

Praying For Your Family

By Sammy Tippit

God loves your family. Because He has a plan for every family member, you can trust His Spirit to bring that plan to pass. You may not see immediate answers to your prayers, but you can rest assured that the Lord is faithful. Be patient, stand on His promises, and watch Him work in your family.

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Salvation. Lord, You loved every person in my family so much that You gave your only Son. You aren't willing that any soul be lost. May _____ accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and become a new creation in you. (Jn. 3:16; Mt. 18:14; 2Cor. 5:17)

Intimacy with Christ. Thank you, Lord that nothing can ever separate my family from Your love. We want to experience the depth of Your love and the power of Your resurrection, because we love You with all our hearts, souls, and minds. (Rom. 8:35, 37; Phil. 3:10; Mt. 22:37-40)

Faith. Father, may my family grow a saving, mountain-moving faith in Jesus. May we turn our hearts toward You so that we live in Jesus, rooted in the truth of His word. (Acts 16:31; Mk. 11:23-24; Col. 2:6-7; Rom. 10:17)

Christlikeness. Jesus, I pray that every family member will become more like you in every aspect of life. Fill us with Your joy and peace so that we may overflow with hope to the world around us. (Rom. 8:29; 15:13)

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Kindness. Lord, we want to lose any feelings of anger competitiveness, or strife that may have taken root. May my family instead be clothed in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. (Col. 3:12)

Forgiveness. Sometimes, Father, we are cruelest to those we love the most. Let my family members bear with each other and forgive on another just as You forgave us. Help us get rid of all bitterness, and turn our offenses into testimonies of Your love. (Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:31,32)

Peace. God, you have called us to live in peace. Help us to be holy and pure in our attitudes toward other family members so that the world will see You through us. (Heb. 12:14; Rom. 12:18)

Honesty. You have commanded us to put off falsehood and speak truthfully. Lord, for we are all members of one body. In my family, may we be honest and transparent with one another because all else comes from the evil one. (Eph. 4:25; Mt. 5:37)

Speech. Place a guard over our mouths, Lord. Remind us to not speak inconsiderately to anyone in our family. When we're tempted to point out each other's faults, may we first confess and remove the sins from our own lives. Let us build up each other by speaking encouraging words that bring peace. (Ps. 141:3; Ps. 34:13; Eph. 4:29; Mt. 7:3-4)

SPIRITUAL PROTECTION

Strongholds. Sometimes it seems that our family has been battling the same sinful attitudes and behaviors for years. Holy Spirit, give us the power to remove the _____ that has been present in our family for so long. (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

Right Thinking. Empower my family, O God, to resist thinking about _____ and fill our minds with whatever is right, true, lovely, excellent, or praiseworthy. (Phil. 4:8)

Discernment. Lord, You are my family's strength and salvation. Teach us to take up the shield of faith, wear the helmet of salvation, and carry the sword of the spirit, Your word. Help us to recognize the devil's schemes and to stand in faith against divorce, betrayal, immorality, and every force of evil that targets families. (Ex. 15:2; Eph. 6:11, 16-18)

PROVISION AND PROTECTION

Provision. Father, we know every good and perfect gift is from you and that You care about all our needs. Help me be more aware of my family's spiritual, physical and emotional needs so that I can provide for them. (Js. 1:17; Mt. 6:32)

Protection. God, shield my family from anything that would cause harm. We rest in Your mighty shadow because You are our refuge. When fear fills our hearts, remind us that Your perfect love drives out fear. (Ps. 91:1-3; 1 Jn.)

Caring for Our Elders. God, it pleases you when we repay our parents and grandparents for their care and love. Help my family put its religion into practice by caring for our elders and showing them respect. (1 Tim. 5:4; Lev. 19:3; Heb. 12:9)

FUTURE

Guidance. Your Word is a lamp to guide my family. Shine Your light into our hearts so that we will walk on the path that you have prepared. (Ps. 119:104-105; Is. 42:16)

Children. May our children and grandchildren be examples of what it means to follow Jesus in how they live their lives. Teach them to find their confidence and hope in You for any difficulties they face. (1 Tim. 4:12; Ps. 71:5)