



CENTRAL

Biblical Teaching | Passionate Worship | Authentic Ministry

Dear Parent:

One of the core values of Central is that God designed the family as the primary place for discipleship. The Faith Path initiative exists to partner with you as you guide your child's spiritual journey one step at a time. Age appropriate kits have been created to help you leverage the best faith formation strategy for your child's stage of development. In this **Prayer kit**, you will find practical ideas and suggested resources to help you teach your child to talk to God. I urge you to start today by taking the following simple steps.

STEP ONE: LEARN

We have provided a link to a short video that explains this particular Faith Path step. You will hear from both experts and ordinary families as they describe the importance of family and individual prayer and share practical suggestions from their experiences. You will also find a guide that offers practical tips and what we consider the best resources on the topic. If you would like additional coaching or information about Faith Path, please visit centralbcs.org/faithpath or contact Chris Gary, Minister to Children, at cgary@centralbcs.org.

STEP TWO: START

To help you jump start the process, this kit includes a *Prayer Calendar* that can help your child create a habit of prayer.

If your child is registered with Central, you will receive the next email on their seventh birthday explaining how to receive the Bible kit. To confirm we have correct birthday information on your child, please log into our database at centralbcs.org/realm and update your family profile.

I hope you find this kit helpful in the process of forming the faith of your child at home. Feel free to visit centralbcs.org/faithpath to learn more or to determine if your child is ready for other Faith Path steps.

In Christ,

Phillip Bethancourt
Senior Pastor

PS: Additional resources may be found at centralbcs.org/faithpath/prayer.

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns, featuring small circular motifs and leaf-like shapes, framing the entire page.

FAITH PATH

PRAYER

Teach Your Child to Talk to God



CENTRAL

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.

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.

JUMP START PRAYERS

Use these ideas to help start prayer time with your child.

- **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.", "Thank you for giving Troy a new friend.", or "I'm sorry for losing my temper with everyone earlier today."
- **Fill-in-the-Blank Prayers:** Use prewritten 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 TOOLS AND IDEAS

- **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.

FAMILY ROUTINES

Making prayer a regular part of your family culture will help make it a normal part of your child's life. Consider incorporating some of the following in your family routine.

- **Mealttime:** Briefly give thanks before you eat, and 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.
- **Drive time:** 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.
- **Walks:** Taking a walk together is the ideal time to pray. Pause at the end to pray about the matters discussed during your walk.

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.
- ☐ _____

*Bible is the next step on the Faith Path
and is recommended at age seven.*

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Pray Big for Your Child by Will Davis, Jr.

What Happens When I Talk to God by Stormie
Omartian

Power of a Praying Kid by Stormie Omartian

FAITH @ Home

centralbcs.org
centralbcs.org/faithathome

UPDATED 4.1.2021



PRAYER CALENDAR

S M T W T F S

My Home's Top Prayer Requests

List family members & write in
their prayer requests.

Suggestions for using your Prayer Calendar:

1. Place your Prayer Calendar on your fridge or in some other central location of your home.
2. Have each family member use a specific color marker or sticker to mark their 7's of individual prayer time. Write out a 5 or use a sticker to mark your times of praying together as a family. Write out a 2 or a different specific sticker to mark your times of praying together as a couple.
3. Use the "My Home's Top Prayer Requests" for each family member to share their prayer requests for which they would like the family to pray.
4. Celebrate at the end of each week and talk about the prayers that God has answered during the week.
5. For the family prayer, give each family member a certain prayer day that they can decide when you will pray, where you will pray, and how you will pray. Ex: Mom's day is on Monday, and she has decided that the family will go on a prayer walk after dinner; or five-year-old Jessie's day is Thursday, and she wants to have prayer together during breakfast.
6. Use this simple prayer prompting to jumpstart your family prayer times. Have an adult or teen start the following statements, and then have each member take turns filling in the blank:

God, I love you because...	God, please help...
Thank you God for...	God, I am sorry for...

Make a commitment to be a 7•5•2 home.

Pray **7** days a week individually for your spouse, kids, grandkids, parents, siblings, etc.

Pray **5** times a week including meals & bedtime as a family.

Pray **2** or more times a week with your spouse.