

HERE ARE COMPILED RESOURCES THAT CAN BE HELPFUL TO TEACH PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE TO CHILDREN:

How Do You Teach Children to Pray?

Four truths of prayer come to mind about how we teach kids to pray:

Children must be taught why we pray. They must be taught that God commands us to pray and that the reason for praying is for our benefit not for God's.

Children must be taught when to pray. Prayer is not just for night time or meal time. The Bible says "pray without ceasing." We must explain to kids that prayer is about acknowledging God and his presence at all times in our lives.

Children must be taught the types of prayer. Praying to God can take many forms: Talking out loud, In our heads, Writing them out, Singing, Drawing pictures, Dancing, Meditating on his Word, Short prayers, Long prayers.

Children must be taught the elements of prayer. There are four basic elements of prayer that should be taught to kids. The Lord's Prayer is a great tool for accomplishing this. The elements of prayer can be remembered by the acronym ACTS:

- Adoration: Praising God for who he is and what he has done!
- Confession: Telling God about the wrong things we have done and asking for his forgiveness.
- Thanksgiving: Thanking God for all he has done for us.
- Supplication: Asking for things for ourselves and others.

So, those are four truths about prayer, but what is the best way to convey those to kids? They must be taught by example. The following are some practical tips:

- Model prayer for them. Show them how you pray.
- Pray with them frequently.
- Make prayer part of your *daily practice*.
- Let kids see you praying.
- Pray as a *family*.

- Talk about prayers God has answered for you.
- Encourage them to write their prayers down and keep track of those God has answered.

Finally, look for opportunities and fun ways to teach kids how to pray and then use them to pray with them. Here are some ideas:

- Make a list of ten things they are thankful for.
- Have them draw a picture of the family and write one thing they could pray about for each person.
- Talk to them about things they are afraid of and God's ability to protect them from those things.
- Act out the days of creation with them and talk about the awesomeness of God.
- Have them do some research on starving kids around the world *and pray for them*.
- Talk about our government and the people who rule over us. Explain that God tells us to pray for those people.
- Talk about the people they know at church like *the clergy and staff*.
- Explain that those people need our prayers.
- Kids will learn so much more by doing than they ever will by just by hearing.

How Do You Help Kids To Develop Their Own Initiative?

Patterns and routines are helpful for kids in prayer. Encourage them to pray throughout the day, but always at certain times (such as when they get up, meal time, or bedtime). Encourage them to think about their prayers. If your kids are just saying the same thing day after day after day, they are not really learning how to pray. If you encourage them to put their own fears and wishes and desires and gratitude in their prayers, it makes the prayer their own and encourages them tap into the power of prayer.

Source (100% free and easy to download.): By Tony Kummer
<https://ministry-to-children.com/how-to-teach-kids-to-pray/>
Italics are modifications to suit context

The 5 Finger Prayer

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

Index: (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinkie: (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.



3 Ways to Teach Scripture to Children

Tell Stories, Show Them Jesus, and Sing

By Peter Leithart

1. Tell Bible Stories God gave stories because he wanted us to read, tell and retell, live out of and into the stories themselves. Start there. Tell the stories. They'll remember. Scripture teaches moral lessons, and the Bible's stories have doctrinal import. We should teach all that to our children.

2. Show Them Jesus

During the 40 days between his resurrection and ascension, Jesus taught the Bible to his disciples (Luke 24). Luke tells us he taught the entire Old Testament—Moses, the prophets (former and latter), and the Psalms. He taught “everything concerning himself.” We know it from Jesus himself: the whole Bible is about him.

The Bible is a book of books, a grand story with lots of small stories in the middle. All the small stories are connected to the grand story, because all the small stories are part of the story of Jesus. The stories are pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Once we've put the pieces together, as Irenaeus said, we discover a portrait of a glorious, beautiful King.

3. Sing the Bible

Do not underestimate what a child can learn about Scripture. They can learn more than we realize, and they can have fun doing it.

Source: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/teach-scripture-children/> by Peter Leithart, November 11, 2019 (used only portions that fit context).