

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

~ John 17:20-21

Your Prayers Outlive Your Life

By: Deb Weakly

“Prayers are deathless. They outlive the lives of those who uttered them.”

~ E. M. Bounds

When we pray, we are sending a message forward to a time we will not see! Just like in our key verse for today, Jesus’ prayer for all believers is still being answered in you and in me. Our prayers transcend time, and keep going, even for our great-great-grandchildren and beyond. Think about it! We can pray now for those in our lineage to know Christ and to serve Him with their whole hearts.

Our prayers will last longer than we do! We will die long before every prayer of ours is answered.

If you’re like me and weren’t raised in a Christian home, you can pray and have a completely different family lineage. God makes *all* the difference in our lives and brings lasting change. If Jesus doesn’t come back to earth until one hundred years from now, we will all have descendants on the earth. Your faithful prayers for your children and grandchildren will affect your great-grandchildren, and so on. Take God out of the box. Pray big prayers!

You could be affecting someone who will live 100 years from now! When you pray for God to be real to your children and grandchildren and for them to know Jesus, you are in essence affecting your family lineage. We can’t make our children be Christians, but we can pray for God to reach their hearts in His perfect timing and ways. It’s our job to pray, trust and obey, and God’s job to work in the hearts of our family.

Praying intentionally for your family is one of the most powerful things you can do, and a prayer binder is a great tool to help you keep your prayers organized all in one place. If you prefer, you can use an app like Evernote to keep your prayers on your phone. The most important thing is to keep your prayers in front of you and pray them regularly! I use a prayer binder, but you can use whatever medium will help you most.

If you decide to complete this Faith-Filled Idea, give yourself a couple of weeks. It’s worth the effort and will change your life and the life of your family.

Prayer changes everything!

Faith-Filled Idea: How to Make a Prayer Binder

The first step in making your prayer binder is to start praying and asking God for specific prayers for your family. If you are in the habit of journaling, take some time to look over any meaningful prayers from your journal. Write any additional prayers the Lord shows you in your journal so you can put them in your binder.

The next step is to make sure you have each of the items on the supply list.

Be sure to take your time in preparing your prayer binder and make it yours. In my binder, I keep my personal prayers for my family, as well as those I found in books. You can adapt the binder to suit your needs. As we often say in the Help Club for Moms, “You do you!” Below, I share how I break down my binder topics and a few of my prayers, but my heart’s desire is for you to pray and ask God what He wants you to write in your binder.



Supplies needed:

- Small three-ring binder with a clear plastic front so you can slide a piece of paper behind the plastic and customize your prayer binder
- Translucent sheet protectors (10-20)
- Notebook paper or your favorite paper to write your prayers on that will fit in the sheet protectors
- Decorative paper if you want to be creative, but don't let perfectionism get in the way of finishing your prayer book. The most important thing is that you finish.
- Seven Dividers with tabs

My binder is simply a three-ring binder with the clear plastic page protectors. I have organized my prayers into sections using the dividers with tabs. This way I only have to pray a little each day.

My sections are:

Monday: Prayers for Randy and my marriage (fun, communication, intimacy, finances, etc.)

Tuesday: Prayers for my children

Wednesday: Prayers for others - parents, in-laws, friends, etc. (great relationships, healing from illness, marriages). I also pray for my church and missionaries, etc.

Thursday: Prayers for Deb - these are prayers for myself to remember what is most important in this life and for God to help me be a good wife and Mama

Friday: Prayers for our children's education (homeschool or in the classroom)

Saturday: Scriptures to pray (Scriptures that I love to pray personally and keep in front of me to remember)

Sunday: Sunday sermon notes and things the Lord is teaching me

Here are a few of my prayers for my family:

"Lord, please bless my husband. Draw his heart to you. Let him know that you love him, see him, and are proud of him. Help him to walk with You closer. Give him a desire and the moments to spend time with you and read your word."

"Let me be a source of joy to him. Let him 'rejoice with the wife of his youth.' Please keep us occupied with 'gladness of heart.'"

"Please help me to talk to my husband in a way that brings us closer together. Help me to respect him. Help me to praise him more in private and in front of other people. Give me eyes to see my husband's heart."

"Lord, please help me to learn to talk to my family in a way that they feel loved and draws them closer to me."

"Lord, please help me to play with the kids more and to enjoy my kids more! Help me to laugh a lot and be fun to be around. Please help me to make the time to love my children in a way that they feel loved."

"Lord, please help my children to be godly, responsible, respectful, fully obedient, totally dedicated to you, and hunger for the truth."

"Lord, please write your name on my children's hearts. Set them apart for your service. Let them grow up to do great things in Christ's name."

For a complete list of the prayers in my binder, go to <http://helpclubformoms.com/how-to-make-a-prayer-binder/>.

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