



## Week 3: Praying for Our Children

**Prayer:** Gracious God, we praise for the gift of children. Give us courage and discernment as we parent and as we grow together in faith, Amen.

**Scripture:** Proverbs 22.6

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.

### Something to Think About

Have you said or heard another person say upon expecting a child through birth or adoption, "I just want them to be healthy and happy." I think many of us have. It's a natural and perfectly good wish and hope for our children. I wonder if our goal as moms isn't more than that...what if we see that our goal for our child(ren) is for them to grow up grace-filled?

One way to focus our prayers for our children is to think with some intentionality about what it is we hope and pray for them. Here's a list of 10 values...what would you add? For each of your children, what is a quality/value right now for which you hope?

### TEN LIST OF VALUES/WISDOMS WE WANT TO IMPART TO OUR KIDS

1. **Love:** Believe that you are loved by God, just as you are! (You can't earn it or lose it.) *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*
2. **Call:** Christ calls you to be your true self; your vocation is different from your job (but may overlap in seasons) and should be life-giving and other-oriented. *I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4.1-3)*
3. **Light:** See the light of Christ in others, hopefully in everyone. *What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. (John 1.3b)*
4. **Grace:** Learn to appreciate the gift of grace. *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2.8-9)*



# moms

mothers offering mothers support



5. **Justice:** Strive for justice in building up God's beloved community. *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6.8)*
6. **Presence:** Know that no matter what, you are never alone. God is always with you, even in the darkness, even in the depths. *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. (Psalm 23.4, 6)*
7. **Balance:** Balance is a constant goal...strive for it but don't get bent out of shape over it. Remember that Sabbath is important. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3.1)*
8. **Gratitude:** Practice gratitude. Being thankful is a spiritual practice. *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3.15)*
9. **Forgiveness:** Most of us are trying to do the best we can. Sometimes we need to forgive others; sometimes we need to forgive ourselves. *Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18.21-22)*
10. **Hope:** Even when the future seems bleak, trust that God will see you through. *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29.11)*

## Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What wisdom and reminders do you hope your child(ren) will gain as they age?
- ❖ What wish/goal/hope do you have for your child(ren)?
- ❖ What would you add to this list?
- ❖ Which of these development goals comes easiest... To you personally? To your child(ren)? To your family unit?
- ❖ Which of these faith development goals is the most challenging...To you personally? To your child(ren)? To your family unit?
- ❖ What are some ideas of how to pray for your children and how to pray with your children?

## Sharing Prayer

- ❖ Close with this prayer or another you have: *Gracious God, we pray for guidance as we lift the needs and hopes for our children to you. We pray for space to model and participate in prayer with our children. Amen.*

