



# 30 Days of Prayer



# 30 DAYS OF PRAYER

## PRAYING FOR OUR YOUTH

All scripture passages are from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.

# EG First Student Ministry

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EG First is a family dedicated to Following Christ and Doing Life Together in a way that demonstrates His Love to All People



## A Revolutionary Purpose

The Student Ministry of EG First exists to assist and equip parents to reach and teach their teenagers in the home. We also strive to teach and equip students to Honor God by reaching up in Worship, to Grow by reaching in to disciple, and to GO Tell by reaching out to Evangelize.

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# PREFACE

We know that prayer is one of our most powerful tools against Satan. We also know by looking at our world's values that he is crouching and waiting to devour our children. He desires that their focus is not on Godly principles. As we embark upon our 30 Days of Prayer for 2011, let our focus be on God and His faithfulness. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." We need to help our youth focus on God in prayer.

## February 30 DAYS OF PRAYER IDEAS

During the month of February, journal your prayers and/or prayer requests. Did you experience or see an answer to something you've been praying about? In your journal, you may want to include thank yous and "aha" moments when you see God answer a prayer. (See page 44.) You can include thoughts about your child and write down things you see in your child's life that you want to praise God for.

Here are some ideas you can use in encouraging your teenagers and letting them know that you're praying for them in February:

- Send them a text message during the day, telling them you're praying for them today.
- Leave a note on their bathroom mirror or car visor letting them know how much you're praying for them.
- Write an encouraging note each day of February and give them all to your teen on the last day of the month.
- Take a Saturday out of the month to take your teen on a fun outing. Use a good moment to share how you've been praying for them.
- Take your teen to their favorite restaurant. Share how much they means to you and how much you've been praying for them.

## MAKING MONDAYS SPECIAL

Here are some ideas on where you can pray with your teen each Monday in February (the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup>):

- Pray with them before they leave for school.
- Pray for them on the drive to or from school.
- Pray for them at mealtime.
- Pray with them at bedtime.
- Write out a prayer to God for them and leave it on their pillow for them to read.
- Type a prayer to God on your teen's Facebook or send it in an e-mail for your child to read.

# EGFBC YOUTH PRAYER REQUESTS

We asked students in our youth group to submit their prayer requests. Their typical responses were:

- I am looking for a job and I am excited to see what God opens up.
- Going to college and deciding what I should major in and following God's plan for me.
- My stress.
- Relationships.
- School and college.
- To not be lazy.
- That I would be a representation of Christ wherever I go, and that I would discipline myself to spend more time with Him.
- Temptations at school and homework.
- Maintaining old relationships and making new ones.
- That I would do well in school.
- For me to do my best and stay strong.
- That I would stay safe and succeed in life and accomplish my desires.
- Education.
- My relationships, school, decisions, and my relationship with God.
- Being a Christian leader at the High School.
- My addictions.
- To be motivated to socialize.
- To make the right choices and stay away from "bad" people.
- Everything I've been going through. I really need it (prayer).
- Pray that I would not be so harsh on myself.
- For all that I do, I honor God, and that includes giving up porn and lust.
- School.
- If I should help the youth or not.
- Commitment.
- My relationship with my dad.
- School, I am tired of being misjudged.
- My diligence toward quiet times.

- Marching band endurance.
- Education.
- Laziness.
- Smoking weed.
- Pray for me to have the courage to reach my goals.
- My diligence.
- My sisters and I would stop fighting.
- Being a disciple among my friends at school.
- School starting again and summer projects that need to be finished.
- A really close friend of my dad.
- My senior year of football that I do well and do not become injured.
- To give me faith and to guide me in my path for life.
- I do not freak out in High School.
- School.
- Fighting with anyone, mainly my family.
- Grades.
- School.
- Grow in my relationship with God.
- To stay grounded in my faith.

# WHAT 30 DAYS OF PRAYER MEANS TO OUR TEENAGERS

We asked our students in our youth group to complete the sentence. "If I knew I was being prayed for everyday, by my parents or guardians I would..." Their responses were:

- Go to them when there is another prayer request. Thank them, and pray for them too.
- Be happy and have a happier life. It would be an encouragement.
- I don't know.
- Appreciate them, and pray for them.
- Work harder.
- Be very appreciative of them, and would keep them in my prayers.
- Be very encouraged and happy to know that someone has been praying for me.
- Feel that they really cared enough to go to God on my behalf.
- Be very thankful.
- Pray for them.
- Be very grateful and pray for them.
- Be as good as possible.
- Feel blessed.
- Feel extremely blessed and loved.
- Pray for them.
- Thank God, and ask Him to bless them.
- Be happy and pray for them.
- Be happy.
- Thank God that I have people helping me.
- Always make sure to tell them I love them.
- They already do.
- I don't know?
- Thank them very much, and appreciate everything.
- Pray for them, and also pray more for my own situation.
- Feel more confident and secure.
- Pray for them more.
- Be thankful.

- Be happy.
- Pray for them, and say thank you.
- Be really happy.
- Be happy.
- Be very happy.
- Thank them.
- Thank them and pray for them.
- Feel like someone's got my back.
- Feel really loved that someone cares for me like that.
- Also pray for everyone else and my family.
- Feel reassured that I will be okay.
- Pray the same thing as they did.
- Feel more confident.
- Pray for them.
- Feel better.
- Smile and thank God for the parents He gave me.
- Praise God for the blessings He's given me.



## THURSDAY, February 3

### Standing in the Gap

**Ezekiel 22:30** I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it...

**Romans 8:26** We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

In these verses, we are instructed to pray for one another. When we do not know what to pray, we should seek the Holy Spirit and He will intercede for us.

Make it a priority each day to pray for your child, even when you do not know what to ask or pray. Allow God's Spirit to pray through you. God always knows our hearts and that of our children.

Below is a poem that I found years ago. It discusses this thought of "Standing in the Gap" for our children.

#### Standing in the Gap

I'll stand in the gap for my son. I'll stand 'til the victory's won. This one thing I know That you love him so, And your work with my child is not done.	I'll never give up on that boy. Nor will you, for you promised him joy. For I know it was true When he said "Yes" to you, Though the enemy seeks to destroy.
I'll stand in the gap every day, And there I will fervently pray; And, Lord just one favor, Don't let me waver If things get quite rough, which they may.	I'll not quit as I intercede, For you are his Savior, indeed! Though it may take years, I give you my fears, As I trust every moment I plead.

And so in the gap I will stand,  
Heeding your every command,  
    With help from above,  
    I unconditionally love,  
And soon he will reach for your hand.

By: Shirley Pope Waite

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**FRIDAY, February 4**  
**Heaven's Priorities & Daily Practice**

**Colossians 3:1-2** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

While it is important that believers not separate themselves from the world, it is equally important that they do not orient their lives, and find their source of joy in the world's empty amusements, corrupt literature, or degrading music that damage Godly emotions and thoughts.

Wow, what a challenge! Pray that your child will be able to focus on heavenly priorities and walk the path of righteousness while living in this fallen world.

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**SATURDAY, February 5**  
**Choosing Spiritual Friends**

**1 Samuel 23:16-18** And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." The two of them made a covenant before the LORD. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

**Proverbs 27:17** As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

God wants Christians to have spiritual friends who will bear them up when times are tough. Accountability is a must when choosing friends. Only God's people can keep each other spiritually sharp.

Pray that your child chooses friends wisely and will pick friends that bear them up in all of Christ's ways.

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# SUNDAY, February 6

## Do Your Best

**I Corinthians 10:31** “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Sometimes doing the right thing is not the cool thing—especially when you’re a teenager. It takes a lot of courage to do the right thing, but sometimes, it’s a matter of perspective.

While it might sometimes seem difficult to see why it is important to do that English homework, pray your student will remember that all they do reflects upon our Savior.

Joining in when everyone laughs at the joke another student makes, at a teacher’s expense, may seem harmless, unless your student realizes that their every action is supposed to bring glory to God.

While the advertising executives made good use of the question, “What would Jesus do?” The better question might be, “Will what I’m doing bring glory to God?”

WWJD might not translate well to your teenager when it comes to doing algebra, or showing respect to teachers and unpopular students, but perhaps the question of “Does this bring glory to God?” might.

Pray that your student will have a constant desire to glorify God in all that they do.

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**TUESDAY, February 8**  
**Pure Thoughts**

**Psalm 51:10** Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

God creates a pure heart in believers and commands them to take captive any thought that is impure. We can choose to keep or reject impure thoughts but we cannot choose the consequences.

Pray for God to help take thoughts and/or temptations captive.

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## WEDNESDAY, February 9

### A Good Day to Start Praying

**Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

If you haven't started praying for your child's future spouse, today is a great day to start.

Some may want to think of that day as so far away as not to warrant consideration—there's a lot more pressing things that need prayer today, right? Well, that's probably true, but tack on that prayer for that future spouse as well.

There are few things in a person's life that cause them to prosper or come to harm than choosing the wrong person as a marriage partner. Pray that just as your child is growing in the knowledge of the Lord, that their future spouse is doing likewise, wherever they are.

Just as you pray that your child will stay sexually pure, pray the same for their future partner, so that they can grow in that knowledge together. Just as you pray your child is growing in appreciation of God's church. Pray for a similar commitment from that person they will marry.

You may not know who God plans for them to marry, but you can start today by praying for that future, and the hope it contains.

If it may not be God's plan for your child to marry, pray that they, and you, can still find joy in the purpose God shows them.

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**Thursday, February 10**  
**Breaking the Power of Peers**

**II Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**Romans 8:17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**Psalm 139:13** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Believers whose identity is strongly centered in Christ can resist pressure from peers. Teens ask, "Who am I"? Believers are new creations in Christ, and are destined to reign with Christ. We are designed in appearance, personality and ability. Peers have little power over believers whose identity is centered in who they are in Christ Jesus.

Pray that your student's identity in God is whole and complete. Pray that they will trust completely the way He has designed them. Pray that their life in Him is so secure, that He can move through them to make a difference with their peers.

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# FRIDAY, February 11

## Honor Parents

**Exodus 20:12** Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

HONOR: to treat with honor.

I'm so glad God made this one of THE TEN – commandments, that is. I sure want my children to honor me! But, do I sometimes make it difficult for them to do? God didn't suggest that we honor our parents (or that our kids honor us) – He commanded it. Are we being good models with our own parents? In situations with ex-husbands/ex-wives, or even just with a difficult spouse, do we allow our children the freedom and opportunity to honor the other parent? We can be loving examples to our children by showing honor to our own parents, guiding by our example and showing how our children can honor us. In doing so, God is honored with obedience to His commandment.

Pray that your child will seek to follow this Commandment and honor you as their parent.

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**SATURDAY, February 12**  
**Honor God When with Others**

**1 Thessalonians 5:14-24** And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

God wants us to keep our faith when we are with others.

Take a moment to pray that our teens keep God's ways no matter where they find themselves. May they spread the love of our Lord to others and be a blessing to them.

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## MONDAY, February 14

### Frustrations & Life's Irritation

**John 16:33** I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Being a believer doesn't mean that we will not experience difficult times. God has told us the truth, that at times life will be difficult. He has provided to us a way to overcome these tough times. That way is found in following Jesus' teachings and surrendering our lives to Him. His peace is amazing and His love is unmatched. Victory through tough times comes by staying connected to other believers, reading God's word, trusting God, praying, worshiping, and staying free from sin's hold through forgiveness.

Pray that when your student is troubled they will stand strong on the rock of their Savior's love for them. He has promised to never leave them.

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TUESDAY, February 15  
Self-Control

**Matthew 12:36-37** But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me – really? Once words are spoken, you can't put them back in your mouth, especially those we place in cyberspace. Words can hurt and damage relationships. God wants us to build relationships and bring others into His Kingdom. We can't do that when we speak before we think.

Pray that your teen will show self control when they speak, text or type and may their words honor God.

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# WEDNESDAY, February 16

## Guard Your Heart

**Proverbs 4:23-27 (NASB)** Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put devious speech far from you. Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.

The human heart has not evolved at all since before Solomon penned this proverb nearly 1,000 years before Christ. Satan's tactics may have changed, but his strategy requires no revision.

Per Solomon, basic heart care involves vigilance in protection, proper feeding (GIGO\*), strong focus, and even planning ahead.

Pray that your teen does this "above all else" as the NIV translates it, so that their words and deeds which are their "springs of life" are spiritual not carnal, strength not weakness, life not death.

\*Good in, good out or garbage in, garbage out (old computer programming lingo)

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# THURSDAY, February 17

## Abilities & God

**Judges 6:12 -16** When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you mighty warrior." "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

God gives every believer specific abilities to accomplish His plans and purposes. God promises to supply our needs, to sustain us, to renew our strength, to redeem our mistakes, to use our weaknesses and to journey with us.

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# SUNDAY, February 20

## Know Truth

**John 4:24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

There is a tremendous push for teenagers (and adults for that matter) to be accepting of the ideas of others. And truthfully, if the idea is to just get along, it's a more convenient way to live. If there is no right or wrong, it's hard to mess up.

That moral relativism seems even more prevalent in our modern-day America, where life seems to be lived cafeteria-style where we take what appeals to us and pass on what doesn't.

Some Christians even want to do that with God, accept the loving, compassionate God who sent his Son to die for us, and delete those passages from their acceptance that say God also has standards that he demands his followers keep. To do that, in a sense, makes God into the image we create for Him rather than who He is - a process that robs us of knowing God fully and realizing the blessing of His majesty.

Pray today that your teenager would see God in His fullness and worship Him just that way. No substitutions, no amendments—just God. He's enough.

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**MONDAY, February 21**  
**Content with Whose You Are**



**John 10:27-30** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

Believers enjoy a deep, personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus promises that no power, even the super-human power of the evil one, can take the Lord's own from the secure position He has "in the Father's hand." Once you belong to Christ, no circumstances, people, life, or death can separate you from your Shepherd who has sealed you with His name and engraved your name on the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16). Believers enjoy this security because Jesus is one with God. Reflecting Christ in your life is not easy in a fallen world, but the reward is great.

Pray that your child will embrace the love of Christ and live joyfully the life God has planned for them.

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# TUESDAY, February 22

Peers

**Jeremiah 17:5-7** This is what the Lord says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him."

God expects us to place our trust, faith, and hope in Him. These are strong words to help us understand God's love and our need for Him. Relying on anything other than God is sinful. Relying on the Creator is like being a tree that has been cultivated carefully and given plenty of water. Like this tree, when we rely on God, we always have nourishment, protection, peace, blessings, and reasons to celebrate. We will always end up frustrated when we put our trust and hope in our friends and man-made things.

Thank God for all the blessings He gives to those who trust Him.

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## WEDNESDAY, February 23

### Dare to Be Different

**1 Peter 2:11** Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

**Galatians 5:22-26** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

As your children go to school, walk the halls, and sit in their classes, they can dare to be different. God told us that we are strangers here on Earth – aliens. Does that mean we should look different or dress funny? Hardly! We should be different in the way we are “clothed” on the inside, in our heart.

God has made us to be different with our actions. How will your teen’s actions show Christ at school? Will they be patient when someone disrupts? Will they show faithfulness to their teachers when they assign homework? Will they maintain self-control when they are called a name? Will they love other students the way Jesus does?

Parents, dare to be different from those around you in your daily actions. Pray that the Holy Spirit will remind you that you are a child of the Most High God, and act accordingly!

**II Corinthians 3:1-3** Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

# THURSDAY, February 24

## Modern Idols

**Matthew 6:19 -21** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

In the Old Testament, God was very annoyed because people did not worship him, but idols instead. They seemed to devote themselves to visible idols more than an invisible God. The situation is not much different today. Even today, we still run after some kinds of idols: money, power, football, pop stars etc. Ask yourself what your heart belongs to. Which things do you and your family run after in life? Which things are important in your life? How do you spend your time?

What if Jesus came to your home and asked, "Would your family be prepared to give up X or Y for me?" What would your answer be?

Pray that your student will be serious about their relationship with God.

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# FRIDAY, February 25

## Offering Grace

**Ephesians 4:29-32** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

God expects us to treat others with kindness and compassion. Our words are to be intentional and beneficial to the listener. We should not cut people down. We are not to get even with those who offend us. It is damaging when people say harsh things to each other. How does your heart feel when your family is angry and hostile toward each other? How does your heart feel when family members are kind to each other? Your feelings may be a small picture of what God feels when we treat people badly or kindly.

Father, forgive me for any wrong I've committed toward my family members. Forgive them for any wrong they've committed towards me. Help us to be kind and forgiving to each other.

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# SATURDAY, February 26

## Threats to Purity

**Galatians 5:17-17** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

The power of God is stronger than any temptation to be impure in thought or behavior. It is Satan's nature to continually tempt the believer to abandon purity in thoughts and behavior. Students sometimes feel that drugs and alcohol help them forget their problems, or make them feel more like an adult, independent, etc.

Father, I want my student's body to be pure for You, without drugs or alcohol.

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# SUNDAY, February 27

## Purity

**Romans 12:1-2** Therefore, I urge you brothers in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

We know that the natural man gives his body over to the "pattern of this world." Paul realized the body is merely a conduit for the heart issues of man.

With this in mind, pray that your teen is continually transformed by the renewing of their mind, becoming more adept at validating in their own body, God's good, pleasing and perfect will.

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**TUESDAY, March 1**  
**Relationships**

**Colossians 3:12-14** Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Learning how to relate to others can be difficult at any age, especially in the teen years, when they are learning what it means to be a true friend, or perhaps beginning to date. This is the time when they are learning how not to allow others’ poor choices in words or deeds negatively affect them. To learn to think before they react or speak negatively takes a level of maturity and self-control that is practically impossible, without God’s help. God’s ways of relating to others is contradictory to the world’s ways. As God’s chosen people, they must remember at all times to whom they belong and to seek His wisdom in relationships.

Pray that our Lord will strengthen Godly influences in our teens’ lives and remove any un-godly ones. That they will learn to think before they respond to others, and to remember that they are set apart from this world to show the world a better way of relating to others.

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# WEDNESDAY, March 2

## Respect

**1 Peter 2:16-17** Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

God expects us to show honor and respect to those in authority. Some people think they are free to do whatever they want. God's word encourages us to be responsible servants who fear him and respect those in authority. We should show respect to those in leadership roles, even if we disagree with their actions, we can pray for God to give them wisdom.

Pray that God helps your family show respect on a daily basis.

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# THURSDAY, March 3

## Decision Making

**Deuteronomy 6:5-9** Love the Lord our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your gates...

**Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

We must understand that our teens are very vulnerable to making wrong choices. They need their parents, teachers, and other adults to walk beside them, talk to them, and guide them into making the right decisions.

We can do this mainly by setting a good example in our home, community, and church. God commands us to be continually instructing our children in living right. We must also spend time with our teens in order for them to see Christ's example through us. Look for those teachable moments. It also helps to share with your teen times in your past where you faced similar circumstances and what you did to solve them.

Pray with and for your teen to make the "right" decisions when faced with temptation, choices, or difficult circumstances. Be a good example for your teen, so that they will know how to handle these circumstances.

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## FRIDAY, March 4- BONUS

### Self Control

**1 Peter 2:9-14** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

God gives the ability to believers to control their behavior from within rather than without. Inner motivation for Christ-like living comes from knowing you are a child of the living God, and from deep gratitude that He rescued you. God wants us to control our lives from the inside out and He also will use external people and circumstances to shape us when we are disobedient.

Character is what you are when you are alone, and there is no way anyone else will ever find out what you are doing. Self-control that comes from within honors God and opens the door for kingdom impact on others.

Your family loves God but none of you has the strength to always live like Him from the inside out. Pray that God will fill us each day with the Holy Spirit. Pray for the inner power you need.

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## SATURDAY, March 5- BONUS

### Apathy

**Colossians 3:23-24** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

How tempting it is for all of us to kickback and not put forth a strong effort in our work, particularly when the work requires sustained energy. This world does not teach the concepts of diligence and perseverance, but that the concepts of shortcuts and partial work are good enough. This is why students will often start out the school year organized with focused intent, but as they see their peers kicking back and just doing enough work to get by, then they begin to settle for half-hearted efforts before the first semester ends. This may be the norm for the world, but God teaches that whatever we put our hands to do, we are doing it for the Lord. We should not expect the world to always reward our efforts, nor be discouraged by what the world does not see, but keep our focus on the One who always sees the work and will ultimately reward our efforts.

Pray that our Lord will guard our student's hearts and minds against worldly influences. Pray that God will develop in them the qualities of diligence and perseverance which will honor God and prepare them for whatever task He sets before them in preparation ultimately for Kingdom work.

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## A CHALLENGE FROM A PARENT

We want the best for our children: a good education, excellence in sports, wonderful friendships, and a good college. We need to be cautious that we don't focus on all we want and become preoccupied with their faults and shortcomings. Teens want to succeed, but they can easily grow discouraged. They are wonderful the way they are, but they often need us to mirror that for them:

- Validate their feelings and opinions.
- Recognize the good they are doing, to promote their self-worth.
- Don't underestimate the power of touch.
- Provide decision-making opportunities.
- Spend intentional time with them.
- Know your teen's friends.

When facing a painful situation, go to the Lord. God listens to our prayers, and we can ask Him for simple things and for things that seem impossible. We can ask for help because He listens and wants to respond!

What is it that you want from God?

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What are two or three of your most important prayer requests?

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What is the one prayer request that you would like to share with your family?

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Ask God to bless your family’s decisions, thoughts, and future.

Parents are called to be the primary spiritual mentors of their children. Often this mentoring takes place during teachable moments that rise up during shared experiences. While you can’t always create a teachable moment, you can intentionally plan experiences that have the potential for one-on-one conversations about spiritual things.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS FROM

Pastor Matt

*Power Through Prayer* – E. M. Bounds

*Knowing God* – JI Packer

*A Parent Privilege* – Steve Wright

*The Prayer of Jesus* – Ken Hemphill

*Praying Specifically* – Charles Spurgeon

Anything by Voddie Baucham











*The Lord's house not here*