

Six-Day Prayer Guide for
**Your Child's
School Year**

By: Jennifer Stattery



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"Prayer is more than a wish; it is the voice of faith directed to God." - Billy Graham

A month before our daughter was to begin seventh grade, we sensed God calling us to withdraw her from the small Christian school she attended and enroll her in the public middle school. We knew He wanted her to reveal His heart to teens in dark circumstances who were desperate for love. I also believed, cognitively, that He would protect and grow her faith and deepen her reliance on Him.

I also recognized that He had strategically placed His children, teachers and students, in every classroom to radiate His light. But walking into that massive building on August 19th, 2000, to find an armed officer stationed near the door triggered a burst of fear. In that moment, I became more alert to the limited control I possessed over our daughter's life and emotional, physical, and spiritual safety. Thankfully, that awareness drove me to the God of inconceivable love who reigns over all—our children's lives included.

That fall intensified, increased, and focused my prayers, and the Lord was faithful. He used that season to deepen our daughter's faith, increase her compassion for those unfamiliar with Christ, and sharpen her spiritual discernment. Through this, God reminded me that His ear remains attentive to His people and His hand poised to direct and save.

Here are some of the things I prayed for during that uncomfortable yet beautiful season that you can pray over your children too:



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1. God, bring her healthy friends

“The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.” Proverbs 12:26 (NIV)

Father, the Bible reveals the importance of guarding who we allow to influence our hearts. I also know the impact, for good or bad, that peer pressure can exert on a teenager. You created my child to desire connection. Therefore, I can trust You to use her need for others to build healthy, lasting relationships that will bring her joy and influence her growth. Use her soul’s longing to draw her to life-giving classmates.

I don’t ask that You surround her exclusively with Christ-followers, as I know You’ve called all Your followers to live on mission. But I do pray that You would forge her deepest bonds with those who love and strive to follow You. May they form a safe base from which my child can draw the strength and support necessary to live, daily, as Your servant. I also pray that rather than being negatively influenced by others, You would mold and lead her and then use her to positively impact her classmates and friends.

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2. Remove Negative Influences from Her Life

“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’” 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

Lord, I remember how painful and confusing adolescence can be as teens develop their sense of self while trying to find a place where they belong. Jesus, You said this struggle would become intensified for Your followers as we weren't intended to “fit.” Instead, You use our Spirit-created difference to create curiosity and spread light in our increasingly dark world. Still, this can be a hard and painful truth for an insecure teenager. When my child feels self-conscious and excluded for her counter-culture ways, rather than adopting damaging behaviors, may she seek comfort and strength in You.

Protect her heart and keep her from anyone who might otherwise lead her astray. I thank You for Your perfect wisdom. You know which problematic youth You will reach through her, and which individuals that otherwise might hinder her spiritual growth. Remove anyone who would challenge her obedience and avert her steps from the path You've created for her.

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3. Increase Her Love for You

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

Scripture tells us that anything good in us comes from You. Apart from You, our hearts are cold, self-obsessed, and calloused. But Your Spirit brings life and draws us closer to You, the Life-giver. Lord, I pray Your words from Luke 10:27 over my daughter, that she may Love You with all her heart soul, strength, and mind, and that everything she does flows from the power received through her ongoing relationship with You.

I also echo Paul’s words from Ephesians 3:17-19 and ask that you anchor and establish my daughter in Your love and help her to grasp the depth, height, and width of Your inconceivable and inexhaustible love. May she draw strength from that love, and may every ounce of it fill her and then flow from her, back to You and everyone You place in her path.



4. Draw Her to Scripture & Truth

“...but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.” Psalm 1:2-3 (NIV)

Father, there is supernatural power in Scripture, Your Word preserved throughout generations. Help my child understand what a treasure the Bible is and long to experience You through its pages. Give her an insatiable hunger for Scripture and flood her soul with Your timeless truths.

Give her the desire, self-control, and commitment to regularly read Scripture, and as she does, may every word come alive, quickening her spirit to follow wholeheartedly after you. May she view Your commands as faithful protection, Your promises as evidence of Your heart, and every historical account as testimony of Your nature. Bring verses she’s read to mind in her sleep, while she’s at school, when she’s experiencing difficult emotions, and when she feels rejected and alone.

May I also model a yearning for the Bible and a life built on its truths. May Your Word flow from me in my conversations and prayers. May it reach the deepest places in my daughter’s soul. Thank You for ensuring that we have this priceless love letter from You to us. I am in awe of Your tender, fatherly grace revealed in this storehouse of wisdom.

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5. Help Me Parent to Her Heart

“The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.” Proverbs 20:5 (NIV)

Lord, You created my daughter’s inward being. You know the reasons for her every thought and behavior. You search and understand the deepest places in her heart—including the wounds and desires of which she’s unaware. May I see her as you do. Help me guide her in a way that will nurture rather than harm and inspire instead of defeat.

Help me engage with my daughter from a place of prayerful curiosity rather than assumption and judgment. When I’m tempted to assign intent based on something she does, remind me of my limited perspective. Only You know her motivations and the core needs that drive them. Remind me that her most damaging and hurtful behaviors stem from an unmet need she’s trying to fill in an unhelpful way. Show me how to respond and teach me to love with the perfect merging of grace and truth.

While Scripture admonishes children to honor their parents, it also tells parents not to exasperate their kids. Convict me when, in pride, selfishness, or defensive self-protection, I provoke my child. Flood me with Your Spirit and help me see when my actions or something else triggers within her a fight-or-flight response. Help me use those moments as opportunities to talk through her emotions in a way that points to increased life in You.

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6. Nurture Her Gifts

***“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)***

This verse from Ephesians contains numerous truths that encourage and inspire me. I am reminded that my daughter is Your handiwork, or as the New Living Translation phrases it, Your “masterpiece.” Such phrasing evokes images of carefully chiseled sculptures and intentionally sketched drawings. Like an artist envisioning their completed piece, with every aspect designed according to their brilliant eye, You lovingly and faithfully formed my daughter within my womb. Before she took a breath, you knew every moment that lay ahead of her. You infused within her soul the gifts and talents You knew she would need. Even now, You are molding her according to the hope-filled plans You ordained for her.

Provide opportunities for her to use the gifts You’ve placed within her and use every open door to increase my daughter’s confidence and awareness of You. Teach her to live, walk, and create with You, and may my child’s every step deepen her relationship with You. Protect her from experiences and people that would cause her to doubt her skills and Your calling on her life, and bring my daughter encounters that ignite and fuel her holy passions. I trust You to use everything You’ve placed within her to its maximum capacity because that is the type of God and Father You are.

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About the Author:

Jennifer Slattery is a writer and speaker who co-hosts the Faith Over Fear podcast and, along with a team of 6, the Your Daily Bible Verse podcast. She's addressed women's groups, Bible studies, and taught at writers conferences across the nation. She's the author of Building a Family and numerous other titles and maintains a devotional blog at JenniferSlatteryLivesOutLoud.com.

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