

March 2018

parenting CHRISTIAN kids



**NAPERVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Help Children Harness the Power of Prayer

POWERSOURCE

ASK GOD:

1. To remind your family members to converse with God regularly.
2. To show your children that prayer involves more than just asking God for stuff.
3. To help you include listening to God as part of your prayer time through His Word, the Bible.

Prayer is many things: a privilege, a command, a blessing, and an active way to build our faith with Jesus.

"Prayer is the conversation of life," says Adam Stadtmiller, author of *Give Your Kids the Keys* (Regal). "Prayer is always available. Prayer is always the answer. Every issue in our life finds its solution and answer in prayer."

Stadtmiller emphasizes that prayer is for all people, no matter their age. "There's no difference between the importance of prayer in the life of a child and that of an adult," he writes.

Although prayer should be natural, it might not come naturally to children. Even Jesus' disciples needed to be taught how to pray; that's why Jesus gave them the Lord's Prayer (see Matthew 6:9-13).

By modeling prayer in a variety of styles and settings, parents can teach children the following:

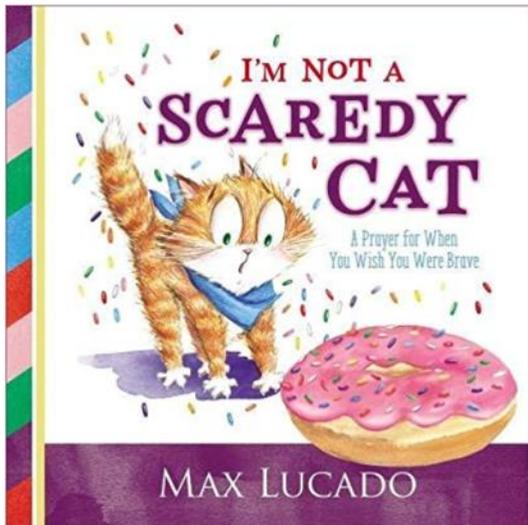
- Prayer involves ongoing conversational dialogue with our almighty yet approachable God.
- Prayer can be spontaneous or planned, short or long, loud or silent, for ourselves or for other people.
- Prayer involves praise, confession, and thanksgiving, not just requests.
- God is at work through our prayers and always answers them—though sometimes not how we want or after a long period of waiting.

Read on for practical ideas about putting prayer's power to work in your family.

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March Book of the Month

The March Book of the Month is *I'm Not a Scaredy-Cat* by Max Lucado.

Follow a silly series of misadventures as scaredy-cat faces his worst fears. For each of the fears, this book provides a reassuring child's version of **Philippians 4:6-9:**
*“God, you are good.
God, you are near.
God, you are here!
And, God, you love me.”*

Available in board book and hard cover versions for toddler—8yr olds.

Pray Without Ceasing

As children's communication skills develop and grow, so does their ability to pray. Toddlers begin to understand that Jesus is their friend, so pray to him in simple language that relates to children's daily lives. Preschoolers become more aware of the world around them, so remind children this age that Jesus cares about everything that happens to them and to other people. By ages 7 to 9, most kids feel a need for God's help and strength—and are able to verbally express their thoughts and desires. Look up Bible verses about prayer together. Preteens begin to focus on relationships, so remind them of their value to God and of the fact that no prayers are insignificant or unworthy.

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

Give children each a white pillowcase and a fabric pen. Say: “This week at bedtime, let's pray for a different person each night.”

Help kids each write a new name on their pillowcase nightly after they pray for that person.

Anywhere Prayers Read aloud Jonah 2:1 and find unique places to pray as a family. Let each person find a spot (closet, car, treehouse, swing set). Then gather in those places for prayer, thanking God for always loving and listening to us—no matter where we are.

Pop Up Prayers Create a prayer reminder using an empty 20-ounce bottle, plastic disposable plates, a permanent marker, glitter, corn syrup, and water. Cut six half-inch ovals from the plates. Write Family, Neighbors, Church, Our Government, World Problem, and Peace on the ovals, one per oval. Put the ovals and some glitter in the bottle. Fill it three-fourths full of corn syrup; top with water. Tighten the lid. Each day, shake the bottle and pray for what comes up first.

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”
—Ephesians 6:18, NLT

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MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *A Wrinkle in Time*

Genre: Adventure, Fantasy, Family

Rating: PG

Cast: Reese Witherspoon, Oprah Winfrey, Mindy Kaling, Chris Pine

Synopsis: This film adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's classic 1962 novel features Meg, an awkward 13-year-old. When her scientist father disappears, Meg, her brother, and a friend go on a space-traveling "tesseract" quest to find him. Three magical beings—Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Who—offer wisdom and clues along the way.

Our Take: This coming-of-age story emphasizes personal courage and the importance of family. Older kids and sci-fi fans will marvel at the imaginative adventures and unusual characters. The film contains elements of peril.



TV

Title: *The Gifted*

Network: Fox

Synopsis: When their son becomes a mutant, a family must flee their ordinary lives and go into hiding. The family eventually joins a group of mutants fighting to survive due to society's prejudice.

Our Take: Various episodes of this adventure-based series are rated between TV-PG and TV-14, making the show questionable for preteens. The violence and action-adventure also may be too scary for sensitive viewers. However, the program addresses prejudice and society's reaction to people's differences that may help families talk about how to show kindness and love to everyone. Preview *The Gifted* before deciding whether to watch it with your kids.

Games, Sites & Apps

Detective Pikachu

In this adventure puzzle game for the Nintendo 3DS, players try to solve mysteries in the city with a talking Pikachu. A live-action film adaptation of this game is slated to hit the big screen next spring, with Ryan Reynolds voicing the Pikachu character.

TweenTribune.com

This learning-based site from the Smithsonian offers free articles about news, science, history, art, and more. Articles are available in different "lexile" (or reading) levels, so students from kindergarten to high school can benefit.

Spanish versions also are available.



CULTURE & TRENDS

Hair 101 for Dads Fathers who need a crash course in little-girl hair care—and in bonding with their little girls—can attend free workshops through Daddy Daughter Hair Factory. A dad began this nonprofit in 2015 to encourage strong relationships. (daddydaughterhairfactory.com)

Boy Bands Are Back The days of 'N Sync and One Direction may be over, but a new wave of boy bands is vying for young listeners. Groups such as Why Don't We, BTS, PRETTYMUCH, BROCKHAMPTON, and CNCO cover the musical spectrum, from Latin and Korean pop to groovy a cappella. (time.com)

QUICK STATS

Slowing Abuse Long-term, growing awareness of sexual abuse has led to a 65% decrease in child-related cases over the past 25 years. (nytimes.com)

Aim for 100 Children who spend fewer than 100 minutes each day doing moderate-to-vigorous physical activity are considered to have a "sedentary" activity level. (pediatrics.aapublications.org)

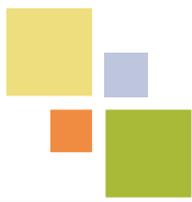
Extended Families Ten percent of U.S. children (more than 7 million) live with adult relatives other than or in addition to their parents. (grandfamilies.org)

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This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our goal is to help you make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.



March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Little Treasures 9:30-11:05am (Infant—PreK childcare for Women’s Bible Study) Youth Choir 4:30pm	2	3
4 Classes for Infants -5th Grade during the 9:30 Service and during Discipleship Hour from 11am to Noon. Wildside Family Lunch following Discipleship Hour! 2:00 Youth Choir Rehearsal	5	6 Community Bible Study—After School Kids (ASK) 4:15-6pm Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm	7 Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm	8 Little Treasures 9:30-11:05am (Infant—PreK childcare for Women’s Bible Study) Youth Choir 4:30pm	9 Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm	10 Youth Choir Musical 5pm
11 Classes for Infants -5th Grade during the 9:30 Service and during Discipleship Hour from 11am to Noon. Worship and Faith Apps! Daylight Saving Time! Youth Choir Musical and Ice Cream Social 5pm	12	13 Community Bible Study—After School Kids (ASK) 4:15-6pm	14	15 Little Treasures 9:30-11:05am (Infant—PreK childcare for Women’s Bible Study) Youth Choir 4:30pm	16	17
18 Classes for Infants -5th Grade during the 9:30 Service and during Discipleship Hour from 11am to Noon.	19	20	21	22 Little Treasures 9:30-11:05am (Infant—PreK childcare for Women’s Bible Study) Youth Choir 4:30pm	23	24
25 Classes for Infants -5th Grade during the 9:30 Service and during Discipleship Hour from 11am to Noon. Communion/Palm Sunday	26	27	28	29	30 Good Friday Family Event 10- 11am Good Friday Service at 6:30pm (Childcare for Infants-2’s with reservation)	31