

PARENTING | WEEK 1

written by Pastor David Michael

In prayer there is not only the worship of a king, but fellowship as of a child with God. Christians take far too little time in fellowship. They think prayer is just coming with their petitions. If Christ is to make me what I am to be, I must tarry in fellowship with God. If God is to let His love enter in and shine and burn through my heart, I must take time to be with Him. The smith puts his rod into the fire. If he leaves it there but a short time it does not become red hot. . . . So if we are to get the fire of God's holiness and love and power we must take more time with God in fellowship. That was what gave men like Abraham and Moses their strength. They were men who were separated into a fellowship with God, and the living God made them strong.

—ANDREW MURRAY

The family prayer activity is both a means to strengthen our relationship with the living God and a tool for instructing children to pray meaningful prayers. Each week, we will be exploring a different kind of prayer, using the acronym ACTS, and suggesting a focus for prayer. Try to set aside time each night to make these prayers as a family, and add in each section as we cover it.

A: Adoration (“I love you”) prayers

Praise prayers tell God how great and how good He is. Two ways you can praise God are 1) using His names, and 2) proclaiming His attributes. For example, here is how the psalmists praised God:

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. (Psalm 66:1-3a)

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised. (Psalm 18:1-3a)

Do | Read through the chart with your family. Pick two or three attributes and names of God listed below and use them to praise God in your family prayer time.

PRAYER FOCUS THIS WEEK

Pray that the nations would praise Jesus as Lord. You may want to use a map, missionary letters, or the 10/40 Window to aid you in praying for the nations.

Some of God's Attributes	Some of God's Names	
<i>Almighty:</i> God is all-powerful	<i>Abba: Father</i>	<i>Jehovah-Rohi: The LORD My Shepherd</i>
<i>Creator:</i> God made everything.	<i>Adonai: Lord</i>	
<i>Eternal:</i> God has no beginning or end	<i>El Elyon: The Most High</i>	<i>Jehovah-Rophe: The LORD Who Heals</i>
<i>Faithful:</i> God always does what He says He will do	<i>El Gibbor: Mighty God</i>	
<i>Good:</i> God is good in everything He is and does	<i>El Kana: A Jealous God</i>	
<i>Holy:</i> God is like nothing else; He is completely perfect; He is pure and separate from all sin	<i>El Olam: The Everlasting One</i>	<i>Emmanuel: God With Us</i>
<i>Incomprehensible:</i> God is more than we can fully understand.	<i>El Shaddai: God Almighty</i>	Overcomer
<i>Love:</i> Love is the overflow of joy that God has in Himself and gives to others	<i>Elohim: God, Who is the Strong Creator</i>	Lamb of God, Savior, Messiah, Redeemer
<i>Merciful:</i> God is kind to undeserving sinners	<i>Jehovah: Self-existent One; Unchanging One</i>	Cornerstone
<i>Omnipresent:</i> God is everywhere all the time		High Priest
<i>Omniscient:</i> God knows everything past, present, and future	<i>Jehovah-El Emeth: The Lord God of Truth</i>	Coming King
<i>Patient:</i> God is slow to anger and slow to punish		The Word
<i>Righteous:</i> Everything God thinks, says, and does is right	<i>Jehovah-Jireh: The LORD Will Provide</i>	<i>Alpha and Omega: The Beginning and the End</i>
<i>Self-sufficient:</i> God doesn't need anything		Judge of the Whole Earth
<i>Sovereign:</i> God has the right, wisdom, and power to do all that He pleases	<i>Jehovah-Maginnenu: The Lord My Defense</i>	Helper
<i>Unchanging:</i> God never changes who He is or what He is like	<i>Jehovah-Or: The LORD is Light</i>	Counselor
<i>Wise:</i> God causes everything to work out perfectly		My Witness