he suddenly dropped to his knees to worship God. Read Judges 7:12:

“The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.”

The enemy's numbers are innumerable—too many to count. Yet, right there outside one of the soldier's tents, Gideon decided to have a prayer meeting! Smack in the middle of enemy territory, he took time to acknowledge the One who was directing the miraculous circumstances of his life.

When we decide to position ourselves to worship Almighty God, even in enemy territory, we step into the realm of the miraculous.

We place ourselves in the presence of the Creator of the universe!

We stand in the shadow of Perfection and Wisdom and Mercy and Compassion and Love.

As we give God our full attention, we experience His full attention. Begin to comprehend the wonder of this.

✂ Take a moment to write down your thoughts and responses to God giving you His full attention.

✂ What is the second thing Gideon did?

Gideon proclaims victory—*even before they set out for the battlefield!* “Get up!” he tells his men. “The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.” When he proclaimed victory in advance, Gideon believed that what God said was true—he was proclaiming his faith and confidence in God. He sets his mind not on *his* ability, but on God’s faithfulness to do what He said. Our faith is important in seeing God at work.

Picture what you are longing to see happen with your child. If your child ever walked in close relationship with God, remember those times as you pray. Thank God that He longs to see your child worship Him again as well.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Jeremiah 32:38-41

“They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.”

PRAYING SCRIPTURE – *Myself*

- Thank you Father, that You will do immeasurably more than all that I ask or imagine according to Your power that is at work in me. (Ephesians 3:20)
- Oh Father, Your righteousness reaches to the skies, and You have done great things. (Psalm 71:19)
- How wonderful Father, that I don't have to fight this battle. All I have to do is stand firm and see the deliverance You are going to bring. Thank You for telling me not to be afraid or discouraged, because You are with me. (2 Chronicles 20:17)

PRAYING SCRIPTURE – *My Child*

- Thank You that in all things my child may be more than a conqueror through You who love him. (Romans 8:37)
- Thank You that my child, when she believes, will see the exceeding greatness of Your power toward her, according to the working of Your mighty power. (Ephesians 1:19)
- Father, become a strong refuge for my child and a strong Tower from the enemy. (Psalm 61:3)



REFLECTIONS

God has strengthened my confidence in Him by . . .

Today, I'm trusting these characteristics of God . . .





An Image More Like Christ



Joseph was a kid with issues. He had an inflated image of himself. His father made it obvious that Joseph was the favored child. To exacerbate matters, God's gift to Joseph to interpret dreams set him apart even more. In his youthful arrogance, Joseph mishandled the gift. He told his brothers that according to his dreams, they were one day going to bow down to him.

This wasn't a wise thing to say to siblings!

Joseph's arrogance, combined with the jealousy and hatred of his brothers, produced disastrous consequences. The dysfunction in this family became so out-of-control that Joseph's brothers plotted his murder. However, they settled for something less drastic and sold him off to a band of slave traders on their way to Egypt.

Don't you wonder what Joseph's thoughts were as he watched his brothers take money in exchange for him and his freedom?

What do you think his thoughts were later in Egypt when, after being such a trustworthy slave to Potiphar, he landed in prison because of Potiphar's lying wife?

What about later when his fellow prisoner, whom he had helped, forgot his promise to remember Joseph?

For more than a dozen years, Joseph's life was a seesaw of wild highs and devastating lows. Joseph never could have grasped how God would use those years of preparation. (Read about Joseph in Genesis chapters 37 and 39-47.)

✦ What are some of the significant highs and lows of your child's life?



What does this have to do with your child? Simply this: God used every single twist and turn in Joseph's life for His purpose. Not for a minute was Joseph ever out of God's reach. And your child isn't out of God's reach either.

In every circumstance Joseph found himself in, his gift for leadership emerged. Just as God equipped Joseph with gifts and abilities, He has equipped your child.

In the beginning, Joseph misused his gift and it cost him dearly. It took a long season of both slavery and imprisonment to refine and prepare Joseph for the specific assignment God had for him. The result, however, was a man so yielded to God that Pharaoh entrusted everything to him—his personal household, the workings of the country—everything. Joseph's power and influence were remarkable for a foreigner who came into the country as a slave. God used prison in Joseph's life.

Like Joseph's situation, God can use every person's circumstance to bring Him glory.

Like Joseph, God equips each of us with the abilities and gifting we need to fulfill His plan.

✿ Take a moment and contemplate your child's gifting and God's plan for him. Think big!

Thank God for ways He has gifted your child and for the work He is doing in your child's life, even if it is not visible to you. Trust God with the end result God wants for your child—an image more like Jesus.

God knows how to draw your child to Himself. Trust God with the current details of your child's life. Expect Him to work good out of it. The many twists in Joseph's life eventually led to him being in a position to save his brothers' lives. By the time that remarkable opportunity presented itself, Joseph was a changed man. There was no hint of bitterness or desire for vengeance—nothing that stemmed from the evil his brothers intended for him. Instead there was a man transformed into the image of Christ, a man filled with gratitude for being reunited with his family. God is at work in your child's life, too. We can thank God and ask Him to complete the good work He has begun.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Romans 8:28-29

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

PRAYING SCRIPTURE – *Myself*

- Father, help me to walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- Thank You, Lord, that I am strengthened in my faith. I praise You, because I am fully persuaded that You have the power to do what You have promised. (Romans 4:20-21)

PRAYING SCRIPTURE – *My Child*

- Father, thank You for the plans You have for my child’s life, plans to prosper her and not to harm her, plans to give my child a hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- Father, I pray that You will be manifested in my child’s life, so that You will destroy the works of Satan. (1 John 3:8)
- Father, I pray that my child will cease giving a foothold to Satan. (Ephesians 4:27)
- Father, cause my child to hate evil, guard his life and deliver him from the hand of the wicked. (Psalm 97:10)

Your Heart's Desire



ir Winston Churchill has many notable quotes to his credit. One of my favorites is, “You cannot tell from appearances how things will go. Sometimes imagination makes things out far worse than they are.”

Although he was not speaking to the art of parenting, his words here are applicable to mothers. Oh, how easily our imaginations can get the best of us! How effortlessly we can look at a situation and see the worst. The Israelites had the same tendency. Read Numbers 13:26-33:

“They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: ‘We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.’

“Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.’

“But the men who had gone up with him said, ‘We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.’ And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, ‘The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.’”

What was it Churchill said? Something about not being able to predict the future accurately from the present appearances; how our imagination can make things out to be far worse than

they really are? The Israelites were masters of “expecting the worst,” but nothing good comes from such an outlook. Read what God had to say about their attitude in Numbers 14:21-23:

“Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.”

Those are heartbreaking words spoken by God. His desire was to shower His children with magnificent blessings.

✿ When do you struggle with the same inability to trust God?

✿ Have you ever stopped to consider how your lack of trust might be preventing you from living a more faithful life? Write out your thoughts.

God wants to help you increase your trust in Him. He knows that trust takes practice. Your child’s current lack of engagement with God is the perfect opportunity for you to practice trusting Him.

Think about this: Joshua and Caleb saw the very same things the other spies saw. They saw all the same giants and the same massive, fortified cities. But they viewed what they saw through the eyes of faith—that God had given them *ownership*. There might be giants living there, but that land belonged to them! After their long, treacherous journey out of slavery, they were at last looking at the magnificent land God promised them. God was not surprised or concerned

that giants lived there. He knew that fact from even before He promised that same land to His children. He was not surprised at the large, fortified cities, either.

Similarly, your child's spiritual state does not surprise God. You have no power over your children's choices, or the philosophies they embrace, or the lifestyles they adopt. So, stop worrying about them. Instead, view your child through God's eyes. Meditate on the plans God has for your child, the very plans He laid out even before He laid the foundations of the world. Thank God for how He knit your child together in the womb and numbered his days before his first breath of earthly air.

✿ Write out a prayer for your child's future:

Another of Churchill's quotes is, "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

Take those words to heart concerning your child. Don't give any consideration to the *apparently* overwhelming might of the enemy. Give all consideration to the *assured*, overwhelming might of God!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: Psalm 91:1-2

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

PRAYING SCRIPTURE – *Myself*

- Father, help my light to shine before my child, that he will see my good deeds and praise You in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)
- Thank You for the confidence I can have in approaching You: that if I ask anything according to Your will, You will hear me. (1 John 5:14-15)
- Thank You for being my confidence and for keeping my feet from slipping. (Proverbs 3:26)

PRAYING SCRIPTURE – *My Child*

- Lord, let my child humble himself under Your mighty hand, and I trust You to lift him up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6)
- Lord, let my child hear and listen to Your voice; let my child follow You. Give her eternal life so she shall never perish, and no one can snatch her out of Your hand. (John 10:27-28)
- Father, I know You are able to keep my child from falling and that You are able to present him before Your glorious presence without fault and with great joy. (Jude 1:24)

