

What Others Are Saying About Teresa J. Herbic and *Family Prayer Made Easy*...

“We all know that prayer changes things, and that when we pray together in unity, heaven hears and moves on our behalf. Teresa Herbic has done all of the legwork for us with her prayer guide in order that we might pray as families. I can’t think of anything more powerful or more important. This book will bless you and anchor your home. I highly recommend it.”

—Terry Meeuwsen
Co-host, 700 Club
Director, Orphan’s Promise

“It was my privilege to be Teresa and her family’s pastor during many challenging times of adopting their children, praying for healing, and seeking wisdom as parents. We saw the hand of God and the faithfulness of Teresa’s prayer at work. You will be greatly inspired by the stories included here and the practical help that comes from someone who passionately practices and encourages authentic prayer.”

—Vernon Armitage
Pastor, Briarcliff Church
Teacher, Willow Creek Community Church
Co-author, *Living Life to the Max*

“Teresa’s love of her family and commitment to following God’s call unite beautifully in this powerful guide to growing closer to God with your family through prayer. Throughout her orphan advocacy work, Teresa has inspired others to be bold in their compassion and faith. It’s such a blessing that through *Family Prayer Made Easy*, Teresa is able to share these important principles with the world!”

—Hollen Frazier
President, All God’s Children International

“Wow! Teresa delivers a book that so many families can actually use to re-connect to God. In our fast-paced, busy world, even the most faithful may not make time to pause for prayer. *Family Prayer Made Easy* makes daily prayer a fun, family activity while keeping the faith. Teresa’s lifelong dedication to orphans—both children and animals—is unwavering, and she consistently finds ways to celebrate and nurture God in our everyday lives. That love and passion for God shines brightly in this guide. A wonderful resource to jumpstart daily prayer for all family members—parents and kids alike.”

—Karen L. Allanach

Communications manager, Faith Outreach & Engagement
The Humane Society of the United States

“Teresa Herbic loves the Lord, loves families, and loves children (particularly those in need of a ‘forever family’ through foster or adoptive placement). Her love shines through this book as she writes about new and creative ways to share the truth and good news of the gospel with those for whom she so deeply cares.”

—Dr. Robert C. Springate

Vice president, Missouri Baptist Children’s Home Foundation

“Families are forever. Teresa brings to life the ministry of family. In this insightful guide, she shares how together we build forever families.”

—Dave Coffman

Director, Adoption Resource Foundation

“Ephesians 6:18 encourages us to pray in the Spirit on all occasions. This book gives practical ways to do just that. Teresa has a passion for Christ and for families. She and her husband Galen have endured much to help others as they pursue God’s calling to build up the family unit. I pray readers imitate this as they learn from the dynamic words shared in this book.”

—Greg Blankenship

Lead pastor, Real Life Corpus, Corpus Christi, Texas

“Teresa Herbic and her family have been good friends over the years, and I know all of them to be praying people, as well as a praying family. They believe wholeheartedly in the power of prayer, and I have seen prayer work for them in their own lives. They have seen its results. I have no doubt that Teresa’s biblical ideas presented in this book will bring results in other families’ lives as well. She can be trusted to give good advice! I heartily endorse and recommend this book to you!”

—*Emil Bartos*

Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Hollister, Missouri

“I first became acquainted with Teresa many years ago in a prayer group that met every Wednesday night. From the beginning it was obvious that she had a passion for prayer and for helping orphan children. Her passion went beyond seeing hurting children and praying for them. She put actions to her desires. Teresa Herbic will always be at the top of my list when ministering to orphaned or foster children and their families or potential families. She prays boldly about all that she does.”

—*Patricia Raines*

Retired family ministry assistant, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

“I have known Teresa Herbic’s transparent heart for years as we have prayed for one another and for other prayer warriors worldwide. Teresa is a sacred prayer partner, friend, and sweet spirit.”

—*Susie Carter*

Prayer partner

“Teresa’s message about God’s special children flows from her heart of inspiration, wisdom, and experience. Teresa is an impassioned advocate for His special children and hopeful parents.”

—*Cheri McCoy*

Author, *Pieces of My Heart*

“I have known Teresa for over ten years, and we have worked together to create a support group to bring our children together, all of whom are adopted. In that time, she has shown leadership, a creative mind, an intuition of what will work, and a heartfelt passion for prayer and for families and children around the world. Through all of that, her devotion to the One who brought all of this together, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, is what really drives her.”

—*Angie Pollock*

Cofounder, Families for Adoption, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

“Prayer is the vital fabric that weaves families together. The youngest of eight children, I grew up in a family that lived and taught us these same valuable truths that Teresa teaches. We literally prayed out loud every day—for safety, for the passing ambulance, for our food, and so on. Years later, when my life was shattered by the sudden deaths of my wife and of all four of our children, only the grace of almighty God and the power of prayer brought me through. To live a life with no regrets with your family, heed these compelling words from Teresa Herbic contained within the covers of this powerful book. You’ll never regret it.”

—*Robert Rogers*

Founder, Mighty in the Land Ministry

Speaker, Songwriter

Author, *Into the Deep*, *7 Steps to No Regrets*, and *Rise Above*

FAMILY
PRAYER
Made Easy



TERESA J. HERBIC



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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FAMILY PRAYER MADE EASY: A Practical Guide for Praying Together

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to my sacred prayer circle—my family



Personal Commitment to Prayer



We acknowledge our personal agreement to unite in prayer as a family, to remain together through good times and bad, and to ensure God is the center of our family life. We will meet _____ (daily or weekly) at the time _____ to pray.

(Dad's signature)

(Mom's signature)

(Guardian's signature)

(Child's signature)

Signed this _____ day of _____, _____
Day Month Year

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FOREWORD

Whether you're reading through the entire book or dipping in for an idea for family time, you will spark a flame of purposeful, focused prayer by opening these pages. And the flame won't flicker out! This book is an ongoing guide to promoting perseverance in prayer.

I've witnessed this perseverance personally in the life of the author, Teresa. When I first met the young couple joining our church prayer group, I sensed a vibrancy in them that shone with the love of Jesus. *Love* is the "action word" lived out by Teresa and Galen every day. Both as a couple and as individuals, their lives and prayers demonstrate a genuine faith. Teresa prays with mighty faith knowing she can completely trust our Lord to act in love, and Galen has a humble heart that opens the heavens for his prayers to enter into the Holy of Holies.

They both pour their hearts out daily in love to the Lord God and allow God's love to pour out toward others. They taught me, by their examples, how to be an open vessel of God's true love.

Their faith really took flight when Galen and Teresa traveled internationally to adopt Meyana and, later, Braxten. Our prayer group and dedicated prayer partners lifted them up to Abba for

Him to make a way for their two children to be adopted. “Prayer first” has always been modeled by the Herbics. They put faith and love in action by overcoming every obstacle in Jesus’ strength to bring their children home. Through both the joys and the intense trials, they have poured their hearts and lives into raising Meyana and Braxten in the truth of the gospel.

Their love of the Lord now flows into the hearts of their children, who then share the love with others. Witnessing their children already living out faith in God is a gift to them and to all of us who know them. The Herbic family is God’s chosen instrument; they effectively serve others in loving-kindness with boldness. It is contagious and energizing for the people in their lives—including me!

Prayer, Bible reading, and worship so obviously ignite the love they share transparently with others. Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone of their home, and the Holy Spirit fills them as they pray. We’ve witnessed answer after answer come to their prayers, to the glory of the Lord. Not only that, but fruit is evident and abundant in their Christian faith journey. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control thrive in their lives.

And this book is filled with that fruit. Teresa’s willingness to share her family’s prayer lifestyle will inspire readers to look inside their own hearts. At the same time, Teresa’s drive for compassion will inspire readers to learn how to pray for the hurting, lost, lonely, and suffering in all walks of life.

Teresa’s writing allows many to grow in the knowledge of living for Jesus daily, and I am confident that her wisdom on prayer will benefit families and people of all ages. The fingerprints of our heavenly Father can be seen all over this book in its unique, powerful, expressive prayer ideas. Teresa recognizes children relate to God in a wide variety of creative ways, and so she crafted this book to

be adaptable. Each idea, however, has one goal: to unite families to God and to each other. This book encourages relationship-building that is both vertical, toward the Lord, and horizontal, with family members and friends.

Keeping a consistent prayer life is difficult for every family, but this book shows how to start a family prayer time and keep the fire of prayer burning. Its Scripture references align readers' prayers with God's will and draw readers into God's holy Word.

I wish everyone would read this book! If they did, communities would be mightily impacted by God's answering of prayers. Churches would be stronger, functioning as the body of Christ and fostering growth in acts of loving-kindness to each other and the communities. Marriages would be restored as couples lead their children in persevering prayer. Restoration, healing, wholeness in Christ Jesus, solidarity in God's purposes, and love in action would be evident.

That's what I'm praying for!

—*Sandy Glasgow*
Global outreach prayer coordinator,
Pleasant Valley Baptist Church
Liberty, Missouri



INTRODUCTION

Today's families are busy. We sprint off in the morning to school, work, music lessons, sports, and other activities. We return home, often tuning in to television, computers, and technology—and tuning each other out! For many of us, social media has taken over the free minutes, resulting in less communication and more screen time.

What would be the “dream activity” you’d do with your family, if your schedule allowed it? Depending on the season, maybe you envision a picnic in the park, having a nice dinner around the table, going on a hayride, or adventuring together to choose a Christmas tree or pumpkin. One of my earliest memories of my family is us just sitting together on the grassy front lawn of our home in the country, sipping iced tea and talking about our day. Sure, that may seem boring to some, but it stuck with me all these years. Why? Because we were connecting—feeling meaningful love and enjoyment with family. I never forgot it.

What would happen to your family if you paused to regain true connection? What if you took quality time to seek the highest measure of joy, peace, help, and assurance available—God’s love and answers through prayer? As Acts 17:27–28 says, we need to “*seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of*

us. *For in him we live and move and have our being*” (NIV). It’s clear: time in prayer offers direct access to God’s heart. It offers connection with Him—and a deeper, more meaningful connection with each other.

And it can be as simple as sitting together on a lawn.

Family Prayer Made Easy is a guide for growing together through prayer in just ten focused devotionals with optional activities. Together, you and your family will pursue God in Spirit-driven, action-packed, answer-delivering prayers. Whether you meet once a week for ten weeks or ten straight days, it’s completely up to you, but its prayer activities will impact your life.

My Story

As parents, it’s our duty to teach our children not to be worried, ashamed, or afraid, but in everything to seek God, who can move and help us. The more this is instilled in our being at a young age, the stronger our faith and joy in Christ will mature.

Now, please don’t think that our family is perfect. Our family, like most, has suffered through the trenches. Yet, it is often in the trenches that we learn He is at work in miraculous ways in our family. This was brought home to me through the blindness of our dear adopted daughter, Meyana.

Meyana was legally blind—20/2400—when we adopted her at age twelve months, but we didn’t realize it at first. As she grew older, we kept noticing her rubbing her eyes. She began telling us, “It’s so blurry.” We took her to the optometrist for a diagnosis, and were shocked and distraught at the diagnosis. We requested the intervention of doctors. We patched her good eye for more than a year. Then, she had a disastrous surgery leaving her with double vision and extensive vision issues for years. We sought guidance from six doctors. Meyana endured eye patches, special vision glasses, and years of therapy, but nothing seemed to improve.

What proved persistent and increasing, however, was Meyana's faith. Saved at an early age, she trusted the Lord wholeheartedly. She told me often, "Mom, Jesus is the only doctor I really need." Along with our pastors and fellow believers, we pleaded to God for a breakthrough. We felt desperate. One night a program came on TV about a specialist treating a boy who had double vision, like Meyana, and was about the same age as Meyana, too. The boy was healed. We knew we must find this doctor.

With the support of many friends, church members, and family, we traveled to UCLA to meet the specialist. Initially, he planned to conduct surgery only on the left eye but later told us that he needed to operate on both. We felt confident that it was all in God's hands. Pleading on our hands and knees for a miracle in a stark, crowded waiting room, we believed in nothing short of a manifestation of His power and glory. We prayed "*For nothing will be impossible with God*" (Luke 1:37) over and over and over.

Meyana woke up in recovery with two extremely bloody, swollen, nearly-shut eyes. We breathlessly asked what she could see—and she quietly responded that she still saw everything in double. Drowning in disbelief, I cried uncontrollably, thinking God had let me down.

God, however, wasn't quite finished. Despite her pain, Meyana noticed a splendid rainbow outside the window. She could see what I couldn't with 20/20 sight: God's power and love beamed through into the hospital room. She said, "We have to keep faith in God. Maybe it's just going to take a little longer."

At the follow-up appointment, the doctor altered lenses and prisms over Meyana's eyes. She saw a single picture for the first time, even if for a mere second. It was remarkable! A few weeks later, Meyana asked if she could read the Lord's Prayer. She began reading the passage. Then suddenly, she exclaimed, "I can see! I can see one picture!" The double vision had healed. To this day, it has never returned. Praise God in all of His glory!

Stories from Our Friends

Today, we appreciate that through trials, faith, and obedience God has the capacity to heal anyone, anytime, and to change any situation. He can bless any family as long as they pray and seek Him in an unwavering, humble, and authentic way. After all, God knows our hearts and our minds—He knows what we’re thinking. Sharing from the core of our souls with the Father who made us and loves us are key ingredients to a prayerful life. We put ourselves out there, sharing in honesty, hope, and love, and God presents His blessings back to us according to His riches and glory.

And we’re not the only ones. Our friends Michael and Kimber Daniels’ deepest desire was to permanently adopt little Shaye from foster care, but they faced major obstacles. Still, the night before their court hearing, in an aisle in Walgreen’s, we locked eyes and determined we should pray together. We are all family in Christ. God can do this, we agreed. It’s our duty to seek Him. We prayed. The next day, the adoption of Shaye became official.

And there’s the Easons. The mom, Susan, had always hoped for a sibling for her daughter, Jade. Susan found out that little Matt was available for international adoption through an agency and shared the possibility with Jade. Although Jade had her heart set on a sister, they prayed together and afterward, Jade agreed it was fine to have a brother. She even began “missing” Matt as soon as she learned he would be her sibling. Every time she said she missed him, Susan and Jade would pray together—for Matt, for Jesus’ protection of Matt, and for healing of Matt’s hearing disability. A few weeks later, when she received approval to adopt Matt, Susan received an e-mail from his orphanage: his hearing disability had disappeared! When Matt came home, Susan felt blessed to have two adopted children who adored each other.

But anxiety struck again when Matt failed a few hearing tests. Instead of being alarmed, however, they sought the Lord in prayer

and visited an ENT. It was then decided he should undergo a surgery fairly common for young children. Now, Matt has perfect hearing. Praise God for the way He moves and continues to work out all the details!

Prayer Works!

I share these stories to let you know that miraculous answers to prayer do happen to those who pray daily with their families. And that's not just my opinion. One of the greatest promises on prayer is found in Matthew 18:19: *"If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."* (You can find so many more promises about prayer in "What God Says About Prayer," page 145.)

That sounds great, doesn't it? But how do we actually do that?

In only ten steps, this book's prayer action plan will teach your family to pray more deeply. There are over one hundred prayer activities that are simple methods to grow more in tune with God. There's much more to life than living in chaos, crowded schedules, and desperation! Instead, by praising God and working actively in our lives to meet with Him in our daily schedule, we can bring joy and purpose to our routine. We can grow fond of God's Word which comforts us as we pray. We can learn to appreciate God's promises as reality, not just pipe dreams. That's the power of God and His strength in family!

How to Use This Book

Each devotional in the book follows this pattern:



- ✦ **Family Minute:** Gather your family and read the family devotion aloud. It includes a brief opening prayer, a Scripture, and a short, true story from my life. Then, read the questions aloud that follow the story, and answer them openly and honestly. As

appropriate, read aloud the simple encouragements included in italics after the questions.

Next, read aloud the simple prayer. Offering an example of prayer is an easy way to teach children to pray. (Remind children that they can pray anytime and not just as a family—they can pray alone, too! Whether it’s in their rooms, at school, or wherever it may be, they should pray in pure silence from their hearts and souls as they feel comfortable or are led.)

Then, read aloud the Scriptures. You can have children bring their own Bibles and look up the references, taking turns to be the one reading aloud. Consider choosing one Scripture to memorize together. God’s promises on the topic at hand are included for your encouragement and to share with your family if time allows.



• **Interactive Family Prayer:** There are two or more options to choose from. Pick the one that best fits your family, and jump in—together!



• **Community Activity:** There is also an optional community prayer activity for those involved in small community or support groups.

After the ten topics for prayer, there’s a chapter of one hundred more family and group prayer activities to keep you seeking and discovering.

Ten Steps to Fruitful Prayer

Before you dive in to rejuvenating your family prayer life, take a moment to review the following ten key steps to fruitful prayer:

1. Determine what answer you hope to gain in prayer.
2. Find a Scripture that will support the prayer (Scriptures are listed in each chapter to help you).

3. Praise and give thanks to God for the opportunity to pray for His answer.
4. Petition (ask) God for the answer with all your heart, mind, and soul. This book encourages not only family prayer together, but also intimate personal prayer and communication with God. You can pray as a group, alone, or however you wish, as long as you are seeking the Father.
5. Make every prayer be one of pure faith, refusing to doubt God's ability to answer.

Rely on God in full confidence that He can and will answer.

6. Lift the Scripture to God as His Word and promise.
7. Thank God for hearing your prayer.
8. Trust God in gladness and assurance that He will answer if it is His will.
9. Then, worship and praise God for working on your behalf to deliver His answer.
10. Once an answer is delivered, give God the glory for all He has done in your family life.

Do you desire a closer bond with God? Then don't wait! Just follow the step-by-step guide. You can do a devotional a day for ten days, or a devotional a week for ten weeks. Either way, your success depends on your continued participation in this simple process. Now, journey forth. Don't let anything stop you!

The impact you desire begins *now*!

Let's uncover God's influence, power, and glory together through your core prayer circle—your family. May your family be blessed as you uncover God's hope, joy, perseverance, power, plan, and truth. And remember as you read, I'm thanking Jesus for you! Enjoy!

—Teresa J. Herbic



DEVOTIONAL 1: PRAYING FOR A HAPPY FAMILY

Family Minute



Dear God, We praise You, and we seek You. We come before You as a family to ask for Your incredible answers—nothing less—because You are a God of everything wonderful! Amen.

If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. (Matthew 18:19)

True Story from Teresa

For years, my family and I attended a midweek prayer meeting at church. While my husband and I prayed with other parents, our kids joined Awana. It became our routine for years. Then, one day, our prayer group suddenly dissolved. We no longer had our sacred circle. We missed gathering with brothers and sisters to share our deepest heart matters. God had revealed great answers to us when we bared our souls to one another—but now we felt at a loss.

Then a dawn of light came over us: why not hold our own family prayer meetings?

Now our family—me, my husband, and our two kids—gather after dinner every Wednesday evening. Each person brings a Scripture with thoughts of concern or praise. When she was little, our daughter took this so seriously that she created paper programs, copying the ones she saw at church services. Our son even passed out programs at the doorway to our living room, exclaiming, “Welcome to family prayer night!”

Lifting our prayers, in the love of family, with the help of pastors and church friends, we saw awe-inspiring miracles at work regularly by the holy hand of God through our family prayer time. Not only that, but we also grew closer to each other by giving up time from our evening to worship as a family.

Questions and Thoughts

1. As family, do we have a regular, daily routine?

Maybe you get up, brush your teeth, comb your hair, have breakfast, and head out for the day.

2. When, during that routine, is a good time to stop and pray?

We have all been guilty of flying through the day and nearly forgetting to stop and thank our Creator who made us. The desire to pray comes from a genuine longing to draw closer to God and to know Him. Praying can become part of your daily routine. Ideally, it's great to start your day with prayer, but it's also helpful to pray midday, at night, or any time you can. However, it absolutely requires a firm commitment to make it happen.

3. How can this book help us?

Through this guide, you can begin to pray more deeply as a family. But it will take a commitment—from everybody! Determine a time that works for everyone to sit down together in a circle and do the simple

activities to get started. Maybe you can meet daily after dinner or an hour before bedtime, but whatever you decide, remember that any time is a great time to pray! Then, sign together the “Personal Commitment to Prayer” at the beginning of this book if desired.

4. Do we have frustrations or needs as a family that require God’s help and wisdom? Big or small, what prayer requests do we have?

The apostle Paul once said, “Don’t worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7 NLT). If you lift your prayers, with the help of your inner circle of family, you are sure to see God’s holy hand at work in your lives. But don’t just pray when there’s trouble. Take charge and pray and praise in all occasions. Then you will see God moving more boldly in your lives.

A Simple Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You are our God. Thank You for loving our family. We love You! Dear God, please be at the center of our family as we move forward in prayer before You. Help us, Lord, to be a happy family. Bless our home with peace and love. Please bless each person by reminding us how to love each other as You love us. Help us to do our best each day to support one another, and not tear one another down. May our words to each other be gracious. Help us to know how we can serve You better. Thank You most of all that You made our family. We pray that You will guide us, help us, and protect us in all we do. We pray specifically for [family prayer requests]. In Jesus’ holy name, we pray! Amen.

Scripture about Loving One Another:

(Read through together; consider memorizing one.)

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (Colossians 3:20)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:16)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
(1 Corinthians 13:4–7 NIV)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

God's Promises

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
(James 1:5)

But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. (Psalm 4:3)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.
(Psalm 23:6)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5–6)

Interactive Family Prayer



Option A: Hold a Candlelit Prayer Evening

Make a candlelit prayer evening special by handing out written invitations to each family member—whether they’re adults, kids, or even toddlers. Include a specific day and time for the meeting. Ask them to bring one prayer request or thanksgiving to pray about.

A helpful format to follow in prayer is: praise, thanksgiving, confession, petition, closing prayer. Begin the night by praising God and offering thanks to Him. Tell Him how much you love Him and appreciate all He does for your family. Then, move into a time of confession.

Ask each person to contribute to every part of the prayer as they feel comfortable and let them know they can pray out loud or, if they prefer, silently. The goal is to make family members feel comfortable. Start by going around the room listing areas of concern. Then possibly play a worship song, a family-favorite hymn, or sing together in unison something simple. Move into thanksgiving for how the Lord has blessed your family, confession, and then petition for the prayer requests.

Close by saying a special prayer for your family harmony and your plan to pray more frequently together and give thanks to God for working in your lives.

Option B:

Make Prayer Sticks for Long-Term Prayers

These prayer sticks are a simple, crafty way to remember to pray for long-term requests of those you love, such as salvation, addictions, family goals, and personal goals, hopes, or dreams.

1. Find, or purchase from a local crafting store, several Popsicle sticks per family member.
2. Have each person add special colors or design to the upper part of their sticks. Wind string, yarn, or colored cord around a section of the sticks. Alternatively—or in addition—you can paint bands of color on the sticks. For the least messy option, wrap with colored tape. You might even draw a cross to signify this is a prayer stick for Christ.
3. Next, write with a permanent marker the name or subject you want to pray for or about regularly on the base of each stick.
4. Choose or decorate a distinctive container or bowl to hold your prayer sticks. After you've made several of them, sit in a circle and hold a kick-off prayer time as you each draw out a stick one by one from the prayer container or bowl. Thank God for what He's about to do at the end of the prayer time, as He's bound to move and bless in the midst of such a loving family.
5. The first day of the month or first Sunday of the month, visit this container as a family and take turns pulling out a stick and praying about that subject or person.
6. Once a prayer is answered, remove that stick and either throw it away or keep it in an answered prayer box to reflect upon at the end of the year or even in later years as a family thanksgiving activity.

Option C: Love Letter to God—"Dad":

Read the following "Love Letter from God" shared with us by Deborah Ann Belka—a wonderful author from Faith Writers—to be included in this activity. Take turns reading or designate one person to read aloud.

Love Letter from God
By Deborah Ann Belka ¹

Today I received,
A love letter from God.
I opened up my Bible
Here is what I read...
I am your Creator,
Before you were born;
I molded and formed you,
Just like the dew in the morn.
I'm the remedy to your needs,
I am your soothing balm,
I'm the peace in your storm,
I am the voice that is calm.
I'm all the grace you need,
In Me, there is eternal life.
I came so that I could bear
The burden of your strife.
I am your staff of comfort,
I will shield and protect you
Through life's complexities—
Together we'll journey through.
I am the anchor of your soul,
A safe place to run and hide,
I will never forsake you...
I am always at your side.
I'm the lamp unto your way,
With my Word I will guide.
I am the One whom you feel

1. Deborah Ann Belka, "Love Letter from God" used by permission from Deborah Ann Belka of Faith Writers, 2014, <http://www.faithwriters.com>. www.hiswingsshadow.com; <http://poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com/>. See also "Father's Love Letter" in the conclusion to this book.

Stirring up deep inside.
I am your Creator,
I knew you from the start;
That is why I gave to you
For Me— a loving heart!

Now, create your own love letter to God—or “Dad.” Get a pen and paper for everybody, and enjoy a few quiet moment together writing to God your love for Him, your hopes for His kingdom, and your plans to serve Him more purposefully in life, caring for His needs and His heart. Don’t forget to thank God for being your heavenly Father and for loving you no matter what!



Prayer Community Activity

Have you ever considered inviting people to your home for a prayer meeting? Extend the praise/thanksgiving/confession/petitioning/closing prayer meeting format into your community group setting. Determine a meeting date, time, and location for a special prayer time with your group. Invite Christians who are interested in praying together, and explain to each guest that this will be a time of dedicated prayer in which families can pray aloud or silently. This is a wonderful way to become more open about your prayer life and to see answers to prayer flourish all around you. Ask each guest or family to come prepared with the following: 1) family name; 2) personal/family prayer concerns; 3) congregational prayer concerns; 4) kingdom hopes/prayers for God’s glory to be magnified; and 5) a favorite Scripture.

Seat chairs in a circle and set the mood with some praise music playing in the background as people enter the room. Begin by forming a circle and going around the room with a simple praise and thanksgiving. If members do not wish to speak openly, they are certainly not required to. They can just sit, listen, and pray quietly if they wish.

Next, enter into a period of general confession, as is appropriate for a larger group. Then go around the circle asking everyone to refer to their prayer requests/information. Ask for prayer concerns by family. Once everyone has shared their prayer needs, lift concerns before the Lord as members feel led. Follow with congregational prayer concerns and kingdom prayers. Once all prayers are lifted, ask members to share their favorite Scripture and what it means to their family.

Conclude with a prayer and thank participants for joining in.

(Other Prayer Community Activities will refer to your “community group” or “small group.” If you don’t have a prayer group already, my hope is that as you gain comfortability and initiative, you will form a group of people who come together in prayer!)