

ESTHER NETWORK INTERNATIONAL WORLD SHAPERS CLUB

LESSONS ON "PRAYING GLOBAL!"



ESTHER NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Instructions for Pastors, Sunday School teachers, World Shapers Club Directors

In her book, *Let the Children Pray*, Esther Inisky states, "I believe children are the most untapped resource of prayer power in the Church today."

Yes, it is true that children are "the next generation", "the Church of tomorrow." However, when those terms are used, children hear, "...wait till you grow up...wait till we make room for you." They are not rebelling (although they might if not recognized, equipped and released!) or usurping authority but, they are looking to partner NOW with adults in all forms of spiritual ministry. #GenerationNow!

The children and youth of the world have been called to the kingdom for such a (critical) time as this. Intercession and all forms of ministry are in their spiritual DNA! They are "ready assets/righteous seed."

The book of Matthew tells us that we are to facilitate these things among the children.

Matthew 19:14 14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder

them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

That clearly means we are to facilitate these things among the children.

Think of it. How do we "come" to Jesus today? In prayer.

Matthew 18:2-4 New International Version (NIV)

2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Both of these verses in Matthew were the result of Jesus' Disciples trying to keep children away from him. The children were told not to disturb the Master. Can't you just hear them saying, "He's (too) busy (for you?)" Well, the Disciples were publicly rebuked and Jesus stood a child in their midst and elevated all children.

As for the prayers of children, we're not just talking about "...bless Mommy/Daddy/Grandma..." prayers here. Those are important and, perhaps, the first prayers our children pray but we are talking about global intercession, standing-in-the-gap, before-the-

fact strategic prayers and praises that are changing families, neighborhoods and nations. And, "YES!" children can and should be included in that prayer force.

Psalm 8:2 ²Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to **silence the foe and the avenger.**

Matthew 21:16 ¹⁶"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you, LORD, have called forth your praise'?"

Thank the Lord for Godly parents and our traditional Sunday School teachers. They do a wonderful job of introducing children to Jesus and telling the Old/New Testament accounts of the heroes and heroines of the faith.

HOWEVER, how long can we tell the same stories (over and over) without moving on from "milk" to "meat" with our children before we lose them?
How long will we keep them ignorant of the power of the Holy Spirit within them and their importance NOW in the kingdom of God?

Hebrews 5:12-14 ^{1 12}In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about

righteousness. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

At what age (spiritually) do we add "meat" to the "milk?" How long (how many years) do we keep repeating the same Bible stories? How soon (at what natural/chronological age) does a mother begin to augment breast milk/formula with cereal, fruit and meat? At what age do we "mature?"
The Bible doesn't say that "meat" is for "adults" but for the "mature."
And, maturity comes by training! Or as Esther has said for decades, "Do & Teach!"

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

It is the job of parents, teachers, pastors to "mature" or "build up the "people" for the work of service.

"People" doesn't have an age so, let's get started!

Lesson #1 What is Prayer?



For the Children:

After each question asked, take time to wait on/hear from the children before prompting/filling in the answers for them. You'll be amazed, delighted, humbled and have a good laugh at some of their responses!

Ask: What is prayer?

Prayer is talking with Father God in the name of His Son, Jesus. When you pray, you build a mighty

relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Overview:

Ask: What all did Jesus do when he walked on the earth?

He healed the sick, raised the dead, fed thousands, opened blind eyes, told people things about themselves, preached, prophesied and...most of all, he prayed!

Ask: What is Jesus doing now?

Romans 8:34 ³⁴... Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Scripture: “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Mark 10:14

Application:

Just like Jesus' disciples, who walked and talked with Him, you were created to be His best friends and to walk and talk with Him, too. Today, praying is how we talk with the Lord, and it is one of the most important things you can do. Jesus loves you. So much so that he went to the cross

for you! John 3:16 He wants you to become a mighty pray-er!

Object Lesson:

The **“AMEN! “YES!”**

Most of you have heard others pray and end their prayer with, “...in Jesus’ name, AMEN!” Perhaps you do, too. It’s a sure way for others to know that the one praying is finished.

Ask, “Do you know what ‘AMEN’ means?” (Await responses and then agree and explain:

It’s a declaration of agreement – it means “so be it!” It shows everyone agrees with the prayer prayed. And, the agreement adds to the power of the prayer (Scripture?)

WSC has another power-full, fun way to show agreement. After the “...in Jesus’ name, amen!”, we show our agreement by saying “YES!” Everyone stands to their feet, raises their fists and legs in the air bringing them down enthusiastically while shouting, “Y-YES!” The yes can be “Oui!, Da!, Si, Hiyh!, Ya Mon!, etc...”yes” in any language.

Jesus exclaimed to His listeners, **“Take this most seriously: A YES on earth is a YES in heaven...When two of you get together on anything at all and make a prayer of it, My Father in heaven goes into action!”** (Mt. 18:18, 19 MSG)

Lesson #2

The Holy Spirit – Our Helper

Ask: Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is the Third Person of the Godhead or Holy Trinity as some call it.

Lesson Overview:

Ask: What are the jobs of the Holy Spirit?

To reveal Jesus. To fill us with His power. To convict us. To teach us.

Scripture: John 14:26 [Full Chapter]

“But the Helper, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

Application:

When Jesus returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to all who believe. The Holy Spirit has no age, color, or size, he lives in everyone who believes. That includes YOU!

The Holy Spirit is available 24/7! Friendship with him will help you develop the Fruit of the Spirit and **learn** to walk in the Gifts of the Spirit.

Object Lesson:

Ask: How quickly do you respond when your Mother, Father (Grandmother....) calls to you or asks you to do something?
Do you ever hear, “I’m counting to 5!”

Exodus 20:12 tells children to honor their parents and, of course, it is the 5th of the Ten Commandments. It is also the only one that promises a blessing if you do so!

Swift obedience to the voice of your parents is one way to train your ears to hear the Holy Spirit speak and to quickly respond.

Practice and learn to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and then respond and be obedient to what you hear.

Give the children some quiet time to concentrate on God and listen for His voice.

They could have pads/pencils/paper/crayons to use to describe what they hear. Have them share. Encourage the ones who may not have heard (or recognized it) that they will!

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom. -especially when you read the Bible. Ask Him to teach you all about Jesus. Be still after you read your Bible and pray to hear the Holy Spirit speak to you.



Application: If we want God to take us and our prayers seriously, we need to treat Him and His presence with the respect deserved. This means that we need to stay close to God so we don't sin.

Object Lesson:

Lesson #3 Clean Hands & Pure Hearts

Ask: How do we approach God in prayer?

Carefully? Respectfully? Boldly?
Timidly? Upright? Kneeling?

Face down? Only in Church/Church clothes?

Lesson Overview:

Our hearts and souls need to be cleansed from the wrong, sinful things we think and imagine, and our hands need cleaning from the wrong things we actually do or participate in.

Scripture: Psalm 24:3-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?

Or who may stand in His holy place?

⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

Ask: Does this mean we have to physically wash our hands before we pray?

No, we spiritually wash our hands and purify our hearts. We hold out our hands (palms up) and ask God to cleanse our hands from any sins. Then, we place **our hands** on our heart and ask the Lord to forgive us for sinful thoughts and attitudes. Something like this:

“Lord, I ask you to forgive me for thinking or doing wrong things. Please cleanse my hands from any sin.”

“Lord, I ask you to make my heart and my thoughts pure so I can be close to you and hear your voice. I repent of wrong thoughts and desires.”

Now, everyone is ready to pray!

Lesson #4 Intercession

Ask: What is Jesus doing all the time in heaven?

Oh, the answers you will get!

Lesson Overview:

The Bible says that Jesus sits at the right hand of His Father, God and makes intercession for us.

Romans 8:34

That makes Jesus the Chief Intercessor. He wants us to be just like Him!

Scripture:

Ezekiel 22:30 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰ So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

Although this scripture refers to prayer for a physical place, the meaning is the same for people. God is asking you to be His prayer partner!

Application:

Being an Intercessor means standing in the gap and praying for others. Jesus wants us to be just like Him and to pray for people around the world. Yes, people we don't even

know. An Intercessor has God's heart for the lost.

Definition of "gap": an empty space between two things

In this case, our "gap" is the empty space between our Holy Father God and every individual sinner. The "gap" can seem enormous or even impossible to change. That's where the intercessor comes in! The intercessor stands in the gap between God and the sinner and prays (intercedes) to God on the sinner's behalf.

Object Lesson:

Have three signs – "God", "Sinner", "Intercessor" Have one child be "God" and hold up the sign. Have another be the "sinner" and stand a good distance from "God" and hold up the sign. Then, point out the big distance between "God" and the "sinner." This is the "gap." Then, one child with the "intercessor" sign stands in the "gap" and prays to "God" for the "sinner." The result of that prayer? The intercessor leads the "sinner" to God who hugs and welcomes him.

Lesson #5 Being a House of Prayer

Ask: Does God want everyone to be an intercessor?

Is anyone too young or too old? Can we be disqualified in any way?

Lesson Overview:

When we know Jesus, He lives in us and we are part of His “house” or family. Each one of us individually is to be a “house of prayer.” As a family we are to be a “house of prayer.” As a Church, we are to be a “house of prayer.”

Scripture:

Isaiah 56:7 “...My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Application: Spend some time each day alone in prayer. Then, encourage your parents, sisters and brothers or other family members to pray with you for the children and families of the nations. Be eager and ready to pray in Church or Sunday School and to be in agreement with others who are praying.

Object Lesson:

Introduce the House of Prayer March/ HOP CD.

By singing this song, we make a declaration to be a “house of prayer” for all the nations of the world. Jesus lives in children just as He does in adults.





Lesson #6 Asking for the Nations

Ask: What does this mean? How do we ask?

Psalm 2:8 instructs us to do this. What is it that we should ask?

Do we have to be a Missionary to make a difference or for God to hear our prayers about other people? How and what do we know about people from other states or countries?

Lesson Overview:

Intercessory prayer is the way we “ask.” We become missionaries on our knees, in our hearts and through our fervent and effective prayers.

James 5:16 “The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with!”

We don’t have to physically travel to far away nations in order to make a

difference with our prayers. (Scripture about time/distance...)

Scripture: Psalm 2:8 New King James Version (NKJV)
8 Ask of Me, and I will give *You*
The nations *for* Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

Isaiah 56:7 New International Version (NIV)
...for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”

Application: Become a “world Christian” by learning about other people and cultures. Have pictures from other nations and a map or globe of the world available. Watch the news, read books and magazines to help you identify with children and their families around the world.

John 3:16 Jesus died for the whole world. So, we need to be sure the whole world will get to know Him and be saved.

Object Lesson:

Declaration Using Signs of the Nations:

Make lots of signs with the names of nations. Hand one to each child, teacher, adult.

It is now time to make a
DECLARATION: A clear, plain statement of announcement.

Think of it as a knight on horseback riding into the main square of a village to deliver a message to the

people from their King. The knight would gallop in, pull up his horse, unfurl the (until then sealed) scrolled message from the King and declare, "HEAY YE, HEAR YE!" Yes, that got their attention!

Each person then holds their sign high and takes turns boldly declaring (shouting in PRAYground voices!) "JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OVER (_____!)" And everyone signifies agreement by shouting, "YES!"

Lesson #7 Identify with Others

Ask "What do children around the world need Jesus to do for them?"

You could be at this for a LONG time!

Lesson Overview:

Our WSC declaration: I will pray for the children of the world today so they'll know all about our God who loves them so." Salvation is the greatest need but children have many practical needs, too. The needs aren't only for physical things but also for peace, wisdom, favor...what else can you think of?

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ The Lord is not slack

concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us,^[a] not willing that any should perish but that all should come

to repentance. James 5:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ ..pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Application: Ask Jesus for a heart for the lost and hurting. Imagine what it would be like to be growing up in a home where Jesus wasn't known or wasn't recognized as Savior and Lord. Imagine the different situations around the world where children live...poverty, famine, war, disease, abuse...

It is a scriptural principle that, if you pray for others, God will take care of your needs. The scripture verse talks about healing but, it is the same for any need.

Object Lesson:

Using our Globall (or a blow up globe of the earth), toss it back and forth shouting, "Catch the Vision – Get Global!" Each child catching the globe is encouraged to "give the world a hug for Jesus" and pray for a nation, a friend or anything else the Holy Spirit puts on their heart.

Encourage children to identify with others like themselves as they pray.

For instance:

If you live in a single-parent home, pray for all single-parent families.

If you wear glasses, pray for all children who wear glasses.

Pray for all those the same age as you or for all those with the same name as you.

If you are having trouble in school, pray for all those who are also struggling in school.

Prayers like these help the children identify with others and have compassion for them. As the children pray, ask them what God is showing them about these children, these families.

Additionally, have the children think about those who live in countries very different from their own. Languages are different, customs are different, and in some places there is war, fear, hunger, religious persecution and other hardships. These children and families need prayer, too.

Using the WSC Monthly Prayer Calendar

Our WSC prayer calendar is published every month. You can subscribe to our newsletter/WSC calendar list at: esthernet.net or find it on Facebook at Esther Network International and/or Mary Tome.

Families, churches, schools and orphanages use it to facilitate individual and group prayer including InterGenerational prayer – babies, toddlers, children, teens, adults of all ages interceding together. We call it InterGenerational – God calls it

FABULOUS! An "InterGenerational Prayer Gathering "How To" is in the works!

Six days on the calendar month are the same each time. You will notice those in red. Other monthly prayer points come from various sources including some of our World Shapers themselves. Clubs, and even individuals, have been known to take on the challenge of a whole month of prayer points!

The calendar is global in nature – focusing on the needs of children, families, neighborhoods and nations. Some fact-finding research may be necessary to understand the whole issue behind various prayer points however, applying scriptural principles to the general need and adapting information to age and other circumstances is recommended.

Here are some creative ways others are using the WSC Calendar:

Families praying together
Grandparents praying with Grandchildren
Posting it in classrooms, Sunday School rooms, Church sanctuaries, school lunch rooms
Assigning a child to be in charge of the calendar for each day or week – to read and lead/direct prayer.
Schools/churches printing enough for each child to take home.
Families using it to begin neighborhood WSClubs
Placing a copy in every church/ ministry prayer room.

Sample May 2023 Calendar

 May   2023						
ENI World Shapers "I Will Pray for the Children of the World Today!"						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pray for 71 million migrant children in China to have peace and comfort.	2 Pray protection for the long-persecuted Christians around the world.	3 Pray for 60 million "left behind" children in China. Pray China and India will bless nations.	4 Pray for all with the same name as you and for school needs everywhere.	5 Pray for unity in the Body of Christ. Jeremiah 32:39	6 Pray for open hearts for the Japanese to receive the Gospel.
7 Pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem. For Jewish people to know Jesus. Psalm 122:6	8 Ask for Koreans, Chinese and Japanese to reconcile.	9 Pray for the spreading of the Gospel back to Jerusalem.	10 Pray children ALWAYS be filled with God's Word and Holy Spirit.	11 Ask for the salvation of 580 million Asian children.	12 Pray young people will use technology to bring glory to God and blessings to others.	13 Pray the Church will love the lost and freely share the Gospel.
14 Pray revival for Pastors' families and the young generations.	15 Pray all government leaders fear God and walk in truth and light. Micah 6:8	16 Pray disabled children receive healing. Pray government plans are God's plans! 1 Tim. 2:2	17 Pray Muslims will encounter Jesus in dreams and visions.	18 Pray for the Buddhist world to know Jesus. John 14:6	19 Pray for revival and transformation in the Body of Christ.	20 Pray you & others will be willing to be persecuted for the Gospel. 1 Pt. 4: 12-14
21 Pray families reconcile & find spiritual agreement among generations. Mal. 4:5	22 Pray parents raise children to know the truth of God's Word.	23 Pray children embrace Biblical teachings on marriage and sex and reject homosexuality.	24 Pray for all your same age and for your World Shapers partners and leaders.	25 Ask Holy Spirit what to pray. Pray watchmen will arise who love God and not the world.	26 Pray Sunday School teachers be filled and led by Holy Spirit.	27 Pray parents, teachers & Pastors have vision and wisdom in discipleship.
28 Pray all schools will honor Christian culture & Biblical foundations in their curriculums.	29 Name one classmate and pray (continually) for their salvation.	30 Pray for more World Shapers to "Catch the Vision!"	31 Praise and thank God for answered prayers!	"So they'll know all about our God who loves them so."		

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."
Psalm 145:4 ESV

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 and
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