

Children's Prayer Devotional





'Go Love'

God's love makes the world go round

What does it mean to Go Love? In John 13:34 Jesus says: *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (NIV)*. God's love is a gift that is meant to be shared. As we experience and learn about God's love for us, we need to go and find those who do not know Jesus and share with them the good news while loving them as Christ loves us.

We hope that this prayer devotional will help you to pray as a family for those around the world who do not know Jesus yet. We hope that you will experience the power of prayer, be inspired by the readings and that in your own life, you will Go Love.

In the coming weeks, join us as we explore a few stories of children in the Bible who made a difference. We hope that you will learn from their examples and remember that God can use you -- no matter how small you are!



Blessings,
Children's Ministry Team
OM in Africa



Week 1: Go Love

Think about it:

- Why do we pray?
- Who do we pray to?

There are millions of people in the world who do not know that Jesus died for their sins. Though we might not be able to personally tell all of them about Jesus, we can tell those we meet and pray that God will move people to tell the rest. Prayer is one of the most practical ways to show love for those we know, as well as those we don't know.

What does the Bible tell us about prayer?

We can be sure that God listens to our prayers. Go to Him every day and share what's on your heart. He is listening to you and likes it when you come to Him in prayer.

“Then you will call my name. You will come to me and pray to me. And I will listen to you.” -- Jeremiah 29:12 (ICB)

God asks us to constantly pray. It is not always easy to remember to pray, but we know that it is what God wants us to do.

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” -- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Sometimes, we do not know how to pray for others, but the Bible gives us examples. In Colossians, Paul showed his love for the people by praying that they would understand God's will for them. He also prays in Philippians, that the people's love might grow, and that they would know the good from the bad.

“Since the day we heard this about you, we have continued praying for you. We ask God that you will know fully what God wants. We



*pray that you will also have great wisdom and understanding in spiritual things.”
-- Colossians 1:9 (ICB)*

“This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love; that you will see the difference between good and bad and choose the good; that you will be pure and without wrong for the coming of Christ; that you will be filled with the good things produced in your life by Christ to bring glory and praise to God.” -- Philippians 1:9-11 (ICB)

ACTIVITY:

Think of two people you know who do not know that God loves them. Write their names on a piece of paper and place it somewhere in your house where you will see it often. Commit to praying for them every day. Remember, God listens to your prayers!

CHALLENGE:

Encourage your extended family and friends to join you in praying for those who do not know Jesus. Ask them to also write down the names of two or more people they know who do not know Jesus. Share one of the verses above with them!

PRAY:

Dear Father, thank you that you listen to my prayers. Help me to pray constantly. I want to love you more and more every day and love others as You love them. I pray this week for those who do not know your love. Help me to be bold in telling them about You. Amen.





Week 2: Jesus as a child

If we are to follow someone's example, it should first be Jesus Himself! Let's read together about Jesus as a child. As you read, think about Jesus' relationship with His heavenly Father.

Read Luke 2:41-52 as a family.

⁴¹“Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. ⁴²When Jesus was 12 years old, they went to the feast as they always did. ⁴³When the feast days were over, they went home. The boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Joseph and Mary traveled for a whole day. They thought that Jesus was with them in the group. Then they began to look for him among their family and friends, ⁴⁵but they did not find him. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him there. ⁴⁶After three days they found him. Jesus was sitting in the Temple with the religious teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and wise answers. ⁴⁸When Jesus’ parents saw him, they were amazed. His mother said to him, “Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you.”

⁴⁹Jesus asked, “Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be where my Father’s work is!” ⁵⁰But they did not understand the meaning of what he said.

⁵¹Jesus went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them. His mother was still thinking about all that had happened. ⁵²Jesus continued to learn more and more and to grow physically. People liked him, and he pleased God.” (ICB)

DISCUSS:

- What was Jesus doing in the temple?
- Why do you think everyone was amazed by Him?
- How did Jesus grow?
- What does it mean to please God?



Jesus was about 12 years old when He went to the temple, yet He was discussing Scripture with adults who had studied it for years! Can you imagine that? Jesus was able to answer all their questions because He knew everything about His heavenly Father but still, He was willing to learn from others. He desired to be where God was working and please God before pleasing anyone else. How can you please God this week?

CHALLENGE:

Pick your favourite verse or chapter of the Bible and share with your family why you like it and what you learnt from it. Remember, you can also teach your parents or friends what God is teaching you! Try answering questions such as:

- What do these verses teach me about God?
- What do these verses teach me about myself?
- How can I apply this to my life this week?

PRAY:

Dear Jesus, I want to be more like you every day. I want to grow like you did—not only taller—but also in what I know about God. I want to please You in everything I do. Help me share with others what You are teaching me. Amen.





Week 3: A little girl's faith

Talk about it:

- Have you ever been afraid to share about God with others?

This week, we are looking at how we can share about Jesus, and what He has done for us. Imagine being taken to a country where you don't know anyone. The Bible tells us about a little girl who was taken away from her home and how, by sharing her faith, God used her there to save her master.

Read this passage from 2 Kings as a family (The whole story can be found in 2 Kings 5: 1-27).

¹“Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man to his master. He had much honor because the Lord had used him to give victory to Aram. He was a mighty and brave man. But he had a harmful skin disease. ²The Arameans had gone out to steal from the Israelites. And they had taken a little girl as a captive from Israel. This little girl served Naaman’s wife. ³She said to her mistress, “I wish that my master would meet the prophet who lives in Samaria. He would heal Naaman of his disease.”

⁹So Naaman went with his horses and chariots to Elisha’s house. And he stood outside the door. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman. The messenger said, “Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed, and you will be clean.”

¹⁴So Naaman went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times. He did just as Elisha had said. Then Naaman’s skin became new again. It was like the skin of a little boy. And Naaman was clean! ¹⁵Naaman and all his group came back to Elisha. He stood before Elisha and said, “Look. I now know there is no God in all the earth except in Israel! Now please accept a gift from me.” (ICB)



DISCUSS:

- How do you think the little girl felt being so far away from home?
- What would have happened to Naaman if the little girl had been too scared to share her faith?
- What are some reasons why people don't share their faith?
- Why should we share what we believe with others?

The Apostle Paul reminds us of the importance of sharing the good news. We need to tell others about Jesus for them to be saved because how will they know if no one has told them?

"The Scripture says, "Anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved." But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him. And before they can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him. And for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them." -- Romans 10:13-14 (ICB)

CHALLENGE:

Draw a bandage and write on it the names of people you know who are sick. Take some time to pray for healing and rest for them. You could also write a note to wish them well or call them to let them know that you are praying for them. If you live with them, ask if you can pray for them in person.



PRAY:

Father, thank you for showing me that I can serve You by telling others about You. Help me be bold in sharing about who I believe in. I pray that I will have opportunities to share Your love and tell of what You have done for me and what You can do for my friends, family and those in the community. Thank You for all that I have learnt. Amen.





Week 4: A boy who shared

God's love makes the world go round. How can we be a part of that love? How can you make a difference in the world today? Let's read how one boy shared what he had and how Jesus multiplied that gift.

Read John 6:1-11 as a family.

¹After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or, Lake Tiberias). ²Many people followed him because they saw the miracles he did to heal the sick. ³Jesus went up on a hill and there sat down with his followers. ⁴It was almost the time for the Jewish Passover Feast.

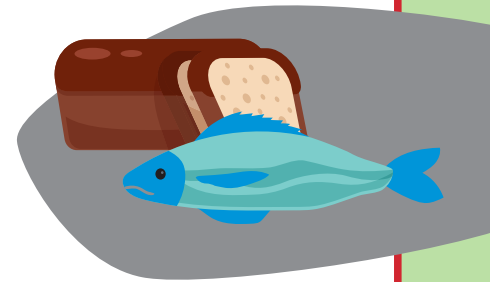
⁵Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?" ⁶(Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.)

⁷Philip answered, "Someone would have to work almost a year to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece."

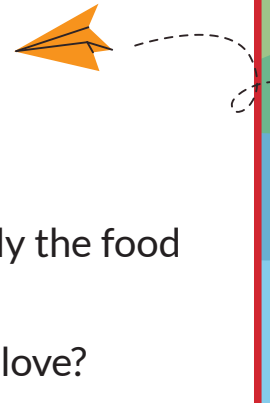
⁸Another follower there was Andrew. He was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew said, ⁹"Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people."

¹⁰Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down." This was a very grassy place. There were about 5,000 men who sat down there. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves of bread. He thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted." (ICB)

Can you imagine feeding more than 5,000 people with just five small loaves of bread and two small fish? It seems impossible! Thousands of people had followed Jesus to hear Him preach, and He knew they were hungry. The disciples thought it would be impossible to feed the large crowd. But there was a small boy who had five loaves of bread and two fish. It may have seemed like too small of an offering to make a difference, but Jesus used what was small and turned it into something enormous. He multiplied a few mouthfuls



of food to feed thousands—and there were even leftovers! Remember that God can use you and what you have, no matter how little you—or what you have—may seem.



DISCUSS:

- What can you learn about Jesus from reading this story?
- How do you think the boy felt when he saw Jesus multiply the food he shared?
- What can you share with others this week to show Jesus' love?

ACTIVITY:

Memorise *2 Corinthians 9:7* - *"Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver"* (NIV).

This means we should not give if it makes us unhappy or if we are forced to do so; God loves it when we happily share with others!

Be creative in how you memorise this verse! Make a song, write it down in fancy writing, create an art project or repeat it while jumping rope. However you choose to memorise it, ask God to help you be a cheerful giver!

CHALLENGE:

Ask God to show you opportunities to give this week. There are many ways you can share. Maybe you may have some toys or food you can give away. How about sharing your time with a person you usually don't see by calling them or meeting face-to-face? Share a few Bible verses to encourage someone. While you share, explain why you are doing it, and tell the other person the story of the boy who shared what he had with Jesus.

PRAY:

Dear Jesus, I know You can use me no matter how young I am, just as You used that small boy to feed more than 5,000 people. Help me to share what I have, even if I think it is too small to make a difference. Please show me who You want me to share with this week. May I love others by sharing what I have. Amen.



Week 5: Samuel listens to God

ACTIVITY:

The Broken Telephone Game

Form a line with your family. The first player must whisper a message into the ear of the next person in line, then, the second person repeats what they heard to the third player and so on. You cannot repeat the message! The last person in line says what they heard out loud for all to hear. Play and see how well your family listens to each other! You can come up with your own messages or use the ones below. Have fun!

1. I went to the shop to buy eggs, water, milk, bread, sweets and flour.
2. Jesus said He will always be with us.

When you were born, your parents gave you a name and, as you grew, you learnt to answer to that name and recognise their voices. In the story of Samuel, God called Samuel by his name. At first, Samuel was not sure who was calling him, but he learnt how to listen to the voice of God and answered when God called, following all that He asked Samuel to do.

Read 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 as a family.

¹“The boy Samuel served the Lord under Eli. In those days the Lord did not speak directly to people very often. There were very few visions.

²Eli’s eyes were so weak he was almost blind. One night he was lying in bed. ³Samuel was also in bed in the Lord’s Holy Tent. The

Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy Tent. God’s lamp was still burning.

⁴Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “I am here!” ⁵He ran to Eli and said, “I am here. You called me.”

But Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” So Samuel went back to bed.



⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!"

Samuel again went to Eli and said, "I am here. You called me."

Again Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

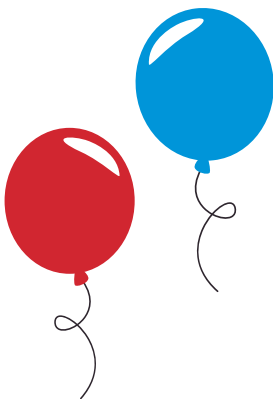
⁷Samuel did not yet know the Lord. The Lord had not spoken directly to him yet.

⁸The Lord called Samuel for the third time. Samuel got up and went to Eli. He said, "I am here. You called me."

Then Eli realized the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹So he told Samuel, "Go to bed. If he calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in bed.

¹⁰The Lord came and stood there. He called as he had before. He said, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening.'" (ICB)



We are used to hearing many different voices tell us what we should think or how we should act. These voices may come from your family, friends, teachers, the TV or other places in your life. We need to decide which voices are the right ones to listen to. God speaks to us in many ways, such as through the Bible, our parents, friends, nature or prayer. But like when you learnt to recognise the voices of your parents, it gets easier to hear God's voice the more you listen for it.

CRAFT:

Make a paper cup phone! You can use paper cups or even recycled tin cans. All you need is two paper or tin cups, a needle and a piece of string (about five metres or longer). Poke a hole at the bottom of each cup with your needle. Put the string through the hole of each cup and tie a knot so it's inside the cup. Stretch the string so that it is taut and have one person speak into the cup while the other one listens to the message.



CHALLENGE:

Go to a quiet place and make note of all that you hear. Pick a verse from the Bible that you like, or ask your parents which verse encourages them, and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Write down all that you feel God is saying. Ask God for opportunities to share with others what He is teaching you. Try asking your parents how God is showing them.

PRAY:

Dear Father, please help me to listen to You. Help my heart and mind to be quiet so I can hear You. Jesus, what would You like to say to me today? I am listening. Amen.

