

Praying Together



The Salvation Army New Zealand, Fiji & Tonga Territory
www.salvationarmy.org.nz

AT HOME

WHY?

- It is the greatest safeguard for our marriages when believing couples regularly pray together. Becoming vulnerable and honest in prayer will deeply enrich our marriage—and enable us to hear the Lord together.
- Our children need to see and hear their parents pray, and to receive the protection and blessing of their parents' prayers.
- Our neighbourhood will be influenced and drawn to the Lord by a praying home among them.
- Even one Christian believer in a family can profoundly affect the rest of their family through persistent prayer.

TIPS FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

- Determine to find a way and a time. Agree this is essential for your marriage and your family, and that you will pursue this together until it works for you both.
- Find a style that suits you both (intercessors can overwhelm their spouse with their passion and eloquence). Pray simply, from the heart and from the Word, so both are 'on the same page'. No correcting each other's prayers!
- Have some prayer at the beginning of the day. It does not need to be long. It could be just a blessing on the day, reading a Psalm and giving thanks. You may need to do it in bed before the breakfast rush. Or it could be together with the children.
- Ending the day with prayer is very precious. Often that is the time you are relaxed and open to the Lord. Pray short prayers each: for the people you have met that day and for whatever else is on your hearts.
- Sometime in the week make space to read a book together so you are learning and growing in the Lord together. Pray about what you are discovering.
- You may need to have seasons of prayer to do battle against dangers or serious needs that your family is facing. Be prepared to fast and look for Scripture promises from the Lord. You may need to have 'no-TV' evenings so you can devote yourself to serious prayer during this crisis.

TIPS FOR FAMILY PRAYER

- Talk about prayer as a normal everyday thing. Do it with the children as spontaneously as you can. For example: in the car before going to school, after a meal before getting into evening activities, or whenever they share concerns with you. Keep it simple and tender, and weave Scripture into it.
- Find a pattern for reading and praying that fits in with your children's daily routine. Get them involved. Have a devotional book for children. After a meal, have the children take turns reading to the rest of the family.

- Regularly read story books to children that teach spiritual truths. Pray afterwards.
- Pray with your children and encourage them to pray as they go to bed. This can be a special time of blessing and of teaching. Suggest 'prayer challenges' as they grow older. Ask them to join you in praying for some of the big challenges in the family or church. Stretch their faith.
- As the children get into their teens it is harder to get them to pray with you. Look for new ways, like writing Scripture-filled prayers and asking them to read it with you before they disappear for the day.
- Ask if you can give them a blessing—and hold them and speak the favour of God on them (see *The Father's Love Letter*).

TIPS FOR A SINGLE BELIEVER IN A FAMILY

- Find ways to pray aloud around the home when you are there alone. Declare Scripture—speak praise—speak the blessing of the Father over other family members.
- Pray for the children when you take them in the car if there is resistance to praying with them in the home.
- Invite praying friends to pray in your home regularly so the atmosphere will be full of blessing and faith.

RESOURCES

Books and downloads

- *The Power of a Praying Parent; The Power of Praying for your Adult Children; The Power of a Praying Wife/Husband* by Stormie Omartian (Harvest Press)
- *Families Walking with God: Quiet Time Diary*. An easy method for the whole family to read, share scripture and pray together. See www.walkingwithgod.com
- *The Fathers Love Letter*. Download from www.fathersloveletter.com

Articles from www.prayerchangeslives.org.nz

- *Couples who pray together* (Praying Together section).