PARENT PARTNER

WEEKLY PLAN

Week 3: How To Pray Graciously

Prayer isn't just about hearing from God or seeking instruction for God's will for our lives, but also intersects in the ways in which God commands us to love others, forgive others, and grow in our graciousness. The work of this week is to seek a growing knowledge of how prayer transforms our understanding of others by deepening our relationship with God.

PRAYERTIME

THIS IS YOUR DAILY SCRIPTURE:

And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God (Phil. 1:9-11 CSB).

THIS IS YOUR DAILY PRAYER:

I pray this: that my family's love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that we may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

DRIVE TIME
CONVERSATION

PARENT PRE-READING:

You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you (Jer. 29:12).

(Read Jeremiah 29:1-23 for further context.)

CONVERSATION STARTER:

I was reading in Jeremiah 29 when God speaks to His people who probably feel scared and alone as they are in exile. He tells them to call out to Him and come and pray, and He will listen. Have you ever felt like you are praying to God, but He is a long way away? What was that experience like for you?

ACTIVITY TIME

Evening Of Silence

Have you ever thought about how much time you spend talking when you pray? For many of us, all of our prayer time is just us talking. Are we taking the time to listen? In this activity we want to make space for silence. Allow God to speak. For your family this may be different levels of comfortability. You may start off by asking everyone in your home for one hour of silence or even take the whole evening. The goal is to be completely silent. We can read Scripture but nothing else. Just listen.

KID TIP: *For the younger kids, compare this activity to the quiet game. Just like in the game, you still need to stay quiet, but the reason isn't to win, but is to practice listening for the Lord! Feel free to have shorter segments of silent prayer time for the little ones, and if they are struggling, encourage them to sing their favorite worship song inside their head!*

DINNER TIME
CONVERSATION

As we talk about prayer this month we wanted to do something a little different for our dinner conversations. Instead of using different Scripture passages each night to guide our conversation we have chosen to use The Lord's Prayer that Jesus teaches in Matthew 6. You will want to read the passage as a whole every time, but your discussion will be on a smaller section of this prayer each night. This could be a great opportunity to challenge your family to memorize this passage if you have never done this before.

STARTING QUESTIONS

Would you say you are a quick person to forgive someone or is forgiveness difficult for you? Why do you think that is true about you?

DEEPENING QUESTION

How do you feel when you think about the forgiveness that God has offered to you?

Would you say that His forgiveness affects the way you forgive other people? Why or why not?

READ THIS TOGETHER

"Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (Matt. 6:9-13).

SCRIPTURAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Why do you think God desires for us to offer forgiveness to other people?

Do you think there is any lack of forgiveness that needs to be addressed inside our family? How can we resolve this if there is something we need to talk about?

(If there is no reconciliation that needs to take place, ask how you can ensure that we are a family that forgives each other if something were to happen in the future.)