

## **August – Youth and Children**

**Week 1 – Children**

**Week 2 – Teens**

**Week 3 – Protection**

**Week 4 – Moral Purity**

The young are full of vigor and vitality that should be properly channeled and managed. Pray Proverbs 1:4, that God would give “to the young man knowledge and discretion.”

### **Week 1 – Children**

“Children are an heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3).

Too often young children are considered insignificant and unimportant when it comes to spiritual matters. When this nonchalant attitude toward young children exists, they are neglected in prayer. If we choose to follow the example of Jesus, children will be an extremely vital part of our prayers. Jesus pressed little children and infants close to His heart. He prayed for them and blessed them. When He was criticized for this action, He was moved with indignation and emphatically declared, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14). (Also see Luke 18:15-18.) When religious leaders of Jesus’ day observed the wonderful things Jesus did and the children crying in the Temple, “Hosanna to the son of David,” they were irate and demanded of Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?” Jesus answered, “Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?” (Matthew 21:15-17). (Also see Psalm 8:2.)

Pray for the children of the world. Satanic influence begins, in too many cases, before the birth of a child. Drug-addicted, sin-laden, idol-worshiping parents are oblivious to the effects their lifestyle perpetuates upon their offspring. Look for news reports about places and people whose lives are bound with idolatry and other ungodly practices. Pray for the innocent children brought into these situations. Pray for the children who live in these nations. Focus on the troubles of those nations and pray accordingly. Never give up praying for the Lord to send laborers into these places to bring the good news of the power of God to deliver from sin and fill these lost souls with His Holy Spirit.

Who will put forth the time and effort to maximize instead of minimize the influence God will have upon a child’s life if prayer is made for them?

Along with this prayer, pray for the children around the world who are mistreated, abused, and erroneously led into false teachings that will cause their souls to be lost in eternity unless they are reached with truth.

Pray for your children and your friend’s children. Your own children and those of your friends are most familiar to you. These children are the closest to you. You

know many of their needs. In many cases you are aware of their spiritual standing with God. Pray for their salvation. Pray that God will strengthen their weaknesses in spiritual things. Pray for them to use their talents and gifts for the glory of God and his kingdom.

Pray for your neighborhood children. Every neighborhood has its own set of problems. Instead of complaining, pray! Prayer will make a difference! Pray for the unruly child in your neighborhood. Pray for the neighborhood bully. He may only need to know somebody loves him and is praying for him. Pray for all the children in your community that they will be blessed of the Lord. Jesus loves them no matter what home they have and no matter how sinful and mischievous they may be. As we pray, we must also love them as Jesus loves them.

Pray for children of leaders. There is a furious attack from the devil upon leadership in the end time. The enemy knows he can cause within leaders frustration, confusion, and often despair when he attacks their children. Satan is no gentleman. He is ruthless. He barges in, if he possibly can, and wreaks havoc in children's lives. He has no care just because they are innocent children. His vicious venom is prepared to contaminate the children of leaders. Pray for your church leaders' children—the minister's children, the Sunday school teacher's children and all other leadership's children. Pray for your local, state, and national leaders' children. You may sense a special anointing when you pray for leaders' children. If this is so, possibly God has called you for special intercession in this area.

Search until you can find the names of all the children for whom you are praying. Perhaps it will be possible to find some of their most crucial needs. Focus your praying. Pray specifically for these children by name and for their individual needs. In your spirit, hold them close as you would hold your own children and love them with your heart!

The prayers of the righteous avail much! Thousand of tons of snow have been known to thunder down a mountainside because one skier shouted a few words. The snow was ready to move. It only needed a small disturbance.

So it is with prayer when it moves the Holy Spirit into action. A few words, focused, fervently and fitly spoken in prayer with faith in the name of Jesus, can set off an avalanche of God's power in the lives of children throughout the world.

Pray for children.

Produced by World Network of Prayer, United Pentecostal Church International.

### Pray for . . .

- A hedge of protection around their mind, soul, and body
- Godly character qualities to be instilled in them

- Parents to be sensitive to their children's needs
- Children to receive the Holy Ghost
- Children to establish good spiritual discipline
- Mistreated and abused children
  - *That God will send someone to them to care and help*
- Children from broken homes
  - *That God will heal the emotional wounds*
- Their education
  - *They would do well in their secular studies*
  - *They would be kept from false doctrines that would cause their souls to be lost*
  - *They be taught of God and His Word*
- The children of leaders to be kept and blessed

## **Week 2 – Teens**

Pray for:

- their thoughts to be set on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise with wisdom to discern between good and evil (Philippians 4:8)
- their lives to be completely committed to Jesus Christ
- a hunger after righteousness
- them to establish their self-esteem and identity in Christ—not by the standards of the world
- a passion to pull their peers to God
- a hunger for the Word of God to be instilled in their hearts
- them to receive, accept, and respect parental and pastoral guidance
- that they would find and take their rightful place in God's kingdom
- their greatest desire to be pleasing unto God

## **Week 3 – Protection**

Praying Psalm 91 Protection is a very effective way of incorporating Scripture into prayer. Think about the ways that children and youth are put in jeopardy from the time of conception through their high school years. They need to be protected from abortion, abuse, drugs, and situations in public schools including spiritual,

mental and physical protection; remember Columbine and Red Lake? They need your prayers and the Word of God proclaimed over them daily.

(Vs 1-2) - that Jesus will be their shelter and refuge in times of trouble.

(Vs 3) - that they will be rescued from every trap and evil plague.

(Vs 4) - that they will be shielded from harm by His promises and protection.

(Vs 5-8) - that they will not to be afraid, no matter what what happens around them.

(Vs 9) - that they will make the LORD their refuge.

(Vs 10) - no evil or plague will come to their house.

(Vs 11-12) - that angels will be close at hand to guide them.

(Vs 13) - that they will overcome wickedness by tramping evil things under their feet.

(Vs 14-15) - that the Lord will honor His word by protecting those who fear Him and trust His name.

(Vs 16) - that they will have a long life, living in His presence.

#### **Week 4 – Moral Purity**

Pray that their moral purity would be appealing to others in this depraved world, giving hope to the hopeless of their generation

Pray that youth would . . .

\*Develop the strength of character to remain morally pure in this permissive society.

\*Make right decisions about sex, drugs, and worldly pleasures. Their only true safety is abstinence.

\*Defeat negative peer pressure and learn to make the right choices.

\*Have a pure heart.

\*Not just keep a set of rules, but desire to please God in all they do.

\*Be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. “Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I have every false way. Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple . . . Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness. Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever: Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil” (Psalm 119:127-130, 159-162).

\*That the Word of God would be instilled in their hearts and that they would choose the obedience of hating sin and loving His holiness.

