

*The 40 Day
Prayer
Covenant
Kids' Version*

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40 DAY PRAYER

COVENANT

For Kids!

FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER

GRACE Dear heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and making me one of your children.

LOVE Help me love and obey you.

COMPASSION Help me love others the way you love me.

REPENTANCE I am sorry for my sins. Wash me clean.

WORSHIP I will praise you with all my heart!

COMMITMENT Jesus, I want to follow you as my Lord. Change me any way you want.

DEPENDENCE Fill me with your Holy Spirit.

DISCIPLESHIP Use me for your glory and to invite others to follow you.

AUTHORITY In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

40 DAY PRAYER

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REFERENCES

1 John 3:1

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God.

Matthew 22:37, 38

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.

John 15:12

My command is this, love one another as I have loved you.

Psalms 51:2

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalms 9:1

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

John 13:13

You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am.

Ephesians 5:18b

Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 2:9

Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him a name that is above every name.

Teachers and Parents Section

Dear Parents/Teachers,

It is our hope and prayer that you will find the lessons in this book helpful as you guide your children through *The 40 Day Prayer Covenant Kids Version*. We recognize this prayer as a tool in nurturing your child's desire to experience a rich and fulfilling prayer life resulting in intimacy with their Heavenly Father. He guides us, when we pray, through the power of His Holy Spirit; speaking to us, strengthening us and even interceding for us when we do not know how or what to pray (Romans 8). Now that is power.

Often times I have asked children, how would your mom or dad feel if you didn't talk to them for one day? Several days? Or even just spoke to them only once a day? Would they feel badly? Would you miss spending time with them? Would it leave an ache in your heart? Of course it would! Our Heavenly Father desires a relationship with us. He wants us to talk to Him, to "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Why 40 days? Although this prayer can be used for a lifetime, 40 days is the length of time the children can covenant with one another, whether it be his or her teacher, parent, sibling, or friend. When 40 days are completed the child can invite someone new to covenant with and begin another 40 days of praying for that person and so on.

The prayer is best studied line by line (the guide offers one page per line) with its corresponding memory verse. We have included additional references allowing you and your child to *dig deeper* into God's Word. There are also hymns provided. Children enjoy singing and learning spiritual truths when they do so. We have included several questions to boost interaction, application and a deeper understanding of the prayer. And finally we have provided a story to help reinforce their learning.

Why have we included corresponding Bible references for each line? "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15:7) And another favorite with children is Psalm 119:11, "I have hid your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Memorizing scripture is a powerful tool. (Hebrews 4:12) It is something that once learned will stay with children all their lives. The more scripture memorized, the more strength and ability to face the challenges and

temptations that will come.

We hope your children enjoy this book and find that it brings comfort, strength, and assurance that their Heavenly Father loves them, hears them and desires to spend time with them. May God richly bless you.

Creative Ways to Teach the Prayer Covenant

For Whiz Kids or any tutoring program, the prayer can be:

- Prayed in full at the beginning of each tutoring session;
- Used by the tutor to commit to pray for their student regularly;
- A useful reading tool, e.g., key words on the left hand side can be vocabulary words and the child can read the prayer as reading practice;
- Taught line by line (one line each week) as shown in the Teaching Guide;
- And just a great introduction to teaching a child about Jesus/God.

For Mentoring:

- A prayer pact between mentor and child for any length of time;
- Great discussion starter for talking about God and understanding what it means to have a personal relationship with Him.

For Middle School:

- Great group discussion: Is there a God? Does He love me/care about me? Can I talk to Him? Why am I here?
- Scripture memorization challenge;
- Great for leader to pray over kids.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for loving me and making me one of your children.
(GRACE)

Memory Verse: I John 3:1, “

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God.

Digging Deeper: John 3:16, I John 4:10, Romans 8:38, 39

HYMN:

I am so glad that my Father in heaven, tells of His love in the Book He has given,
Wonderful things in the Bible I see, this is the dearest that Jesus loves me.
I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me;
I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me! Philip Bliss

Discussion: How do we know God loves us? What makes us His child? Are we his child forever?

We know God loves us because He gave His life for us on the cross. He died in OUR place. We deserved to die because of our sins (Romans 3:23). Jesus did not deserve to die. Jesus paid the dearest price—His own life and He *willingly* gave it. (John 10:18) He was not forced. He did it out of *obedience* to His Father in heaven. When we believe Jesus died for our sins and accept Him into our hearts as our Savior, we become His child FOREVER. His *grace* makes us one of His children.

Jesus says over and over in the Bible that He is our Shepherd. Shepherds lay down their lives for their sheep (John 10:11, 15b). We all are like sheep. We like to go our own way, do our own things, but our Father gently guides us back into His fold.

Jesus said it perfectly when He said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

(John 10:27-30) Now that’s a promise we can trust!

Story: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Jesus asked a group of people what shepherd, if he had 100 sheep and one wandered off, would not go and find his lost sheep? The Bible says he would be so happy when he found the sheep that he would carry it on his shoulders all the way home and call all of his friends and neighbors together to celebrate the sheep being found! Jesus said that’s how it is in heaven when one boy or girl, man or woman accepts Him as their Savior—they go from being lost to being found, and that brings great joy, happiness and celebration in Heaven! Zephaniah 3:17 helps us feel the joy our Heavenly Father has for His children. “The Mighty One will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” How does that make you feel?

Prayer: Help me love others the way you love me. (COMPASSION)

Memory Verse: John 15:12 My command is this, love one another as I have loved you.

Digging Deeper: Matthew 5:44-48, I Corinthians 13:4-7, I John 4:7-11

HYMN:

O how he loves you and me (repeat)
He gave His life, what more could He give?
O how he loves you, O how he loves me
O how he loves you and me.
Kurt Kaiser

Discussion: What is love? Who are we commanded to love? How are we to love?

Jesus' death on the cross is an example of perfect love—loving others more than oneself. "Greater love has no one than this than to lay down one's life for his friends." John 15:13. Jesus' death was a sacrificial death, on our behalf, because He loved us so much. Jesus taught us how to love and we have been called to follow in His steps. (I Peter 2:21)

God's Word tells us not to love one another with our words or speech but with our actions. When we care for others we are showing *compassion* and loving as Jesus loved. Showing love and kindness is much more difficult than talking about it. (I John 3:18)

It is easy to love those who love us, are kind to us and care about us. What Jesus is asking us to do is also love and pray for those who bully us, persecute us, and even hate us. The only way we can do that is by loving Jesus and asking His Spirit to love others through us. We need to let God know we desire to be just like Him. He is our super-hero!

Story: The Good Samaritan

Jesus told a parable about a man who was robbed while walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. The thieves took his clothes, beat and wounded him, leaving him almost dead by the side of the road. A priest walked by, saw him and did nothing to help. A Levite also walked by and offered no help. Then a Samaritan (someone looked down upon by the Jews) saw him, had *compassion* on him and began helping him. Do you know what he did? He cleaned and bandaged his wounds, put him on his donkey, and took him to an Inn to further care for him. The next day, the Samaritan gave silver coins to the innkeeper and asked that he continue caring for the injured man saying, "If it costs more than this, I will repay you the extra money when I return." This is how Jesus wants us to love one another. After Jesus told this story he said, "Now go and do the same." (Luke 10:25-37) Who can you show God's love to today?

Prayer: I am sorry for my sins. Wash me clean. (REPENTANCE)

Memory Verse: Psalm 51:2, “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sins.

Digging Deeper: Romans 10:9, 10; Titus 3:5; I John 1:9

HYMN:

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God, I come, I come. Charlotte Elliott

Discussion:

I John 2:1, “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” That sure is comforting to know. We should always try not to sin, but when we do, Jesus will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Each day we must ask God to forgive our sins, that is *repentance*, to wash us clean, and make our hearts white as snow. Only Jesus has the power to forgive sins. When we do this, His Spirit is free to work within us and use us for His pleasure and purpose.

In the same way Jesus forgives us, we also are *always* to forgive others. Matthew 6:14 and 15 says, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive you.” We should not hold grudges, anger or resentment towards someone in our hearts. God knows and sees when we do. Sometimes it is hard to forgive someone who has wronged or hurt us. That is when we need Jesus’ help to allow His Spirit in us to forgive that person. When we do that, God’s peace washes over us and we are blessed.

Story: Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

Peter asked Jesus, “How many times should we forgive someone who sins against us, up to 7 times?” Jesus replied, “70 x 7” and proceeded to tell this parable. There was a king who called his servants to have them give an account of what they owed. One servant owed the king a huge sum of money, 10,000 talents, which he could not repay. The king said, “You and your family will be sold in order to pay this debt.” The man cried for mercy and the king had compassion and released them, cancelling the debt in full. But that same man then went and found his servant that owed him a tiny sum of money in comparison and threatened him demanding he pay him what he owed. That man begged for patience but was shown no mercy and thrown into prison. When the king found out what his forgiven servant had done he was angry and said “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?” And he threw him in prison to be punished until the debt could be paid.

Prayer: I will praise you with all my heart! (WORSHIP)

Memory Verse: Psalm 91:1, "I will praise you O Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

Digging Deeper: Psalm 8:2, Psalm 71:8, Psalm 145, Matthew 21:16

Hymn:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Amen. Thomas Ken

Discussion: What is praise? How can I praise God? When should I praise God?

Praise naturally flows from a heart that has been forgiven. After confessing sin, we rejoice as we are brought back into fellowship with our Heavenly Father. We are grateful for his atoning work on the cross, redeeming us from death and bringing us into life.

Praise naturally flows from a thankful heart. The more thankful we are to God for his goodness, mercy, grace and provision in our lives, the more we can rejoice and praise Him for His greatness and His mighty deeds.

Praise is *worship*. We can offer praise through song, prayer, and testimony. David wrote in Psalm 34:1 "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise will continually be in my mouth." That is a tall order! How can we do this? We can begin by choosing to be thankful, taking time to praise Him throughout the day. When you wake up, praise Him! When you eat, praise Him! When you go to school and return home, praise Him! When you go to sleep praise Him! You will begin to develop a habit of praise, which will please your Heavenly Father and you will feel happy and blessed.

STORY: BLIND BARTIMAEUS (Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43; Matthew 20:29-34)
Bartimaeus was blind. He was a beggar that lived in the streets of Jericho. He knew of Jesus and his wonderful deeds; how he healed the sick and the lame. He wanted Jesus to heal him too. He kept crying out, "Jesus, Master, have pity on me! Have pity on me!" and the people shouted, "Oh, be quiet!" but Jesus heard him and said, "Bring him to me." Bartimaeus ran to Jesus and Jesus asked, "what is it that you want?" "I want to see!" Jesus answered, "Your faith has healed you." Bartimaeus followed Jesus, praising God for his wonderful deeds. You see Bartimeaus *was* blind but now he could see!

Prayer: Jesus, I want to follow you as my Lord. Change me any way you want.
(COMMITMENT)

Memory Verse: John 13:3, “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’. You are right. That is what I am.

Digging Deeper: Matthew 4:19-22, Matthew 16:24, Galatians 2:20

HYMN:

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay!
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still. Adelaide Pollard

Discussion: What does following Jesus mean? In what ways is God changing you to become more like Jesus? Who or what are you *committed* to following?

Commitment is a very important word that you will hear often, as you get older. It’s a promise of loyalty to a person or a cause. When people get married they are committing to being there for each other forever. *Commitment* involves time, money, and hard work. You may be committed to a sports team—you pay your fees, go to practices and show up for all of the games. Well, Jesus wants us to be committed to following Him as Lord of our lives. He wants to mold us and make us more like Himself. When we pray, “Change me anyway you want” that is letting Him know that you are willing to live your life completely committed to Jesus Christ. You are willing to let Him have full control of your thoughts, actions and desires. It is not easy. *Commitment* is a serious step in our Christian walk. We are saying, “Jesus, you mean more to me than anything else in the world, and I want to follow You, obey You and become more and more like You.”

Story: Peter Wasn’t Perfect!

Matthew 26 tells us about a promise Peter once made to Jesus. “Even if all the others reject you, I never will!” Jesus knew differently and told Peter that before the rooster would crow, Peter would deny him three times in the courtyard of the High Priest’s house where Jesus was being questioned before His crucifixion. Servants of the high priest recognized Peter, and when they confronted him, Peter denied ever knowing Jesus. He was afraid they might hurt him. When the rooster crowed, Peter remembered Jesus’ words, and he ran away and cried bitterly. But Jesus didn’t give up on Peter. Later, after Jesus was resurrected, he was on the shore of Lake Tiberius having breakfast with some of His disciples. Jesus asked Peter three different times if he loved Him. Each time Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you,” and Jesus would answer each time, “Feed my sheep.” You see, He wanted Peter to be His disciple and make disciples. Even though Peter wasn’t perfect, He knew Peter desired to follow Jesus as his Lord. He knew that Peter was willing to be changed. Peter never denied Jesus again. In fact, he was crucified on a cross because he loved and obeyed his Lord and was *committed* to following Him no matter what the cost.

Prayer: Fill me with your Holy Spirit. (DEPENDENCE)

Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:18b, “Be filled with the Spirit.”

Digging Deeper: John 14:15-17; Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14 & 26; Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22,23;

HYMN:

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Daniel Iverson

Discussion: Explain what it means to be filled with the Spirit. How can we be filled with the Spirit? What does it mean to be dependent upon God? Name some fruits of the Spirit.

The Bible tells us that, “to be filled with the Spirit means that we walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16) So Paul goes on to talk about the fruits of the Spirit. “God’s Spirit makes us *loving*, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled.” (CEV) When we become a child of God, He gives us His Holy Spirit to live inside of us, and His Spirit helps us become more and more like Jesus. We cannot do this by ourselves. We are *dependent* upon His Spirit. *Loving* others is a very important fruit of the Spirit. It is listed first. Remember the greatest commandment? It says we are to love God first and then others as ourselves. I Corinthians 13 speaks a lot about love. It says that love isn’t proud, conceited or selfish; instead, ‘love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful and trusting.’ (CEV I Cor. 13: 7) It doesn’t look out for its own good but for the good of others and puts them first. In other words, we need to *imitate* Jesus! (Ephesians 5:1) We should love like Jesus loves. We must pray each day that we be filled with His Holy Spirit, who *empowers* us to be loving, kind and obedient.

Paul says if we *listen* to the Holy Spirit, *walk* in the Spirit, and *depend* upon the Holy Spirit we will become good fruit-bearers!

Story: Our ‘Comforter’

In John 14 Jesus told His disciples that He would soon be leaving them to go be with His Father in Heaven. He knew they would be sad. They had been together daily for three years. He was their Teacher and friend. Jesus didn’t want them to be sad and told them that His Heavenly Father would soon send them a *Comforter*, the Holy Spirit, who would comfort them and always be with them. He said, “the Spirit will show you what is true. He will live inside of each one of you and guide you into all truth.” The Holy Spirit is our Helper. He is a gracious gift from our Heavenly Father.

Prayer: Use me for your glory, and to invite others to follow You. (DISCIPLESHIP)

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: Mark 16:15; Romans 10:17; John 17:4,5; Colossians 3:17

HYMN:

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know ‘tis true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Katherine Hankey

Discussion: What is a *missionary*? What are ways we can tell others about Jesus? What is *discipleship*? Give examples of what it means to do something for the glory of God.

Missionaries are men and women who have been called by God, through the Holy Spirit, to preach the good news of Jesus. Many times that means leaving the comforts of home and traveling to a far away country where they will learn a new language and culture, and live in remote places with few conveniences. It is a life of sacrifice and devotion to God. You may know of missionaries from your church and may have heard about how God is using them for His glory in different locations around the world. It is exciting to read and hear missionary stories.

We do not always have to go far away to be a missionary. God wants us to tell others about Him right where we live. Whether it is a classmate, a friend or a relative, He wants us to be His light. The Holy Spirit leads and guides us, giving us opportunities to share our faith with others. He wants us to be *disciple-makers* and tell the world what He has done.

Story: Saul of Tarsus becomes Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ

Paul, once a hater and *persecutor* of Christ and His followers became one of the most important leaders of the early Church and a missionary of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It happened one day as Saul was walking on the road to Damascus. A very bright light from heaven caused him to fall on the ground, blinded. Saul heard a voice say, “Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” (Acts 9:3,4). “Who are you, Lord?” Saul replied. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.” Paul was scared and shaking. For three days he could not see and refused to eat or drink. A godly man named Ananias was told by God to go and find Saul and restore his sight because Saul was chosen by God to be a missionary. Ananias obeyed God. He healed Saul and Saul began preaching and teaching about Jesus everywhere he went. Many became Jesus-followers. Saul’s name was later changed to Paul. The Bible is filled with Paul’s teachings and letters to churches. He turned the world upside-down for Jesus, giving God all the glory and teaching others to do the same. Just as Jesus glorified His Heavenly Father by obeying Him, we too need to glorify our Heavenly Father in all that we do and say.

Prayer: In Jesus name I pray, AMEN! (AUTHORITY)

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:9, “Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him a name that is above every name.”

Digging Deeper: Matthew 1:21; Matthew 28:18; John 14:13; Acts 4:12

HYMN:

His name is wonderful! His name is wonderful!
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.
He is the Mighty King, Master of everything,
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.
Audrey Mieir

Discussion:

Jesus tells us in John 14:13 that “Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” This does not mean that Jesus will give us everything we want. This has to do with focusing our prayers on things that would glorify our Heavenly Father—that would advance God’s kingdom on this earth. This may be for the salvation of a friend or loved one, for healing, for help in a ministry, for wisdom, guidance, direction—things that God desires for each of his children. When we pray in the name of Jesus we have power and *authority*. The Bible says in Matthew, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

One of my favorite songs as a girl was sung by a dear friend of mine named Shirley Waltz. She was 40 years old when I was only 10, but I loved her because she loved Jesus and used her gifts of music to tell people about His precious name. She often sang, “Jesus, Jesus, there’s just something about that name. Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all heaven and earth proclaim, kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there’s something about that name.” Shirley is with Jesus now, but she is the reason I have loved teaching boys and girls to sing about His wonderful name!

Story: Peter Heals a Lame Man

Peter and John went to the temple one afternoon. A lame man, crippled from birth, was being carried to the entrance of the temple known as the “Beautiful Gate.” Every day he was carried to this place so he could beg for money. He asked Peter and John for money. Peter replied, “I don’t have any silver or gold but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, get up and start walking!” Peter took him by the hand and helped him get up. The man’s feet and ankles were strengthened. He began to jump up and down. He walked into the temple praising God for his miracle of healing. Everyone knew the lame man and was amazed! There is power and *authority* in Jesus’ name!

