

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for and with my child.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- Bless my child daily.
- Schedule and have regular family times.
- _____

The next step on the Faith Path is *Bible*, recommended at age eight. We will offer a free *Bible* packet to guide you through this next step. Members of St. Paul will receive an invitation/reminder to pick-up resources and participate in a Take-It-Home event associated with this milestone. Visit our web-site for more information:

<http://fallsathome.com/faith-path/>

Recommended Resources

Teaching Your Child to Pray by Rick Osborne

What Happens When I Talk to God? The Power of Prayer for Boys and Girls by Stormie Omartian

Power of a Praying (_____) by Stormie Omartian

Many books written by this author including *Power of a Praying Wife, Husband, Parent, Teen, Kid* and more.

FAITH
PATH

Prayer

Teach Your Child to Talk to God

One of the greatest things you can do is to help your child develop a relationship with God through prayer. Prayer is how we communicate with and connect to our Heavenly Father. Nurture your child's faith by praying together as a family and by guiding them in the practice of praying individually.

Who should Pray: Be an Example

Allow your child to see and hear you pray on a regular basis. Take time to stop and give thanks in times when God blesses you or answers a prayer. Model prayer in times of difficulty or when seeking wisdom for important decisions. Pray for those in your family and others you know are in need.

What to Pray for: Don't Keep Prayer in a Box

Help your child gain an appreciation that we can pray for anyone and anything. Look around you, there's much to praise God for. At home it may be family, friends or your pet. It might also be saying thanks for your bed, blankets, or time together. On the road you might see garbage—thank God for the garbage men. Pray for the mailmen, people in another car, a business you see along the way. Praise God for a sunset, a tree, the roads, or safe travels. At school or work you can pray for classmates and co-workers or people that are gone or sick. There are no limits. And the more you pray, the more you will think of things to pray for.

When to Pray: Create Family Routine

Making prayer a regular part of your family culture will help make it a normal part of your child's life. I Thessalonians 5:17 says "Pray without ceasing." Consider incorporating some of the following in your family routine:

Mealtime: Briefly give thanks before you eat, then wait until everyone has finished to have a longer time of prayer together.

Bedtime: The first person in the family to go to bed (usually the youngest) alerts everyone else that it is time for an end-of-day prayer together.

On the road: As you start the engine, pause for a brief prayer together asking God to go with you and invite everyone to pray a sentence prayer for any concern about the upcoming activities of the day. This is a great routine to begin as you drive to school in the morning. Pray for things you see along the way.

Walks: Taking a walk together is the ideal time to pray. Or pause at the end to pray about the matters discussed during your walk.

How to Pray: Just do it

There is not a right way or structure. Talk to God like you would a friend—or follow some premade/structured prayers. Here are some tools, ideas and sample prayers:

- **Sentence Prayers:** Take turns allowing each person who is comfortable doing so to pray a very short, one sentence prayer. It can be as simple as "Please heal Uncle Paul." or "Thank you for giving Troy a new friend."
- **Fill-in-the-Blank Prayers:** Use pre-written language to guide and focus prayer times such as the following starter lines:
**God, I love you because... **Thank you God for...
**God, please help... **God, I'm sorry for...
- **Prayer Board:** Keep a dry erase board or the calendar included with this kit in a high traffic area of your home and use it to note items the family is praying for together.
- **Prayer Journal:** Consider purchasing a journal for your child to start recording prayers and how God answers them.
- **Mirror prayers:** Using a dry erase marker, write a list of prayer concerns on the child's bathroom mirror so he or she remembers to pause and pray after brushing teeth.
- **The Lord's prayer,** located in Matthew 6: 9-13 gives some guidance. Look this up in Luther's Small Catechism to see how this prayer can be a good prayer tool.
- More sample prayers and ideas are available on the other sheets located in this packet.