



INTRODUCTION

I get asked all the time to provide a curriculum that would help teachers train children in prayer. My answer until now has always been, that there are so many resources out there and so many ways to approach the subject that I don't really have anything new to offer because I have simply applied concepts others have shared. Perhaps this is my first attempt at a solution to obliging that request.

I hope as you review the seven essentials of kids prayer highlighted in this series you will have an expanded vision and fresh understanding about training children in prayer. I have a feeling you will come to discover that training in this area is more than a series of lessons that are complete with a memory verse, lesson, song, craft, and snack and that it has to be more than a temporary focus. Prayer must become like breathing to this generation; it must become their way of life. I trust you will begin to see that these core values will raise up a generation that is solidly founded in prayer and active in ministry among the Body of Christ and to the nations.

My motivation for kids prayer is a little different than some. I believe children are a missing ingredient in so many churches because they are not released in their early years of excitement and energy into the Body of Christ. Too often their faith is wasted on Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the tooth fairy, and on characters like Harry Potter, Batman, Spiderman, and other superheroes. I believe children should be praying now, not just when they're grown up. I don't train children now with the intent of raising up the church of tomorrow. My motivation springs from the fact that they need to pray now because they are a part of the Body...now.

My dream is to witness the day when people from every tribe and tongue gather around the throne to worship (Revelation 7:9). This will only be possible once Matthew 24:14 is fulfilled, so we need the help of children to pray for the harvest with us. It excites me to know that we could double or triple our prayer for the harvest overnight if all the children in our churches were trained in prayer.

At this moment you are being beckoned to raise up children, perhaps your own, who will pray and be a part of bringing the harvest into the kingdom. You have a growing sense that your children need to join the prophetic fervor that is rising among the nations for the return of Jesus. So, do not be afraid to begin. You need not be the world's foremost prayer warrior to train children in prayer, just someone with a heart for children, the harvest and an anointing to carry you through. God is pouring out His spirit on *all* flesh. Sons and daughters will prophesy (Joel 2:28). Don't you want the "sons and daughters" to be children you know? Following are seven essential core values to make it so.



WORSHIP

▪ CORE VALUE – PSALM 8:2

God's enemies are silenced when children praise/worship.

- KJV - Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
 - NLT - You have taught children and nursing infants to give you praise. They silence your enemies who were seeking revenge.
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- The number one job of children is to worship. Why? Because when they do, the enemies of God (spirits, demons, people) are silenced. Imagine an enemy of God having a large piece of tape placed over its mouth by a child.
 - Satan is known as the “accuser of the brethren,” which means he is constantly bearing false witness against saints to God. If he is silenced by the worship of children, his main weapon is canceled.
 - This “job” allows children the ability to have a place in the church body; to be included. There is no scripture that promises such power for adults who worship and praise the living God – therefore if the enemies of God are to be silenced, children must be trained in worship.
 - Consider that worship is not something we do, it is a way of life. Anything we do as a worship to God is worship to Him.

▪ IMPLEMENTATION

- Among Children:
 - Teach this verse to children and allow them to put it into practice every time they meet for classes, prayer meetings, crusades, etc. You want them to

know that their “number one job” is to worship Jesus and that when they do, something supernatural happens.

- Introduce songs of worship that can be set to motion – let children worship with all their heat, mind, spirit, and body.
- Let worship songs focus on “compliments” to Jesus for His great love, His sacrifice, etc. Consider the current “children’s songs” that are being sung – if they do not worship God, giving Him compliments, then do not spend as much time singing them. The power to silence God’s enemies comes through true worship...not just singing.
- Teach children to understand that worship is not just singing at church. It is a way of making everything they do give glory to Jesus. Let children think about this and give answers as to what kind of things they can do daily as worship.
- Among Adults:
 - Introduce adults to the core value via a bible study or special meeting. Adults need to be informed if they are to change their thinking.
 - Sometimes cultural barriers need to be broken for the Bible culture to work.
 - Explain to teachers, parents, and the church members that children need to be included in the Body of Christ.
 - Incorporate ways for children to worship corporately with the adults and youth often. This will help build respect between the generations.

▪ CREATIVE IDEAS

- Use a cassette or CD of worship songs before each class time begins. Allow children to help assign motions for some of the words or concepts of the songs.
- Encourage “worship leaders,” children to come to the front of the children’s group to lead the worship time. You may want them to use sticks or empty candy containers for microphones to make it fun and special.
- If there is no electricity, gather children allowing some to be a percussion group. Make the worship time lively by marching or doing hand motions for songs together.



- Occasionally, to reinforce the core value, allow children who are worshipping to place a piece of tape over a volunteer's mouth that represents an enemy of God.
- Designate a worship area in the adult worship service where children can gather to sing and dance – this can include adults and youth also.
- Allow children to make praise banners to use during worship time. These banners could be simple posters with praise words on them that they lift up to Jesus as they sing. They could also be sticks with bits of string or fabric attached that can be used to wave before the Lord.
- Play pre-recorded songs (or sing them) to children to see if they can identify ones that are praise and worship vs. ones that are for edification of the church, etc. You want children to know the difference between worship and singing that simply encourages their soul.
- Have children write praise/worship songs from Scripture or share songs they hear in their spirit that magnifies Jesus. This is a very simple process and is exciting to hear the beautiful thoughts and sounds they express. Jesus loves it when people sing Him “new songs.”
- Allow children to write out worship prayers and read them out loud. Collect the prayers and use them from time to time to help give those who are shy a voice too. Add to the written prayers until you have a worship collection. Then, set the prayers to music.



KINGDOM PRAYING

▪ CORE VALUE – MATTHEW 6:33

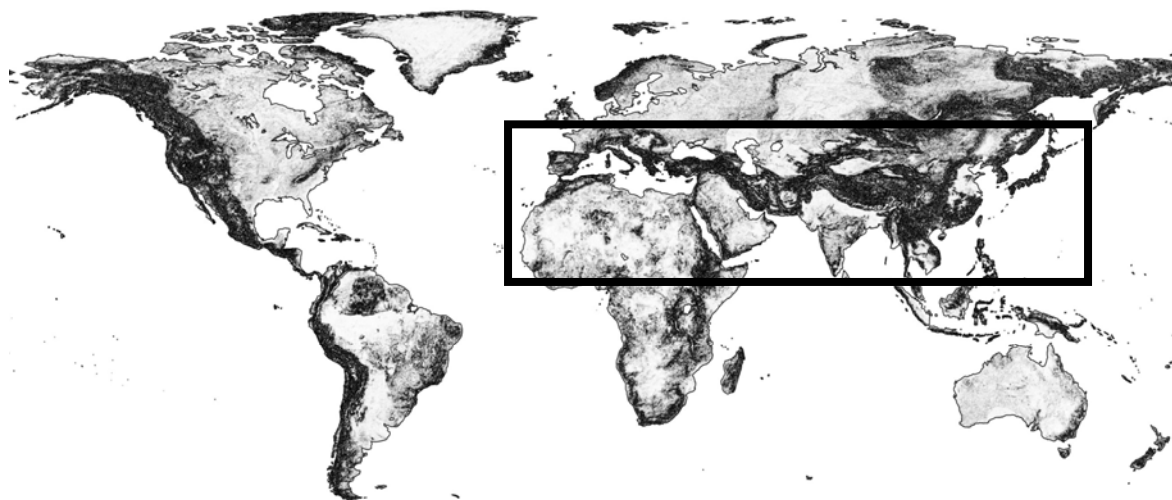
Seek first the kingdom of God, even in prayer.

- KJV - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
 - NLT - and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.
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- The number two job of children is to pray for others. When they do they are answering the only prayer request of Jesus found in Matthew 9:37-38, NLT. *He said to his disciples, "The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send out more workers for his fields."*
 - Training children to pray for others helps them stop thinking only of themselves; it helps to weed out selfishness and encourages them to prefer others ahead of themselves.
 - When children begin to put the kingdom of God first in their prayers, they will begin to put the kingdom of God first in other areas of their lives as well. Other areas may include: finances, time, service, social awareness, etc.
 - Training children in this area produces people who see the sick and care for them. People who will feed the hungry, and care for orphans and widows. Do not be surprised when children begin praying for the kingdom, if they become interested in “doing” something to help others in need.

▪ IMPLEMENTATION

Be aware that many times children do not pray for things they do not know about. You may need to become informed so that the children you are training may become “informed intercessors.”

- Children like to hear about the condition of other children from other countries, even villages, that are different from their own.
- This is a kind of praying that “shapes the world” because it is bigger than one’s personal, church, village or country’s needs. It is praying for others, *first*.
- There are several areas to focus on to start with:
 - The “10/40 Window” – This is an area of the world that has the most people living in it, but the least amount of Christians and/or missionaries. It is located 10 degrees north of the equator and runs up to 40 degrees north of the equator. It spans from Korea through Northern Africa.



- T. H. U. M. B. Praying – “Thumb” prayers help children pray for particular people groups by religion. These false religions are spiritual strongholds and are currently blocking efforts of Christians to evangelize this area of the world. THUMB prayers cover the major religions found in the 10/40 Window.
 - T = TRIBAL
 - H = HINDU
 - U = UNRELIGIOUS
 - M = MUSLIM
 - B = BUDDHIST
- Children at risk – this segment of society covers a large percentage of the world’s population.

- Child slavery is on the rise in many Asian and North African nations. Since the great tsunami hit in December 2004, untold thousands of Pacific rim children are being sold, auctioned off as sex slaves and domestic help.
- Child labor is a major problem in developing nations. It keeps children from getting an education and continues a cycle of poverty and crime.
- Child soldiers are being forced into military roles at increasingly younger ages. “Today, as many as 300,000 children under the age of 18 serve in government forces or armed rebel groups. Some are as young as eight years old...orphans and refugees are particularly vulnerable” (www.hrw.org – human rights watch organization). This problem plagues children from Central to South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe.
- Orphans, street children, and child refugees all need prayer for protection, provision, and the love of Jesus. (For example, in sub-Saharan Africa some 500,000 children under the age of 15 died of AIDS in 2004, according to the United Nations. This is in addition to the large number of children orphaned due to the AIDS virus around the world.)
- Unborn children who are unwanted by their mothers are at a high risk of being aborted.
- This is the result of informed intercession! *“After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white and held palm branches in their hands”* (Revelation 7:9, NLT).

▪ CREATIVE IDEAS

- Get “Glo-bal” – allow children to toss a “globe” from person to person in a circle. Wherever their index finger lands, that is the country/place they pray for. If a lightweight globe is not available, make one from materials at hand. (Using a ball with continents drawn on it, or using a large ball of paper that is covered in tape with continents added). Children can say, “Get Global!” as they toss it to one another. Ideas for prayer are, children at risk, and “children like me” – pick something about themselves to pray for others who are like them.

○ 50/50 Prayers – children with prayer requests get a partner. Their partner prays for them, then the child with the request prays for others in the world with their same need. This can be done simultaneously in a group or pair by pair at the front of a group. Doing this pair by pair is a good way for other children to learn and get ideas for their prayers.

○ Prayer Spinner – sometimes our minds may go blank or we pray for the same things over and over again and would like a change. Put ten kingdom needs on a flat surface in the shape of a circle (pie). Here are some examples: 1) unity, 2) a country, 3) catch the vision, 4) others like you, 5) Holy Spirit, 6) 10/40 Window, 7) praise and thank God, 8) others, 9) unreached children, and 10) families. *One boy used a paper plate by dividing it up into segments. He would close his eyes, spin the plate and wherever his finger pointed, that is what he would pray for.



○ Pray while playing – what is the most popular toy that children play with? Can it be used like a prayer spinner to give ideas for prayer?

- Ball – write kingdom requests around the ball and have children roll it to one another. Whatever side is facing up is what they would pray for.
- Rope – children can say their prayers while they jump rope individually or as a group.
- Tops – designate at least four kingdom needs for each, north, south, east and west. Let the top go and whichever way it is pointing when stops spinning, that is what is prayed for. Letting two tops go at the same time can also be fun – the child whose top stops first prays first.
- Flashlights/candles – children can use these “prayer tools” to pray against the darkness and to also pray “light” into the lives of those in their village, etc.

Some great verses to use are:

- Psalm 18:28, 27:1, 36:9, 43:3, 56:13, 84:11, 89:15, 104:2, 112:4, 119:105, 119:130
- Matthew 4:16, 5:14-15
- Mark 4:22
- Luke 1:78-79, 2:32, 11:36
- John 3:21, 8:12, 12:36a, 12:46

- Maps – use maps of all kinds for children to pray over, using their hands to touch different countries, etc.
- *****THUMB PAGES ATTACHED*****



LISTENING

▪ CORE VALUE – John 10:27

Children need to learn to know Jesus' voice and obey.

- KJV - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
- NLT - My sheep recognize my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

- Many times when children are in prayer training, the practice of listening is often overlooked. It is important for children to be trained to hear the Holy Spirit so they may obey.
- Listening for God's voice takes practice and discipline – however, the younger the children, the quicker they will sense things (hear) in their spirit.
- This core value will teach children to become aware of their spirit, and train them to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- A good biblical example is of Samuel (I Samuel 3:1-21). Samuel heard the voice of God, but it was Eli, his elder, who helped guide him to understand the experience.

▪ IMPLEMENTATION

- Among adults
 - Adults need to be exposed to the fact that children can easily hear the voice of God, once they are trained to listen for Him.
 - After the introduction of this concept parents, teachers, etc., should begin asking children, “What has Jesus been saying to you lately?” Asking this simple question will help train them to expect to hear from God.

- During family prayer times, it needs to be encouraged that at the close of each time of prayer, the family needs to “wait upon the Lord” to see what He would have them do for that day, or regarding a portion of Scripture that may have been shared, etc.
- Among children
 - Children need to be taught that they are spiritual beings, living in earthly bodies. And that God – who is a spirit (John 4:24) – will most often communicate with them through their spirit, not through the natural world around them (hearing an audible voice, etc.).
 - Children need to be taught how to listen with their spirit for the impressions, thoughts, pictures, words feelings and movies given to them by the Holy Spirit.
 - Take time to allow children to listen after a lesson to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to them about how the lesson should be applied to their lives – individually and collectively as a group. Too many times teachers rush through the stories, but do not have “impact time” for the children to really hear what the Spirit of God is saying to them. This is different than an altar call.
 - Participate with children in sharing what you hear from the Holy Spirit during quiet times together. Sharing from your personal fresh encounters with Jesus will create a true bond with the children as you train them in this area of crucial spiritual development.
 - When children “hear things in their spirit” that they do not understand, guide them to scriptures that come to mind, or simply make note of their impressions and save them for a later time.
 - Sometimes children are like little “echos.” They repeat what they hear from someone else just so they can participate – this is okay. Eventually, they will feel confident and comfortable to share their own personal experience. As their trainer, your role is to encourage them and make them hungry for more of Christ.

▪ CREATIVE IDEAS

- Children are spiritual beings? A good way to teach this concept is to draw a comparison between an astronaut and a baby. In space, a person cannot survive without a special space suit. One can see the astronaut's suit, but not the astronaut, the person inside. Likewise, one can see a baby, but not the spirit inside the baby. It is our spirits that make us who we are – our bodies are just outward “suits” needed to survive on this planet. Children are so adept at living in the natural world, that they need someone to take time to show them more about their spirit nature.

*Understanding this powerful concept allows them to know that no matter

what happens to their physical body, through sickness, abuse, hunger, etc., their spirit is who they are on the inside and that is what Jesus is most interested in.

- Are there other spiritual beings? God, angels and demons. Who/what are these things like?

- Where are our spiritual ears? Draw a left and a right ear on heavy paper or cardboard, then cut them out. Show children that their spiritual ears are in their mid-section (stomach area) by holding the ears in your hands on either side of your stomach. This is the area where our feelings are felt most often. If a child is afraid, where do they feel it?

If they have done something good and are to be rewarded, where are they excited? If they are ever nervous, where do they have that feeling? Feelings are an indication of where our spirit is (John 7:38) – therefore, often we will have a feeling about something we have learned from God's word, etc. It is one of the ways God communicates to us. *You may find that younger children grasp this



concept and begin hearing God speak to them through their spirits much easier than older children.

- Can we listen for and hear God in our five senses? Absolutely. Review the five senses (taste, touch, smell, hear, seeing) by doing things to engage each one. Ask children how these senses help them get around in the natural world. Now, ask them how these senses help them in the spiritual world? Many times children expect God to speak to them through their natural senses – contrasting these senses to the spirit will help put their purpose into perspective. However, it is true that God can use any of our senses to speak to us from time to time. Just remember, these are senses we have learned to use the natural world and work best in that environment.
- Pictures, Movies, and Words in our mind – When God speaks to a person’s spirit, many times the mind will engage resulting in seeing little pictures or movies in the mind’s eye. Other times a single word or sentence will be dropped into the spirit that will have meaning for the moment or some future day. Children are very adept at using their “eyes of faith.” Explain to children that this is another way they can recognize God speaking to them.
- Create a “Scribe’s desk,” which is a notebook that children can use to write their impressions and things Jesus tells them. Sometimes what they hear make not make sense in the present, but will have a meaning in the future. Reviewing what they felt or heard at a future time is a source of encouragement for them.



HEALING

▪ CORE VALUE – JOHN 14:12, JAMES 5:15

Children have faith to do works of Jesus.

- John 14:12, KJV - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
 - John 14:12, NLT - The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.
 - James 5:15, KJV – And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
 - James 5:15, NLT - And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.
- When the Church releases the faith of children and begins to accept the work of the Spirit through them, extraordinary things begin to happen. When children are led pray for the sick with faith, the sick recover.
 - Although there is no formula for answered prayers, there is a technique that can be taught to children that trains them to participate in the plans God has for the entire Body of Christ.

▪ IMPLEMENTATION

- Among Children:
 - The same Holy Spirit that fills adults, fills children – they do not get a “Holy Spirit, Jr” version.
 - Since children will be doing the works of Jesus, relate stories to them of how He was moved with compassion for others and what that might feel like. Tell stories of some of the miraculous things He did too, and how it impacted other

- people. This will help prepare them for how their prayers will be answered and what to expect.
- Being able to “listen” for the voice of Jesus will be very important in developing this aspect of their ministry. Their sensitivity to God’s voice will allow them the opportunity to obey in every situation.
 - Many times we, as teachers, do not give training in this area because we are afraid that “God might not answer the child’s prayer, and they will become disappointed in God.” Be sure to understand that this teaching in Scripture is for all believers, and that God does not need us to worry about His reputation. Perhaps there is a deeper personal issue that may require examination, such as pride, fear, or unbelief. However, this does not have to keep us from transmitting this valuable information to children. If in doubt, focus on the Word.
 - Praying specifically is important in this area because it allows children and those who receive healing to know beyond a doubt that the prayer for healing was answered. Imagine specific praying as a smart-bomb that can be used at precisely the right place at the right time. Praying specifically expands our faith.
 - Do children need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to pray for the healing of others in Jesus’ name? Not necessarily. Healing comes through the stripes Jesus took before His death, through the use of His name in prayer, and through faith.
- Among Adults
 - Many times adults do not want to share what the true nature of their problem is with a child. Encourage adults to change this perception. They need to answer questions about their prayer need for healing honestly and with information that will empower the children to be informed intercessors on their behalf.
 - Often adults will request prayer for “a pain in my body.” Encourage them to be more specific or not to be angered if a child presses for further information before praying. This simple adjustment in sharing the need builds trust and deepens relationships between adults and children in the assembly.

▪ CREATIVE IDEAS

- L. A. B. B. Prayer (Method) – Here is an easy way to train children to pray for the healing of others. To turn this from a teaching to training exercise, allow children to practice on each other or on those who are sick and would like to be healed. The more children train in this area, the more equipped they are to exercise their faith and dominion as spirit filled believers.
 - L – Listen! There are three ways to listen for an opportunity to pray for someone’s healing. 1) By someone asking to be prayed for (a child has to listen/pay attention), 2) by overhearing someone speak of a need for healing (hearing someone say to a friend their ailment), and 3) by listening to the Holy Spirit as it leads (perhaps an impression or feeling that someone needs prayer).
 - A – Ask! Children need to ask for permission before praying for anyone. Also, if they have been asked to pray for someone’s healing, they may need to ask exactly what to pray for (back pain, cancer, blind eyes, etc.). This allows the child to pray on the spot, instead of waiting for a more “convenient” time to pray. It also engages the faith of the person asking for healing.
 - B – Build Faith! This step is very important because it is the foundation of receiving the healing. How does a child build faith? By relating one instance of a prayer Jesus has answered for them or of someone they know. Then, encourage the child to ask this simple question, “Do you believe that when I pray for you, Jesus will hear me and heal you?” If they are answered with a bold, “YES!” then proceed to prayer. If not, the child is to continue to build faith until they feel led by the Holy Spirit to begin praying. What they are looking for is a witness in their spirit to proceed with prayer.
 - B – Be Bold! Bold praying is done in Jesus’ name and using the word, “NOW!” This is a point in prayer where people are to take authority over the ailment or situation causing pain.
- Prayer Cloths – use prayer cloths anointed with oil by the children to send to someone who is in need of healing. After it is anointed with oil, have children lay hands on it or pass it from one to another, praying for the specific need. (This practice comes from the example of the missionary/apostle Paul in the New

Testament. Found in Acts 19:11-12, NLT. *“God gave Paul the power to do unusual miracles, so that even when handkerchiefs or cloths that had touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and any evil spirits within them came out.”*)

- During corporate church services – include children in ministry time, allowing them to lay hands on the sick along with ministry leaders of the congregation.
- Healing line – have children form a healing line in a children’s service or adult service and have those with needs for healing come through the line in groups by topic of prayer need. For example, all those with back pain, come through the line together. All those with headaches, etc., come through the line. This way the children will know how to specifically target their prayers to the needs.



SCRIPTURE PRAYERS

▪ CORE VALUE – Psalm 119:89; II Timothy 3:15

God's Word is a spiritual weapon that impacts eternity.

- Psalm 119:89, KJV - For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.
 - II Timothy 3:15, KJV - And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - Psalm 119:89, NLT - Forever, O LORD, your word stands firm in heaven.
 - II Timothy 3:15, NLT - You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.
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- Praying Scripture is a powerful way to apply God's written Word to our life.
 - Scripture praying is speaking out the will of God for all things because His Word is never wrong and is eternal. Those who struggle with understanding the "will of God" for their life can greatly benefit from praying Scripture, His will written down.
 - Reading and meditating on the Scriptures is a good practice, but speaking the eternal Word of God aloud causes things to happen in the spirit realm. The spoken Word of God is powerful when mixed with faith.
 - When children begin to pray Scripture, they are taking part of the prophetic element of the Body of Christ, which in itself is fulfillment of Joel 2:28 (your sons and daughters will prophesy).

▪ IMPLEMENTATION

- Choose passages of Scripture that deal with topics such as offerings, healing, salvation, forgiveness, power, blessing and adoration in order to train children to pray the content of the passages as short one or two sentence prayers. Add to your topical list as needed.

- Train children to find their own “topic” by using the concordance in the back of the Bible and then writing their own prayers based on Scripture.
 - Give children opportunity to pray these Scripture prayers in corporate prayer settings (with other children or adults). Feature children who pray Scripture as often as possible so they can begin to use what they are learning immediately.
 - Memorizing is good, but for those who struggle with memorizing, understanding the content is most important – being able to pray the content of Scripture back to God is just as powerful as “quoting Scripture.” In learning to pray the content, children learn to apply the Scriptures to their personal lives.
 - Children will need to obtain a Bible at some point to begin personally applying the principles of Praying Scripture. Until they have their own Bible or have access to one in their home, they will need to rely on materials (index cards, etc) provided by the church/class/teacher.
- **CREATIVE IDEAS**
- Show children how to look up verses by topic or “key word” in the Bible by using a concordance. Then have children write out a simple one or two sentence prayer that prays that topic back to God. For students who enjoy this type of work, allow them to find two or three verses about the same topic and write a full prayer that incorporates the various aspects of each verse into one thought.
 - Create “Scripture Cards” on heavy paper that are sample one sentence prayers prayed from Scripture. Include on each card the reference and a keyword that will help identify it in the future. Color coding for different topics is helpful. Allow students to make their own set or make enough Scripture cards for your group to have a variety to choose from.
 - Children like earning points for doing good things. Turn the Scripture cards into a race where points are given for every Scripture card memorized. Let the children keep track of their own points once you have decided on a system that will work best in your environment. Small prizes can be given weekly, monthly, or quarterly to the highest scoring child or the one who has shown the most improvement, etc. Scoring points can come from memorizing Scripture Cards as well as from praying for the offering, etc. This encourages participation even

from the shy children. Eventually the points don't matter as much as the opportunity to use what they have been learning.

- Allow children to pray over the children's offering or adult offering using Scripture prayers as well as prayers they have written out beforehand.
- Provide opportunities for children to lead in worship by opening the service with adoration and blessing prayers.



HOLY SPIRIT

▪ CORE VALUE – Mark 16:17-18; Acts 1:8,

Children need to stay full of the Holy Spirit.

- Mark 16:17-18, KJV - And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
 - Acts 1:8, KJV - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
 - Mark 16:17-18, NLT - these signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick and heal them."
 - Acts 1:8, NLT - But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
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- It is when people are full of the Holy Spirit that they do the works of Jesus and greater works. *"The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father"* (John 14:12, NLT).
 - The Holy Spirit is poured out on all flesh for five major reasons: 1) greater way to glorify and worship Jesus, 2) sign to the unbelievers, 3) prayer language, 4) build up inner man, 5) and power.
 - The Holy Spirit is more than a "ticket to heaven."
 - People in the New Testament who were filled with the Holy Spirit:
 - John the Baptist – Luke 1:15
 - Elisabeth – Luke 1:41

- Zachariah – Luke 1:67
- Simeon – Luke 2:25
- Jesus – Luke 4:1
- First Church – Acts 2:2, 4; 4:8; 4:29-31
- Stephen – Acts 6:3, 5, 8; 7:55
- Paul – Acts 9:17; 13:9; 13:51-52; Romans 15:13-14; Ephesians 5:18-20
- Barnabas – Acts 11:24

▪ IMPLEMENTATION

- Allow time for training in this area by providing time for intercession and praying in the Holy Spirit (tongues) for the needs of others. Time needs to be given for this in the home as well as in the classroom or children’s services.
- Help children develop their sensitivity through “listening” for Jesus to give them a word, sentence, picture, movie, feeling and then praying through it on behalf of someone.
- Encourage children to pray in tongues when they run out of words in English – when they don’t know what to say, they can allow the Holy Spirit to pray through them in “code,” to accomplish God’s purposes.
- As an instructor/trainer, become comfortable switching to tongues as you mentor the children.
- Talk much and often about the Holy Spirit to children. Answer questions and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in every matter as training with the children. The children need to know first-hand the power of the Holy Spirit and that it is more than a ticket to heaven.

▪ CREATIVE IDEAS

- Have children give praise out loud to God for 60 seconds. If they run out of things to say or ideas to praise God, they are to close their mouth and get silent. Explain that being full of the Holy Spirit is a great way to praise God because when we run out of things to say, the Holy Spirit can pray through us...if we do not close our mouth. This time, have children give praise to God out loud for 30 seconds and when they run out of things to say, or when you call time they will

switch to another language...even if it sounds like baby talk. They may be thinking in their main language in their head, but a different language will come out of their mouth. Do this several times varying the time. Then, to show children that they control how the Holy Spirit prays through them, have them pray in a loud voice (playground voice), medium voice (inside voice) and a whisper. Children will understand through this that they are made to speak in tongues by God, but that they yield themselves to Him. Also, this helps them understand that they do not need to be under extreme crisis conditions or pressure to pray in their prayer language. This does not train kids in what to say, rather, it trains them to know that they can tap into the power of the Holy Spirit at any moment, for any length of time, etc.

- Kids need to be made “hungry” for the Holy Spirit – so teach lessons and give testimonies to the power that comes from above through this amazing gift from God. A great object lesson is in using a hand tool and a power tool. A hand tool (screwdriver) can accomplish much – praying for the world, etc., with our understanding is great and accomplishes much for the Kingdom. A power tool (drill) accomplishes much and in a powerful way – praying for the world in the Holy Spirit (prayer language) gives God control to do a quick work and to direct prayer as He sees fit. Giving up control releases great power!
- Encourage children with “stories” of how the Holy Spirit has led people they may know personally. This involves “listening” and obeying as well as praying in tongues, etc. It also involves forgiveness, worship, etc. Refer to the verses at the intro of this topic – see how the people who were full of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament did incredible things.
- It may also be good to train children to be aware of counterfeits that come from God's enemies.



ARMOR OF GOD

▪ CORE VALUE – EPHESIANS 6:11-18

Children must wear spiritual armor according to their giftings .

- KJV - Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
 - NLT – put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.
- Children need to be protected daily by “putting on the whole armor” of God according to their giftings. Everyone’s armor does not look the same because our

gifts, abilities, and personalities are different. We are all parts of the Body, doing specific jobs and need protection accordingly.

- Concerning gifts (not given age restrictions) – Children need to be encouraged to use their gifts in the Body at young ages. The sooner their gifts are identified, the sooner than can begin contributing.
 - Romans 12:5-8, NLT - so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If your gift is to encourage others, do it! If you have money, share it generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.
 - I Corinthians 12:4-11, NLT - Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another he gives the gift of special knowledge. The Spirit gives special faith to another, and to someone else he gives the power to heal the sick. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and to another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to know whether it is really the Spirit of God or another spirit that is speaking. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, and another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.
- Different strengths and weaknesses come with each gift. Proper protection through the Armor of God is vital to the success of the Body as a whole.

▪IMPLEMENTATION

- Help children identify their gifts at early ages (as early as preschool some indicators will be evident). There are tests that can be given as well as observation by parents and children’s ministry leaders. Once gifts are identified or you understand a child’s predisposition to certain things (missions, prophetic, dreams/visions, teaching, mercy, etc.) give them opportunity to exercise their gifts in private and public/corporate settings.
- Train children to put on the “Armor of God” daily according to their own strengths and weaknesses – adapt the standard to fit their own personal needs.

▪CREATIVE IDEAS

- Listen to children as they share with you what the Holy Spirit puts on their hearts. These topics will become threads through their development that will let you know their giftings and “burdens” for others. These gifts need to be protected to be useful long-term.
- Putting on the armor as a daily “getting-ready-to-leave-the-house” routine.
 - Helmet—protect my mind from the taunting of the enemy. My thoughts determine who I am and how I act. Keep it pure!
 - Breastplate—protect my heart and my spirit. My feelings are protected behind this barrier so help them not to be so easily hurt by others. My spiritual “ears” are also protected by this piece, so help me keep my sensitivity to You all day long.
 - Belt—let me be full of the truth, which includes always telling the truth. Don’t let me associate with liars or allow me to cheat in relationships, tests, or anything else.
 - Shield—help my faith be strong to stop the fiery weapons of the enemy. I know the enemy hates me, but I need to remember that You love me (and nothing I can ever do will change that!). Help me be someone who builds up faith in myself and others.
 - Shoes—give me peace by remembering how You came to save us all. I must use my feet to carry Your “good news” to others who are so full of the effects of darkness. I do not need to be afraid!

- Sword—I need to use the Your Word as my weapon against any trick of the enemy. Help me put more of Your Word in me so that I can be prepared. Your word is strong, powerful and quicker than any two-edged sword, slicing to bits anything that is not of You.
- Armor that works for the individual is tailor-made for their giftings. For example, contrast/compare the armor used by police, firemen and military. They are all protected but from different elements (bullets, fire, etc.) in different ways. See *example below*. Brainstorm to identify different giftings and the special armor each one needs.

