

# Praying God's Word for Your Kids

{ 10 Prayers & Activities To  
Impress God's Word on  
Your Kids' Hearts }



Amanda White

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

**It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV 1984)**

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# INTRO

I learned early on about praying for my children. It started at 8 weeks in utero with my firstborn.

My parents drove from Atlanta to our home in Birmingham to see their new grand-baby on the ultrasound screen. My husband, my parents and I eagerly crowded into the technician's room to see the first glimpse of the rest of our lives. As the technician worked, she said things like, "Boy, you sure are skinny!" and "Hmm. Where is that baby?"

Soon, she ushered my family out of the room to do a more thorough examination. And then she told me, "I can see the sac, but there is no heartbeat." My obstetrician confirmed there was no sign of a baby.

They scheduled another hormone level reading, another ultrasound and a D&C. My parents, my husband and I were dumbstruck. We ate lunch outside at a pretty café and just talked around the idea of a dead baby. Of no maternity clothes. No new baby toys. No birthday parties.

My parents drove home and my husband and I felt stranded--in the middle of an ocean with nowhere to swim. I went to the Women's Center again to have my hormone levels taken and the results were not positive. That night, at the wedding rehearsal dinner for our closest friends, we stood out in the parking lot as they prayed for us and our unborn baby. They prayed for a miracle.

During that prayer something in our hearts caught on fire. Suddenly, my husband remembered a list of Scriptures we had in our office. Each Scripture was about healing. We grabbed the list, went home, sat on our bed and began to read and pray that list of verses.

The third Scripture on the list was Exodus 23:25-26, "Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span." We knew in our hearts that this was a clear and sure promise for us.

We continued to pray through the rest of the Scriptures, and I felt I dreamed them that night. The next morning was our final ultrasound and scheduled D&C. They told me not to eat breakfast, as I would probably have "surgery" that morning. I ate breakfast in defiance that morning. Or rather, in faith of God's promises.



As we sat in the waiting room, we didn't watch TV, we didn't read magazines. We focused on, prayed and breathed the promises of God we had read the night before.

My name was called, and we followed the technician back to a small, dark room. She began the ultrasound and immediately heard a heartbeat and saw our firstborn. Our miracle child.

When I called my dad that day to tell him the news he said, "Well, we'll have to name him Lazarus!" And to us, that's what it felt like. A baby dead, called back to life by the power of God's words.

God's Word is powerful. It is alive (Hebrews 4:12). God's words hold the world together (John 1:3, Colossians 1:17). In His words we "live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). These are the words I want in my prayers. My words alone are only pleadings, positive thoughts, wishes and small talk. When I pray God's words, I am lining up my desires, my heart and my future with His.

Mark Batterson, author of Praying Circles around Your Children says, "The Bible wasn't meant to be read; it was meant to be prayed. Start reading, and God will start speaking. And that's when you need to stop reading and start praying." When we read God's Word and wield it like the sword it is (Ephesians 6:17), we will see miracles take place in our lives—and in the hearts, lives and futures of our children.

This book will help you hear God's words concerning your children. It will help you pray the words God has already spoken. It's not the end-all, be-all list of Scriptures. It's not a book of magic words that make your kids turn out right. It's simply a list of Scriptures that will lead you into knowing God's words more intimately and using them to dialogue with your Heavenly Father.

This book will also help your children hear and know His Words and His will for them. After reading the Scriptures and prayer in each chapter there is a simple activity for you to do with your children. These activities focus on a Scripture that will show your children how you are praying for them, the standard to which you and your household are striving and the promise God has for them.

As a special gift, you can download a beautiful printable Scripture from each chapter to display in your home—on your bulletin board, taped to your bathroom mirror or framed in your children's rooms. Then you will be able to "talk about [God's Word] when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 6:7).

So, let us pray...



# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Here's how I designed this book...or really, how I would use it:

On the first day of the week, I'd read "My Story" at the beginning of each chapter. This will set up the prayer topic.

Then I'd read "Our Prayer" aloud. I'd also insert my children's names where it says "children" or "kids".

Every day that week, I'd open up my Bible and read one of the additional Scriptures listed at the bottom of the page. I'd use that Scripture to meditate on (or maybe memorize) as I continued to pray "Our Prayer" each day.

Sometime during the week, I'd do the "For the Kids" activity with my children. The important part of this activity is letting your kids know, "This is how I'm praying for you." You aren't just a parent hidden in a closet muttering secret prayers, you are a parent leading your children to God's throne! You are letting them experience and understand what God's standard is for their heart and life. You are saying, "I'm concerned about every area of your life. And I'm not leaving you to chance. I am taking your name and your life to God's throne every day!"

Then, I'd click "Prayer Verse" on the bottom of the page to download the free printable Scripture from our [Facebook page](#). These decorative prints are perfect for hanging on a bulletin board, framing or just taping to the pantry door. As we walk around the house that week, I'd make sure I read that verse aloud over my kids. I'd try to help them memorize it. We'd be reminded of the prayers being prayed (and answered) in our home.



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# SALVATION

## My Story

My mom says I gave my heart to Jesus when I was 7 years old, at my first church camp. I say “my mom says” because I don’t really remember it. Oh, I do remember church camp—the crazy speaker who taught us “there’s a church on top of a hill” song, my purple dress with ice cream cones on it, my best friend Mandy and the canteen where I could buy What-chamacallit candy bars.

Mama says that when she picked me up from camp, I told her about those things. But I also told her about the nighttime service when I asked Jesus to come into my heart. As I told her, I got tears in my eyes. Writing it now actually puts tears in my eyes! I love to know that God can really and truly touch the heart of a little kid—draw it to Himself and speak strong and sure, directly at its center.

I may not remember the day our relationship first started, but I’ve seen the results of that decision every day. I’ve tried to obey, honor and serve Jesus all of my life. And I’m thankful for my parents, camp speakers and counselors and countless other leaders in my life who led me to knowing Jesus.

Our children may seem too young to understand it all. They might not remember the day they walk from light to dark, but it is our greatest battle, our highest honor

to pray for the moment when they do recognize Jesus as Lord of their life and God cleanses them of their sins! Let’s never stop praying for our children’s hearts to be turned to Him!



## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

Proverbs 22:6

Matthew 18:2-6

Matthew 10:42

Romans 10:9

Mark 10:13-16

1 John 1:9

## Our Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving the world so much that You sent Jesus to die for every single one of us—male, female, old and young (John 3:16). I pray that You will help me lead my children to You so they will never turn away from their relationship with You (Proverbs 22:6). Speak to their hearts so they will confess with their mouth, “Jesus is Lord” and believe in their hearts that You raised Him from the dead so they can be saved from their sin (Romans). I believe that when they do confess their sins, You will be faithful to forgive them and cleanse them from all their sins (1 John 1:9)! I am excited to see my children give their lives and hearts to you; help me never to hinder them (Mark 10:13-16).



## For the Kids

Supplies: large bowl filled with water, food coloring, 1-2 cups of bleach (in an unmarked container)

Explain that the bowl represents our hearts. Let kids squeeze a drop of food coloring into the container as they name different sins (1-2 drops is sufficient). Discuss how the water isn’t as clean as it once was. Read 1 John 1:9. Pour in the bleach and stir to see the food coloring disappear. Explain that when we ask God to forgive us for our sins, He will always forgive. God will take our sins away and cleanse our hearts when we ask Him to. He does this so we can have a relationship with Him.

Note: Because bleach isn’t actually clear, and depending on your ratios of water, dye and bleach, you may have a tinge of color in your water at the



end. Keep stirring, or allow your bowl to sit out for a few minutes until the bleach does its “magic”.



## Prayer Verse

1 John 1:9



# GOD'S WORD

## My Story

When I was in college, my husband and I interned at a mega-church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We learned so much about ministry, "big church" and children's programming. It was a turning point in our lives and ministry. We usually worked with elementary kids, but every once in awhile they'd put us in the nursery and preschool class.

I had never really been around little bitty kids before, and I wasn't a very good volunteer in those classes. I didn't know how to hold babies, didn't like to wipe noses and could not understand why they never stopped moving! But there was one thing I liked: the Bible story.

It wasn't a big production. In fact, it was just a mom who came into the room with a bucket of toys. She'd show a toy mirror and sing, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world!" as each toddler looked at his face in the mirror. Then she'd show them a stuffed animal and sing a song about God creating the world and the animals. Finally, she'd hand the children a small Bible. She encouraged them to hug the Bible, kiss the Bible and love on it! Then they'd sing, "The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the book for me!"

It was the cutest thing I'd ever seen: babies loving the Bible! Of course, they were just doing what their teacher said. It didn't make them love the Bible or internalize any of the words. But it set a small age-appropriate foundation: God's Word is important and worthy of our love and devotion.

This lesson continues as we teach preschoolers to memorize short verses, elementary-aged kids to read stories from the Bible, teenagers to follow devotional books and adults to dive into God's Word for themselves.



The Bible is not just a book for Christians to own and admire. It is a book to love and devour. And if you're a toddler, to slobber on and squish!

## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

**Psalm 119**

9, 11, 14, 16, 30, 35,  
44, 48, 89, 93, 97-105,  
112, 129, 143-144,  
147,  
167, 172

**Isaiah 40:8**

**Hebrews 4:12**

## Our Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for your living Word (Hebrews 4:12). I pray my children would love your Word, sing of it, hope in it, delight in it, meditate on it and rejoice in it (Psalm 119). I ask that they would hide Your Word in their heart so they won't sin against You (Psalm 119:105), and that as they keep close to your word, their hearts and lives would remain pure (Psalm 119:9). Lord, your Word stands forever (Isaiah 40:80). Let my children desire your Word more than silver and gold (Psalm 119:48) so it will be a constant light to their path (Psalm 119:105).



## For the Kids

Supplies: honey, flashlight

Take your kids on a simple trek through a dark part of your house (attic, basement) or through your house at night. Explain that you are searching for a treasure (which is some honey you've previously hidden). Use a flashlight or other light to find your way. When you arrive at the treasure, sit down and enjoy a taste as you read Psalm 119:97-105.

Explain that just as your flashlight helped you find the treasure, God's word will help you in life. And explain that the best treasure of all, God's Word, is sweeter than honey!

Pray together, thanking God for giving us His Word as a light and a treasure. Ask God to help your children love His Word!



## Prayer Verse

Psalm 119:97, 103-105



# WISDOM

## My Story

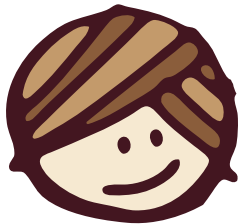
My best friend, Lorry, drove me to school my junior year. She lived in my neighborhood, and we were always together at church, school and at home. One morning, it was raining on the way to school. We didn't have an umbrella, but it didn't bother us. We had to get to school, and a little water couldn't stop us.

The closer we got to school, the harder it rained. We had to park in the Junior lot (aka: a million miles away from the school) and as we got out of the car and started walking to the school, the rain turned into a monsoon. (Well, it felt like it to us.)

We finally made it into the lobby of the school. When we looked at each other burst out laughing. It was as if we had showered with our clothes on. Our hair was flat and dripping. Our clothes were soaked. Even our backpacks were loaded with water. I remember I had a white shirt, black skirt and black tights on. Not a great outfit to be waterlogged in.

There was nothing left to do but turn around and go home. We walked back through the rain, drove home, changed clothes (grabbed an umbrella) and went back to school. By the time we got there, the rain was gone and we missed most of 1st period. All in all, not a bad day for a Junior in High School!

This story still makes me laugh, and I know it was just one of those crazy things that happens. But it also makes me think about wisdom: when we don't walk



in wisdom, we end up walking through a monsoon, soaked to the bone and missing First Period. I want my children to consider wisdom before every decision big and small. I don't want their lives drenched with regret and bad decisions as a result of ignoring wisdom.

## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

Psalm 25:14

Proverbs 3:1

Isaiah 11:2-3

Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 8:10-11

Proverbs 2:6-8

1 Kings 3:6-9

## Our Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

I ask that my children would be like King Solomon, who cried out for discernment and wisdom (1 Kings 3:6-9). Help them understand the great benefit of having Your wisdom lead and guide them through life (Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 8:10-11). I ask the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord to rest on them (Isaiah 11:22-23). Cause them to fear You so they will remain in Your confidence and begin to have your wisdom. Thank You for protecting, guiding, shielding and giving them victory when they follow Your wisdom.



## For the Kids

Play telephone. Whisper a silly word or phrase in one person's ear. They whisper it into the next person's ear. This continues until the last person hears the phrase, and says it out loud.

After playing a few rounds of telephone, whisper Psalm 25:14 into someone's ear. Once it gets around the group, talk about how God confides in us. Have everyone discuss what it would be like to have God whisper His thoughts into your ear! Explain that God will confide in us—give us wisdom and direction when we honor and obey Him. Encourage your children to listen to Him!

Pray together, thanking God for His wisdom.



## Prayer Verse

Psalm 25:14

# SELF CONTROL & TEMPTATION

## My Story

We chose my son, Asa's name with great care. We took so much care we were still deciding on his middle name at the hospital! (OK, some of that may have had to do with indecision and less with careful planning.)

Asa means "healer" and as we've experienced God's healing power in our family many times, this was important to us. What really solidified the name for us is King Asa's story in 2 Chronicles 14. He and his army are facing a terrible enemy. They get into their battle positions and King Asa cries out to God, "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. O LORD, you are our God; do not let man prevail against you."

King Asa knew he couldn't win without God. He needed God to defeat this army. My Asa will not have to defeat an army in his lifetime (at least, I hope not!), but he will come up against many battles. They may be temptations that lead to addiction, life-long regrets and pain for many people.

I will be teaching my son self-control so he can make good choices. But I will also be teaching him about King Asa's wisdom—that real deliverance and power come from God. If he can take a step back and have his mind controlled by the Spirit, his desires bound by God's desires, he will be able to stand up under temptation. He will live in peace and have a full life.



To conclude King Asa's story, after he prayed God responded. The next verse says, "God struck down the Cushites before Asa." I want my Asa to pray for God's deliverance, God's power and to lean into God's control in every area of his life.

## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

Proverbs 25:28      1 Peter 5:8

Galatians 5:22-23      James 1:12-15

Proverbs 29:11      1 Corinthians 10:13

Romans 8:5-8,13

## Our Prayer

Oh, Heavenly Father!

I do not want my children's lives to be like a city whose walls are broken down (Proverbs 25:28)! Cultivate self-control in my children's hearts (Galatians 5:22-23) and help them keep themselves under control (Proverbs 29:11), knowing that the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone not in control of their own heart and actions (1 Peter 5:8). I pray my children would persevere under temptations and trials so they will receive a crown of life and not death (James 1:12-15). I ask You to provide a way out when my children are tempted with (specific sin/temptation) (1 Corinthians 10:13). Thank You for giving us Your Spirit so we can live according to the Spirit.

Help my children live by your Spirit and not by their sinful nature (Romans 8)!



## For the Kids

Play Follow the Leader. Let everyone take a turn at being a leader. But when it's your turn, be a terrible leader! Lead your kids smack dab into the wall or outside into the mud. Make it fun and silly!

When the game is over, discuss what it's like to follow someone else's plans, ideas and footsteps. Discuss how it felt to follow you as the bad leader! Then read Romans 8:5 (and a few verses more if you'd like) and compare how following a bad "follow the leader" guide is like following the sinful nature. Instead, we want to follow the Spirit and walk in blessing and life!

Pray together, thanking God for giving us His Holy Spirit to guide us.



## Prayer Verse

Romans 8:5



# SERVANT'S HEART

## My Story

When I was a little girl, my favorite tape (yes, tape!) was Sing-sational Servants by Psalty. In this musical adventure, Psalty, a great big blue singing songbook, meets Charity Churchmouse, a vain gospel-singing-star wannabe. In their adventures they learn what it really means to be a star—it's when you serve others first.

My brother and I could sing every word to that tape, and we did so with gusto! Years later, when my husband and I were first married, we stopped at the clearance table of a Christian bookstore and found that same Psalty tape for less than a dollar. We grabbed it, took it home (where we still had a tape player!) and listened to it for laughs and memories. Instead, as the words played, I began to cry!

The words of the songs said, "If you wanna be great in God's kingdom, learn to be the servant of all..." and "Make me a servant, humble and meek. Lord, let me lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be: make me a servant today." I had no idea that I was singing those prayers as a child! I was singing to have fun, but God was using those words as a prayer and prophecy for me.

I've gone from special guest-speaker in front of thousands of kids to children's pastor of hundreds to mom of two. But with God's help and his direction, even through a singing songbook, I've found more satisfaction and fulfillment in serving others instead of being in the lime-light myself.



## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

**Mark 10:43-44**    **Philippians 2:3-5**

**Proverbs 3:34**    **2 Kings 22:19**

**John 13:12-17**    **Galatians 5:13**

**Matthew 20:28**

## Our Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I ask that my kids' highest goal would be to serve others. You said You give grace to the humble (Proverbs 3:34) and You listen to those with a humble heart (2 Kings 22:19). I pray my children would be heard and receive Your grace as they learn to be a servant to all (Mark 10:43-44). I pray they would do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than themselves (Philippians 2:3-5). May they follow Your example as a true servant leader (John 13:12-17, Matthew 20:28, Philippians 2:4) and humbly serve everyone they meet in love (Galatians 5:13).



## For the Kids

Supplies: paper, crayons or markers

Have everyone choose someone in the family to make a poster about. In the middle, draw (or attach) a picture of that family member. Add words of affirmation, encouragement and skills related to this person around the outside. Display the posters.

Talk about what it felt like to focus on one person for so long. Discuss how thinking of their great qualities is something we need to do all the time for everyone. Pray together that God would help you consider each other better than yourself.



## Prayer Verse

*Philippians 2:3*

# RESPECTING AUTHORITY

## My Story

I'm a firstborn. A rule-follower. A people-pleaser. I remember once being on a picnic at a park and I had to go to the restroom. So, I walked through the woods and the path to find the bathhouse. On my way I encountered a blacktop road with a sign that said "Do Not Enter." It was, of course, intended for cars. I stood in front of that sign and refused to pass it. I finally walked back to my parents and told them I couldn't go the bathhouse because of the sign.

And they laughed at me!

They knew the sign wasn't intended for me. It was just for cars! They told me to walk back and just walk over the road. I wasn't so sure, but went ahead and did it. (Slightly embarrassed, I might add.)

It's kinda funny now, but it's how I'm wired. I like to follow rules and don't understand people that don't. The irony of this story is that, of course, I don't follow all the rules. I certainly don't live the way God asks me to live all the time. I'm not patient. I'm not gentle. I'm not loving, selfless and kind at every turn.

But just as I wouldn't let myself pass that Do Not Enter sign, I want to instill in my children's hearts (ok, and in mine, too) that following God's road signs is the best thing to do. And the most obvious signs God gives are through the authority in our lives. I want them to know that obeying parents, teachers, pastors and other authority figures is the best for them. And when they don't obey, their life doesn't work as well.



Then maybe someday I can find the balance between obeying road signs and obeying God's Word?

## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

1 Peter 5:5-6

Proverbs 6:20-22

Ephesians 6:1

Colossians 3:20

Exodus 20:12

Psalms 107:10-11

Proverbs 1:8-9

## Our Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are our ultimate authority. I pray my children would honor You and respect You first. I pray they would never rebel against you or despise your counsel (Psalm 107:10-11). Help them obey their father and me as believers in the Lord, knowing that what they are doing is right and pleasing to You (Ephesians 5:10, Colossians 3:20). I pray they would have wisdom to heed our instruction (Proverbs 13:1) and honor us so they may have long lives (Exodus 20:12). Lord, let them understand that the instructions and commands we give (from You) will guide them, watch over them and speak to them (Proverbs 6:20-22). Use their attentiveness to our instruction to set a standard in their lives of respect, submission and obedience



to pastors, teachers, bosses and other leaders in their lives (1 Peter 5:5-6). Thank you that when they submit to authority, it will be a blessing in their own lives! (Proverbs 1:8-9)

## For the Kids

Supplies: tinfoil

Have a tinfoil sculpting contest! Pick a category (animals, food, letters, sport, etc.) and on the count of 3, have everyone sculpt something from that category out of tinfoil. Once everyone is finished (or after a certain time), let everyone present their sculpture! You can play several rounds, give awards or vote on the best sculpture. Finally, have everyone make a piece of wearable jewelry.

Once all the jewelry is presented read Proverbs 1:8-9. Explain that the instruction (from God's Word) given to them by parents is a gift. It may seem hard or like discipline at the time but when you listen and obey your parents, it's like a beautiful, costly piece of jewelry that will stay with you forever!



Pray together and ask God to help you speak God's Word to your children while they hold tightly to the Scriptures like precious treasures!



## Prayer Verse

Proverbs 1:8-9



# HEALING & HEALTH

## My Story

My dad started smoking, drinking and doing drugs when he was 12 years old. He spent the next five years being as wild and high as possible. But at 17 years old, he heard the story of Jesus and became a new creation.

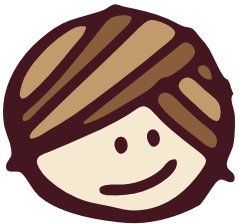
Today, anyone who knows Daddy loves him. He's a servant-hearted man of God who loves and honors everyone he meets. So, when he was rushed to the hospital to have emergency surgery on a cancerous tumor in his colon, there were a lot of people praying for him.

Our main prayer was based on Daddy's favorite Scripture, Psalm 91: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty... If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge— then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent... 'Because he loves me,' says the LORD, 'I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name... With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.'"

I can't tell you how many times we prayed that prayer with Daddy's name inserted directly into it: "I will deliver Darrell ... with long life I will satisfy Darrell."

And the Most High did deliver. Every time the doctor would walk into Daddy's hospital room, he'd have different (good) news and be baffled by new (positive) results. Daddy was completely healed of cancer.

A few weeks later, at age 51, Daddy got his first tattoo, which says, "NO HIGH LIKE THE MOST HIGH."



## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

Exodus 15:26

Isaiah 53:5

Psalms 103:2-3

1 Peter 2:24

Isaiah 58:8

Proverbs 3:7-8

Psalms 107:20

## Our Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I pray for healing and health for my children. I ask that they will serve, follow, fear and honor You because you promised that when they do, they will live in health (Proverbs 3:7-8). Jesus, I believe You died on the cross to forgive our sins and with that same power, You paid for our sickness (Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:24, Psalm 103:2-3). Thank you for giving us Your Word, which promises healing (Psalm 107:20). You are the Healer, Lord (Exodus 15:26), and I thank You for sending healing to my children quickly (Isaiah 58:8).



## For the Kids

Make a pillow, couch cushion or blanket fort with your kids. Have fun making the fort big enough (and sturdy enough) for everyone to get inside.

Once inside, read Psalm 91 (or at least parts of it). Explain that sometimes the devil uses sickness, disease and health problems as an attack against us. Then read Psalm 91:9-10 again. Talk about what it's like to use God as a fort or a dwelling---nothing could harm you if you were inside Him!

Pray together, thanking God for His protection against harm and from attacks from the enemy!



## Prayer Verse

Psalm 91

# MARRIAGE

## My Story

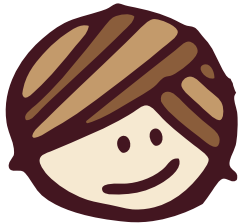
On my wedding day, I saw my husband before the ceremony. I risked “bad luck” so I could have my pictures taken beforehand! To keep a little of the romance and surprise, my soon-to-be-husband and I met in a small room before the photos began to give each other wedding gifts.

He gave me a basket of body wash, shampoos and lotions in a basket. But the real gift was attached to the handle of the basket—all of his keys hanging from ribbons! He got this idea from my favorite movie at the time, and it was a sweet symbol of giving me access to all areas of his life.

I gave him a box of letters I had written to him. Only some of the letters were written before we ever even met! When I was a teenager, I read the Christy Miller books by Robin Jones Gunn. In them, Christy and her friends write letters to their future husbands to remind themselves of what (and who) they are waiting for. It's something I copied and was a very special gift (at least to me, I might have loved it more than my husband did!).

I want my children to give their lives and emotions as a gift to their future spouse. I want them to remember they were created to share their life with one special person. I want them to save their bodies and their hearts for the people who will one day become one with them.

No matter what ages our children are, we can pray that God will help them guard their hearts and bodies while being wise in choosing their forever mate.



## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

**Genesis 2:23-24**

**Proverbs 4:23**

**1 Corinthians 6**

## Prayer Verse

Genesis 2:23-24

## Our Prayer

Lord,

I want my children to know how precious marriage is. I want them to recognize, even from a young age, that marriage is something to be valued and protected (Genesis 2:23-24).

While they are children, help my spouse and me to model a God-centered marriage for them. As they grow, help us to protect them and lead them to appropriate relationships (or no relationships!) with the opposite sex.

I ask that my kids would never give their hearts or their bodies to someone that is not their spouse. I pray they would guard their hearts and keep them as secret and special gifts for their future mate (Proverbs 4:23).

And when they do get married, I ask that You would help them be dedicated to honoring their spouse, their marriage and You. Help them follow Your Word in being a godly husband or wife (Proverbs 31, Ephesians 5:22-33).

I pray against anything that would try to break my children's marriage or even stop it before it starts: pornography, sexual immorality, abuse or adultery (1 Corinthians 6).

I also pray all these same things for their future spouses. Every prayer I pray for my children is also a prayer for the person You will bring to them as a marriage partner. I ask that my daughter's husband would be a man who loves You first. I pray my son's wife will be a godly woman who will honor You above anyone or anything.



## For the Kids

For younger children:

Show your kids your wedding pictures. Talk about the day, the clothes and how different everyone looks!

Discuss why people get married—because they love each other, want to start a family, want to take care of each other, etc. Read Genesis 2:23-24. Explain that God made a man and wife to marry and love each other for the rest of their lives. Let your kids know you pray for them to be married one day—and for that future spouse, too!

For older children:

Give your kids two colors of playdough. Let them squeeze them together like a sandwich, pushing it close together so it resembles a ball with a different color on top and bottom.

Explain that when you get married, you become “one” with your spouse. You are now two different people who are also “one”—just like the two colors of playdough are now one ball! (Even if you try to take the playdough apart, you'll never get a clean break.)

Read Genesis 2:23-24 and encourage them to pray with you for the person they will one day be “one” with.





# FRIENDS

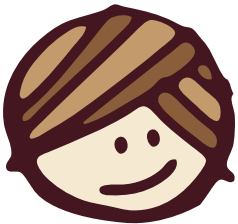
## My Story

My brother met a group of guys in high school who became his best friends. They played guitar together, drank coffee at the Waffle House and watched the movie "That Thing You Do" twelve times at the theater.

One day my brother had a checkup at the dentist. The dentist said to him, "You have a layer of sticky tar in your mouth. You really need to stop smoking before it damages your mouth and lungs." My brother said, "I don't smoke." The dentist said, "Uhm. Yes, you do. Don't worry I won't tell your parents." My brother demanded again that he didn't and told the dentist that his best friends did smoke.

The dentist explained that just hanging out with friends who smoked could cause my brother's mouth to be covered in black tar. My brother soon stopped hanging out with those friends because of the different priorities and direction they were headed. If hanging out with friends who smoke can cause tar to collect on the roof of your mouth, what does hanging out with people who sin do to your heart?

We must pray that our children have close friends who draw them closer to Jesus. Our children's best friends need to be people of integrity and have a heart for God, no matter what age. I love how Stormie Omartian prays for her children's friends, "I pray that You would take anyone who is not a godly influence out of his/her life or else transform that person into Your likeness!" (from *Power of a Praying Parent*, page 74).



## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

Proverbs 13:20

Proverbs 22:24-25

2 Corinthians 6:14

Proverbs 27:17

Psalms 1:1

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Proverbs 4:14

## Our Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I pray You would send godly friends to my children. I ask that my children will grow wise because of their wise and godly friends (Proverbs 13:20). May my children be yoked with people that will sharpen them and lead them towards You (Proverbs 27:17). Keep my children from wicked, sinful, mocking, evil people who would certainly lead and influence them to a lifestyle of sin (Psalm 1:1, Proverbs 4:14, 22:24-25). I pray my children would be good friends to everyone, leading others to light and away from darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14). Give my children life-long friends who will always point them to You!



## For the Kids

Supplies: magnets, hand towel

Read Proverbs 13:20a. Lay out magnets on a table. Let the children pick up one magnet and then wave it over the other magnets to attract each other.

Talk about how walking with the wise attracts more wisdom. When we have godly friends, it will benefit us.

Then read Proverbs 13:20b. Wrap one magnet in a towel and try to pick up the magnets again. (Make sure you wrap it enough so they won't stick!)

Explain that the towel is like foolishness. When we allow foolish people to influence us and be our best friends, it's like wrapping our hearts and minds with foolishness so no wisdom can stick. Encourage your children to stick with godly friends!



Pray together for your children's friends—for them to all be wise and encourage one another in godly living!



## Prayer Verse

Proverbs 13:20

# GOD'S WILL

## My Story

Choosing our daughter's name was important to me. I wanted it to be unique (without being freaky), and I wanted it to have meaning. I wanted her name to be a blessing and a prayer each time it was spoken.

We chose the name "Lydia" for two reasons. The first is the story of Lydia in Acts 16. The second is because in Acts 16, Lydia sells purple cloth. And purple is my favorite color. What can I say? I love purple.

This first-century Lydia was quite the power-house. There are only three verses dedicated to this woman, but in those three verses, I see a whole life-time of qualities of emulate.

Lydia owned her own business selling purple cloth—which most of the time was an expensive item. (So, I think she made good money!) When Paul and Silas met her, she was down by the river with the other women of the city.

She was already a follower of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And as soon as Paul and Silas told her and the other ladies about Jesus, she believed. Immediately. She was so convinced of the story of Jesus that she told her entire household (I'm guessing it was more than just her husband and kids), and they all got baptized.

Then she turned to Paul and Silas and persuaded them to come and stay at her house so they would have a place to sleep and eat. But it gets even better. While Paul and Silas were with her family, they were sent to prison (remember when the jail falls down?) and whipped! And where do they go to when their adventure is done to recuperate? Lydia's house, where apparently the rest of the Christians in the town met for fellowship!

This lady was awesome! She immediately believed God's Word, she didn't keep it to herself but led her whole family to Jesus, she showed hospitality to God's servants and then has her own house church. (Not to mention the swanky home business on the side!)

Do you see why we named our daughter Lydia? I want her to immediately understand and follow God's Word and will for her. I want her to see God's church and His will as part of her everyday life and mission.



No matter what God's plan is for my Lydia's future career and life, I want her to begin recognizing and listening to God's voice, Word and plan now. I want her to quickly follow God's will as a child. I want her daily life characterized by immediately responding to God.

## Daily Meditation & Prayer Scriptures

Psalm 25:14  
Isaiah 11:2-3  
Proverbs 1:7  
Proverbs 2:6-8

Proverbs 3:1  
Proverbs 3:5-6  
Proverbs 8:10-11  
1 Kings 3:6-9

## Our Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for being intimately involved in my children's lives—for planning each day (Psalm 139:16)! I thank You that the plans You have for their lives are good and full of prosperity and blessing (Jeremiah 29:11). As my children grow, I pray they would learn to listen to Your voice, Jesus as you are the Good Shepherd who will lead them through life. I pray they would never listen to the enemy's voice or plans (John 10). Cause them to be like Samuel, who listened and obeyed Your voice, and like Esther, who followed Your grand plan even though it was scary. I believe that as they trust You with their whole hearts and acknowledge You in all their ways, You will make your plans and will clear to them (Proverbs 3:5-6). I pray my children would be transformed into Your likeness and honor You in all they do (Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 10:31).



## For the Kids

There are many voices your children know just by hearing. Play your kids a few clips of a character from their favorite TV show (easy to find on YouTube!) or have a close family member call on the telephone and see if our children can guess who it is.

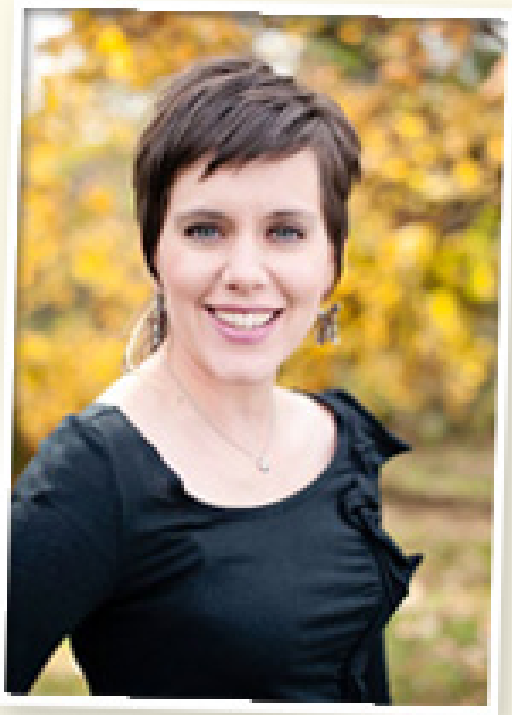
Talk about how it's easy to recognize those voices because you hear them all the time! Jesus promised that when we belong to Him, we will recognize His voice! Read John 10:5 & 14. Encourage your children, that when they are unsure of what to do or wonder what God wants, they can trust that Jesus will lead them and they will recognize His voice!



## Prayer Verse

John 10:14 & 5





# about the author

Amanda blogs at [ohAmanda.com](http://ohAmanda.com) and is also the author of the best-selling eBook, [Truth in the Tinsel](#), an Advent Experience for Little Hands.

Amanda White is mom to Lydia and Asa; wife to Les. But before all that, she lived and breathed children's ministry. She was on puppet and drama teams in Middle and High School, she was a CILT graduate in a camping ministry, she interned at a premiere Children's Ministry in Tulsa, she and her husband were special guest speakers at kids camps and churches during college. Later they helped start a church in Celebration, FL then moved to Birmingham, AL to be the elementary pastors at a mega-church there. But after becoming a mother, she moved her children's ministry skills onto her children. She likes making every day activities point to God and His laws and love. And she also pops M&Ms and dreams of Disney World in her spare time.

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