



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S PRAYER NETWORK **WEEKLY PRAYER AGENDA**

“I urge, then, first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone for kings and all those in Authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Our Representative
The Honorable _____

Monday

Pray for the Family

Love – Peace – Protection

Spouse
Children
Quality time together
Spiritual life as family

Tuesday

Pray for the Responsibilities of Office

Courage – Integrity – Truth

Speeches	Decision-making
Voting	Staff
Committees	Relationships

Wednesday

Pray for Physical Health

Rest – Exercise – Diet

Strength for each long day
Take time to be healthy
Safety in travel

Thursday

Pray for Relationship with God

Prayer – Fellowship – God's Word

Seek God's wisdom
Understand biblical principles
Take time for spiritual refreshing

Friday

Pray for Our President

Wisdom – Justice – Protection

Family
Cabinet
Staff
Relationship with other world leaders

PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

OUR PRAYER SHOULD EXPRESS THE HEART OF GOD

DEFINITION: HOW GOD SEES HIS CREATION.

A Clean Heart

Psalms 66:18-19 “If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened. But God did listen. He paid attention to my prayer. Praise God, who did not ignore my prayer and did not withdraw his unfailing love from me.”

A Forgiving Heart

Matthew 6:1-1 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

A Loving Heart

John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son to the world to condemn it, but to save it.”

Begin by studying the scriptures you have just read. Ask the Lord to cleanse your heart, then receive his forgiveness and experience his love. Now you can share this experience with those for whom you pray. For a clearer picture of the heart of God study Colossians 3:12-17 and use the study guide below for a group discussion. (Lesson—Learning to Pray with Godly Character)

Prayer of Preparation: Heavenly Father, please cleanse my heart from sin. I want to have a forgiving heart and learn to love people the way you do. I have studied Colossians 3:12-17 and right now I make a commitment to live my life according to the exhortation in this passage of scripture. Signature _____ Date _____

A Study from Colossians 3:12-14 **LEARNING TO PRAY WITH GODLY CHARACTER** **TAKE A GOOD LOOK**

“Since God chose you to be the holy people, whom He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Colossians 3:12-14

I like to think of this passage as a beautiful painting of the Heart of God. It encourages us to take on the characteristics that our Lord exhibits when He relates to His people.

- List the character traits with which we are to clothe ourselves.
- Talk about why it is important to have the kind of heart that exhibits these traits.
- What does your spiritual heart look like?

When we make the commitment to allow the Lord to change our hearts, we will learn to pray more effectively. We will pray with tenderness. We will express kindness and patience in our prayers. We will be humble and loving as we pray for others. Make that commitment right now.

THIS IS GOD'S WILL

“You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are all called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” Colossians 3:15

- List the ways we are encouraged to respond to those with whom we associate.
- What does the person who clothes him or herself in love look like?
- Talk about what it means to have Christ rule in our hearts.
- This passage tells us that we are to live in peace. How can we achieve this?

Love, forgiveness, peace, harmony and gratefulness are all prerequisites for effective prayer. When we pray with anger, hatred, disunity and greed we will not accomplish anything except to let God know that we are in need of His grace.

TRY IT GOD'S WAY

“Let the words of Christ in all their richness live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:16-17

- How do you think the rich words of Christ can make you wise?
- What does it mean to allow the words of Christ to live in your hearts?
- Have you ever used His words to teach others? Would you like to do so?
- What do you think will happen when we sing these songs as a prayer for our national leaders, the people of our nation and the nations of the world?

The last verse in this important passage gives us a strong command. In everything you do and say be a true representative of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you face a situation that you are not sure of, pray about it. Ask yourself this question: What would Jesus do? Then go do it.

In the days to come, make an effort to obey these scriptures. Take the time to pray about your heart and allow the Lord to show you areas of need. When you are tired and someone is really on your nerves, try forgiveness and patience rather than anger. When you want your way and someone else opposes you, try peace rather than disunity. Remember God never asks us to discipline our hearts without providing the strength we need to finish the task. His love is extended toward us while we are sharing it with others.

Now you will be able to pray with joy and peace and to embark on the exciting adventure of communication with God. You will be able to pray with a pure heart and right motives. Most of all, you will be learning how to love those for whom you pray.

DEFINITIONS

Mercy	If you show mercy, you will forgive the faults of those who do wrong.
Kindness	If you show kindness, you are friendly, generous, and helpful.
Humility	If you show humility, you are not too proud, and you recognize your own faults.
Gentleness	If you show gentleness, you are not rough but kind and sensitive.
Patience	If you have patience, you can put up with problems and delays without getting angry.

OUR PRAYER SHOULD BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE WORD OF GOD

DEFINITION: WHAT GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO DO.

Pray in the Name of Jesus

John 14:13 “You can ask for anything in My Name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. You ask anything in My Name, and I will do it.

Pray with Faith

Hebrews 11:6 “So you see it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that there is a God and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”

Pray in Agreement with God’s Will

1 John 5:14-15 “And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. And if we know He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for.”

To better understand the scriptures, answer the following questions.

1. John 14:13 — Why do we pray in the Name of *Jesus*? If your prayers were answered would God receive glory?
2. Hebrews 6:11 — Define the word, *faith*. Why is God pleased when we have faith?
3. 1 John 4:14-15 — What does it mean to pray in line with God’s will? Does God ever say no? (For example look at 1 Timothy 2:3-4.)

Make a list of any questions that arise during your study. In your prayer group or class discuss your questions. Pray together asking the Lord to help you understand his Word. Write a prayer incorporating what you have learned from your study. Share your prayers with those in your group or class.

OUR PRAYER SHOULD BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE WAYS OF GOD

DEFINITION: THE WAY GOD WORKS WITH PEOPLE.

Directed by the Holy Spirit

John 16:13 “When the spirit comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; He will be telling you what He has heard.” (From the Father)

Follow the Example of Jesus

Matthew 6:9-13 “Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. Give us our food for today, and forgive us our sin, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. And don’t let us yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Pray with Persistence

Luke 11:9-10 “And I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks.”

1. John 16:13 tells us that if we let him the Holy Spirit will direct our prayers. Talk about the importance of inviting the Holy Spirit to guide our prayers.
2. In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray. Make an outline of this prayer.
3. Luke 11:9-10 tells us that we are to be persistent in our prayers. Define the word persistent. Talk about what it means to *ask, seek and knock* in prayer.

Discuss what you have learned from these scriptures with your prayer group or class. Write a prayer, which includes the principles you have been talking about in your group. Share your prayers with your classmates.

DIRECTIVES

The following directives have been prepared to help you incorporate the NCPN materials into your classroom routine. Because of the many varied concepts of education, both in Christian schools and Churches, we have provided you with some basics. You will be able to take these directives and creatively fit them into your unique situation.

Simplicity is the key. We have kept it that way because our main emphasis is prayer. We need not tamper with the purity of a child's response in prayer by making our training solely academic. You will notice that the Principles of Prayer teaching is actually an expression of the character of God, the provision of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that out of a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, strong faith and effective prayer will emerge.

IN THE CLASSROOM

1. Set aside a time each day for prayer. Your schedule will determine how much time but remember a lot can be done in 5 or 10 minutes. When you begin you may want to use part of your Bible class to talk about the Principles of Prayer. Make prayer a very natural part of your day and this will help the children to develop a lifestyle of prayer.
2. Discuss the privilege of prayer with the children. Help them understand that prayer is their opportunity to talk with the Heavenly Father about personal needs and on behalf of others.
3. Discuss the Principles of Prayer with the class. These principles are easily taught by using a *teach-pray method*. Explain the principle and the scripture, and then put it into practice immediately.
4. Discuss the Prayer Agenda. Help the children relate to their lawmaker as a real person who has need of God's strength and wisdom. The agenda deals with everyday issues of life, things that they face in their own families. The Prayer Agenda is a guide but please allow the children to pray from their hearts. Be ready to write down some of the important things the children might say in prayer.
5. Talk with the children about the nation and its government. Help them to understand the importance of praying for their leaders. Allow the children to watch special news broadcasts when something of major significance is happening in the world. Then lead them in prayer with regard to what they have seen.
6. Keep a prayer notebook. This notebook should include: daily prayer requests, letters written to the lawmaker, current events that are collected throughout the year, any creative writing, scripture or thoughts that come as a result of prayers times; the Principles of Prayer, the Prayer Agenda and all other materials from the network office.
7. Choose a head of state from another country for whom to pray. Use pictures of the leader and his/her country to help the children relate to the culture. The use of a world map, atlas or globe is good for this. (History and geography lessons could easily lend themselves to prayer for other nations.)
8. Pray for the children on a daily basis. They are the future of the church and the nation. They need our support in prayer as well as in education. Your example in prayer will lead them.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADER

1. Your national congressional leaders will have a local office as well as one here in Washington, DC. As you begin, write or call (as a class) your lawmaker's local office and ask for an 8x10 picture to be displayed in your classroom.
2. Plan a visit to the local office. Ask for an appointment to have the children meet their congressional leader and to acquaint them with the official working environment.
3. Correspond on a regular basis with your congressional leader. All notes and letters should be encouraging and uplifting, free from any political agenda, and in good taste. The letters should be written from the hearts of the children.
4. Collect newspaper articles and information about your congressional leader. These current events will provide important information for prayer, as well as help the children understand the things that are happening in their nation. CSPAN broadcasts both the Senate and House sessions daily. You might want to look for your lawmaker on television and then pray. There are endless ways to sponsor prayer in the hearts of the children and it need not take a lot of time.
5. Correspond with the President, letting him know that you, as a school/church, are praying for him on Friday of each week. Letters from children are always looked upon with appreciation and great interest by the White House.
6. Plan to visit Washington, DC as a school or on an individual basis, by sending a representative from your school/church to the National Children's Prayer Congress, to be held in the spring of each year. While in Washington, the children will have the opportunity to meet and pray with the men and women they have been praying for and to see them in action. If you are interested in the Prayer Congress, please contact us as soon as possible. We are now planning for this spring.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative _____

A STUDY FROM ISAIAH 58

YOU CAN BE THE ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYERS THE KIND OF PRAYER THAT GOD EXPECTS

What have you been praying about? There are many people and problems in our nation that need our prayers. Through the National Children's Prayer Network we have been learning to pray for our National Leaders. Now we need to take a close look at our cities. We need to see the needs of the people we know and love. Homelessness, abuse, crime drugs, air pollution, and wars are just a few of the problems we hear about everyday.

When we pray, our hearts become sensitive to the needs of the people around us. We begin to feel a responsibility toward those for whom we are praying. When we add helping hands to our prayers we become the answer to our prayers.

In God's Word we read about a nation of people who had been fasting and praying but not receiving the answers they expected. They asked God why He had not heard them. God spoke to them through one of His prophets. He called upon a man named Isaiah to bring a message to His people Israel.

Isaiah called out to the people in a loud voice. He gave them this message from God. "You have been praying but you have not been taking care of the people who work for you. You have been fighting while you were supposed to be at worship. You have forgotten to take care of the poor and homeless. You have forgotten to honor me on the Sabbath." The people of Israel were called to repent and change their ways. Then God promised that he would hear their prayers. They must begin to act like true children of god.

God gave the people great promises. If they would take care of the poor and homeless He would shine His Light upon them. Healing would come to their cities and they would be protected. God wanted His people to exhibit Kindness and Generosity. If they would stop telling lies and blaming each other for the problems in their nation, God would guide them. He would take care of their needs, and give them strength. He would help them rebuild their nation and restore their neighborhoods. God wanted his people to be Forgiving. If they would keep the Sabbath and honor god on His Holy day, He would give them great joy. All of the promises God had given their ancestors would be theirs. He wanted His people to be Obedient. He wanted to give them Joy.

Our prayers must be matched with a willingness to be obedient servants. If we obey god, he will use our energy, our creativity, our talents and our abilities to bring healing to our cities. The problems in our nation are difficult but the potential in each of God's children is greater than any difficulty. We can be the answer to our prayer. We can be used by God to bring healing to our cities. The question is, "Are we willing."

DEFINITIONS

Kindness—	Treating others with sensitivity and understanding.
Generosity—	The willingness to give or share freely.
Forgiveness—	To stop feeling anger or resentment. To excuse a fault.
Obedience—	To follow directions given by one in authority.
Joy—	To rejoice or be delighted in the goodness of the Lord.