



“The most important thing in your life is not your family, your spouse, your kids, your job, your finances, or your health. The most important thing in your life is your personal intimacy with God because that affects everything else. Your family life depends on personal intimacy with God in your heart. Your kids need this from you more than they even need you to put food on the table—this reality will change the way you parent. Your marriage, your job, your finances, and the people around you need this from you. Everything flows from this.” -David Platt

Over the next twenty-one days, we have an opportunity to develop deeper intimacy with God that will overflow into every aspect of our lives, and we hope this will be a helpful guide for you. We encourage you to choose a certain place and set a specific time each day to come together as a family and pray. You can use the daily prayer prompt to help get you started, but be open to other things the Lord may lead you or your children to pray.

If you've never prayed aloud with your children, we hope this guide will help you take the first step toward praying together as a family. It may feel awkward or uncomfortable at first, but don't let that discourage you. After a few times, it will start to feel more comfortable. If your children are hesitant or embarrassed to pray, there is no need to force them. Just leave space for them to pray each day as they may develop more courage as the practice becomes more familiar. If they seem to be disinterested when you pray, don't worry. Prayer is one of the hardest things to do intentionally and consistently. Even when it doesn't go “as planned,” God is using those chaotic moments to teach our children that He is accessible and at work in every moment of our lives.

When you've completed prayer time for the day, have your child check off the date on the calendar or cover it with a sticker to mark their progress. If you miss a day, don't let that derail you as you can simply double up the next day, chart your progress and keep moving. Marking off the calendar can be a tangible, interactive way to engage children and get them excited.

Most importantly, we want you to know that the MBC Next Generation team is praying daily for you and your family. We are praying that during the next 21 days your family will sense the presence of the Lord as you gather to pray, just like Matthew 18:20 tell us: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” On our knees, a dad and his daughter, a husband and wife, a family of three or 13...each group has the certain promise of Christ's presence.

We'd love to hear how God works in and through your family during the 21 Days of Prayer. If you have a story of encouragement or something specific God taught you or your children during these three weeks, we'd love for you to share them with us at stories@mcleanbible.org. We look forward to celebrating all God accomplishes during these 21 days.

<p>01</p> <p>“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.” Psalm 100:4</p> <p>Think about the many amazing things in your life. Thank God for taking care of you and for the many ways He has blessed you. Try to think of something you’ve never thanked God for and praise him for it now.</p>	<p>02</p> <p>“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26</p> <p>Pray for the pastors, elders, & ministry leaders in our church. Pray that God would give them wisdom and discernment as they lead in their different areas of ministry.</p>	<p>03</p> <p>“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people-” 1 Timothy 2:1</p> <p>We can make a difference when we spend time praying for others. Pray for the needs of people around you.</p>	<p>04</p> <p>“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.” 1 Corinthians 1:10</p> <p>Pray for all five of our MBC locations. Pray that we would be united in the work that God has called us to do.</p>	<p>05</p> <p>“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24</p> <p>Ask God to examine your life and show you anything that does not honor Him. Ask Him to help you confess your sin and remove it from your life.</p>	<p>06</p> <p>“Come to me, all you who are weary & burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you & learn from me, for I am gentle & humble in heart, & you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28</p> <p>In what areas of your life do you need God’s strength and rest? Ask him to give you rest today.</p>	<p>07</p> <p>“Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:8</p> <p>Prayer is simply talking to God. Talk to God about what worries you, what you’re afraid of, or something that is bothering you. Ask Him to help you.</p>
<p>08</p> <p>“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.” Matthew 9:38</p> <p>Pray for the 3.4 billion people who have little or no access to the gospel. Ask the Lord to send more people and resources to tell them about Jesus.</p>	<p>09</p> <p>“Our Father in Heaven”</p> <p>For those who have placed their faith in Christ, we are His children. Start your prayer by thanking God for making a way for us to be adopted into His family.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” Psalm 91:1-2</p> <p>Make a list of the many ways God has protected you and given you strength. Praise God for His protection and strength.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>“Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”</p> <p>Part of being a child of God is caring about what He cares about and loving what and who He loves. Pray and ask God to help you love what He loves. (justice, freedom, saving the lost, unity, wisdom, etc.)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5</p> <p>As we go through life and take on new situations, we can be comforted by knowing we’re not alone because God is by our side. Thank God for the truth that He never leaves us.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”</p> <p>We can receive God’s forgiveness anytime and if we are children of God, we must forgive others as well. What is something that’s been said or done to you that is hard for you to forgive? Whatever comes to mind, ask God to help you offer forgiveness.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17</p> <p>Pray that our church would be built on the truth of God’s word.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>“Pray then like this,” Jesus said. “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil” Matthew 6:9-13</p> <p>Pray this prayer today.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1</p> <p>Thank God for giving us His Word, the Bible. Ask Him to help you grow in your love for His Word and to commit to reading it.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>“Hallowed be Your Name”</p> <p>When we announce who God is, we not only worship Him, but we also remind ourselves how powerful and great our God is. Worship God in prayer using some of His names. (Shepherd, Provider, Creator, Peace, Healer, etc.)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them...” John 6:44</p> <p>Pray for people you know who do not follow Jesus. Ask God to supernaturally draw their hearts to Him and save them from their sin.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>“Give us this day our daily bread...”</p> <p>God promises to supply all our needs, and He wants us to come to Him with our problems, needs, and desires and to trust Him to provide. Talk to God about what is bothering you or what you need.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7</p> <p>Ask God to help you be bold by telling others about the love of Jesus.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>“And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.”</p> <p>God has given us everything we need to resist temptation. Tell God the areas of your life where you are tempted to sin and ask Him to strengthen you to resist the temptation to sin.</p>