

Living FAITH Family Edition



Preparing For Family Prayer

SPACE

To create your family prayer space:

- Gather around the table;
- Clear the space of all distractions;
- Engage in the prayer either before or after sharing a family meal at the table.

CONNECTING

To encourage connection, establish this space as:

- Phone and other technology free (except to use the #blessed Sway or to read the PDF);
- "Pay out" and judgement free.

SHARING

When it is time to share:

- Each member of the family feels invited to share freely and uninterrupted;
- Listen actively and openly to each other;
- Affirm each other;
- Provide the option to "pass" if someone would prefer not to share.

PRAYING

Once you are ready to get started:

- Chose a member of the family to lead the prayer session;
- Chose a member of the family to read the Gospel;
- Chose the discussion question you would like to engage with.

PRAYERS OF INTENTION

You might like to offer prayers for:

- Immediate needs in your household;
- Relatives who may be sick or in need;
- Broader community (homeless, those in CoVid lockdown, poor, sick etc)
- Global concerns (war, famine, drought etc)

“A Story about Ten Girls”

WE CONNECT

Ask everyone to share a time when they felt really supported by a family member during the week. How did the family member support them? Are there ways the family can continue to be of support?

Once each person has had their turn to share, pray together:

God of Love;
We are truly grateful for the gift of each one of us,
And for the many ways You bless our family.
Amen.

WE LISTEN

A reading from Matthew (25: 1-13)

A Story about Ten Girls

The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps.

When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready, the foolish ones said to the others, “Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out.”

The girls who were wise answered, “There’s not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves.”

While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The girls who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed. Later the other girls returned and shouted, “Sir, sir! Open the door for us!” But the groom replied, “I don’t even know you!”

So, my disciples, always be ready! You don’t know the day or the time when all this will happen.



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WE SHARE

Work together to write your own "Family Beatitudes" and display them in a prominent place in the house.

For example:

Blessed are you when you are grateful for what you have and share your things with others. When you have an attitude for gratitude you appreciate the small gifts God gives you every day.

Blessed are you for comforting your siblings when they are sad, worried, stressed or angry. You know that they will be there for you too in return.

WE OFFER

Each member of the family is invited to offer a prayer of intention. (See the guide above).

We pray for (intention)... Lord, hear us.

When all intentions have been offered everyone says together:

Lord hear our prayer.

WE GIVE THANKS

Loving God,
We are so grateful for spending this time together in prayer and love knowing that when we gather for prayer You are there with us.
Thank you for the gift of each of us,
And help us to continue to appreciate how precious our family is.
Amen

"Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love"

- Pope Francis

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Scripture quotations taken from the New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

