

Prayer Jar

Take home sheet for parents

Childhood memories are precious and can last a lifetime, memories like learning to read or to ride a bicycle. One of those memories should be learning to pray. A great way to get started is a prayer jar, a small project to help children stick with each and every prayer until it is answered. It is the one thing most likely to connect your child to a church for the rest of his life.

Making the prayer jar itself is simple. Plastic peanut butter jars are probably safest and easiest to find. For the jar to work *you should make one for each child and one for yourself.* Using a gummed label and magic marker label one side of the jar “From me to Jesus” and the other side “From Jesus to Me.” This teaches a child the **two** most important parts of prayer: “God listens and **then He Answers.**” Help your child (each child) write a one sentence prayer and put it in the jar. Then he/she prays the prayer each day until it is answered. Only the child will know when that is. If he needs help ask who *he would like to pray with.* It may be friends from his Sunday School class, a parent/grandparent or everyone in your church. No matter how long it takes or how many people must get involved it is very very important that the child’s prayer is answered and that he knows it was answered and that he knows it was God. Without at least one personal experience with answered prayer why should he/she bother.

It is my prayer that every home and Sunday School Class in the Country has a shelf lined with prayer jars, one for each child and one for the leader and that we all stick with our prayers until we get the answer. We pray that our website (www.teachustoprayer.ws) offers real help in completing the process, especially the prayer mechanics checklist. We pray further that parents and youth leaders will use the prayer jar with older children and teens. To allow 18 year old’s to leave a family or a church without getting at least one prayer answered personally by God makes us guilty of not teaching the most important life lesson of all: “God is real and the rewarder of those who seek him”.

Authors note for leaders and parents: We all love the prayers with answers that reveal God’s mighty hand in visible and miraculous ways. Most prayers however are more likely to move God’s spirit than his hand...to bring us comfort and encouragement rather than a new bicycle. A good way to help a child move prayer toward the spiritual is to ask WHY he prayed what he did. Usually the answer will be an emotion: hurt, anger, fear, loneliness, shame, guilt etc. Asking God to help with the emotion opens the door to the realm of the invisible and a new way of looking at God. May you be blessed as you witness to this next generation God’s faithfulness in answering every prayer you ever prayed.