



WESLEY  
PRAYERS

*for Families*

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DEAN BLEVINS

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WESLEY  
PRAYERS  
*for Families*

A PARAPHRASE

DEAN BLEVINS



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*Wesley Prayers for Families: A Paraphrase*

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# JOHN WESLEY: FAMILY EXPERT?

## *John Wesley*

In our day I believe we are seeing a growing concern for the spiritual lives of families in local congregations. Several conferences, and curriculum resources, address this concern for both mainline churches and mainstream evangelical congregations. Most of these initiatives either support current age-level ministries, becoming more family-friendly. Other ministries place families in the center of discipleship in their homes, or foster a more comprehensive, intergenerational, ministry within the church.

As Wesleyans, where do we draw inspiration for these efforts? Obviously, we can find examples from within Scripture and the early church. The amount of research and literature around families and faith exploded in the past twenty years, providing a host of resources to help us understand both the biblical and historical framework that shaped family spirituality. Perhaps we could even name other strategic points in our tradition's history and heritage where we find an emphasis on family devotions, maintaining a family altar, or stressing parental guidance.

However, a quick look at our spiritual grandfather, John Wesley, seems to raise some real problems. For instance, would you ever think to consider any pastor a "family expert" with this background?

- His personal family lived in poverty, primarily because his father proved inept with financial matters (Samuel was thrown in jail for debt).
- His mother remained bedridden a large part of life, yet still ruled with an iron hand (Susanna taught children to cry "softly" by age one).
- His mother and father (that is probably the right order) proved so strong-willed that they separated over a difference in politics for more than three years (at least their "reconciliation" resulted in John's birth).
- The seven sisters in the family were often neglected in order to give the "boys" (three of them) both a quality education and most of the emotional support as they grew older.
- His father rejected one of the daughters during her time of deep need, causing the sons to rise up to protect their sister by directly opposing their father.
- Friends and foes alike considered him and his brother quite a flirt with young ladies at the Fetter's Lane Society.
- John Wesley seemed fairly clueless when it came to serious interactions with women, often attracting young ladies' interest, but never being able to come close to proposing marriage; almost proving just how much of a "momma's boy" he might have been.
- John Wesley had at least two close relationships that failed miserably as the young ladies married others. The second relationship included an engagement where Charles, John's brother, betrayed the couple by convincing his fiancée to marry someone else.
- John Wesley did not marry until age forty-seven, to a widow that most people believed unstable. The marriage proved so combative that he was separated by age fifty-five.
- John was known for dispensing what many people would declare as abusive child-rearing instructions such as "never give a child anything that it cries for, and "the primary goal is to break the will of the child as soon as possible." Yes, most of these ideas came from his mother.

- Many of the educational practices for children at Wesley's private school, Kingswood, seemed to resemble a military boot camp. The private school regimen began at 6:30 a.m. with work and children were not allowed to play at any point during the day.

Yes, these statements seem to describe our spiritual grandfather, John Wesley. At least one book by Anthony Headley, *Family Crucible*, introduces the Wesley family and details many of these problems through the lens of family systems. Reading the book, one might be amazed just how much grace was needed for John to live out his ministry.

### What could Wesley have going for him?

However, does this mean that we must disqualify Wesley as a mentor for family ministry today? At least we must also consider the following:

- John Wesley's father and mother both emphasized a patterned religious life. John's father instilled life in the prayer book and church, while his mother provided strong introduction to spiritual writers of the day and methodological Christian living.
- Susanna Wesley, regardless of her strict teachings, always took time to listen to each child at night and to bless all children before sleep.
- The close sibling relationships caused brothers to love and care for their sisters deeply, and to support their mother through difficult times later in life.
- Wesley wrote poignant prayers and instructions for families, reminding parents of their deep duty toward their children and the power of God's grace in the ability to "heal" children's sinful life.
- Wesley required Methodist ministers to pay spiritual attention to children when they visited families. One minister apparently complained that providing spiritual oversight for kids was not his "gift." Wesley's apparent written reply was to the effect "gift or not, you are to do this (care for children) or you are not a Methodist minister" (i.e., maybe you should look for another job).
- Wesley changed many social "customs" that shaped English working-class culture (wife-swapping, binge drinking, bear-baiting) by providing respectable... and required practices (prayer, Scripture reading, etc.) that changed spiritual life within the family.
- Ultimately Wesley proved a strong believer that family could only survive through the grace of God. However, John also believed that families could indeed become the very agents of God's grace (part of Wesley's constellation of Christian communities) in nurturing the life of individuals.

John Wesley's vision for families remained strong in spite of his own background. Yes, John was a product of his history and heritage. However, John seemed to transcend some of the troubling aspects of his heritage (which Headley also points out) by drawing on the strength of the past while struggling with contemporary aspects of his personal life.

As part of a family ministry class, I wrote paraphrases of Wesley's prayers for families. John wrote a series of morning and evening prayers for families to pray together. I opened each class with one of those morning prayers, or sometimes closed the class with an evening prayer. What amazes me about these writings (once I get beyond trying to translate old English sentence construction into contemporary American prose) remains the depth of grace, the height of salvation, and the power of God, that Wesley believed to be at work in families.

The fact that Wesley's childhood, youth, and adult life proved less than perfect may be more important than we realize in family ministry. Many parents labor under an illusion they must be "perfect" in their ministry. This "myth" of the perfect parent lingers in the background of a lot of instruction on family spiritual life, often making families more defensive instead of encouraging them to continue to grow in grace. The fact John's family life was so "mixed" with some really good... and some really bad... influences, helps current families to understand they can never be "perfect." However, all families can build on the strengths as they seek to overcome the limitations of harmful actions from their family history and in their current family life. Families live by grace, even as they are called to living out holiness of heart and life... as families.

Wesley seemed to understand this concept as a "son" of sometimes-tumultuous parents, people he both loved and opposed at times. Wesley also seemed to understand this principle as a close sibling who could get lost in arguments with brothers while providing comfort for sisters. John may have even understood the principle that, while we might not all be mothers and fathers, we are all sons and daughters, so we need to take family life seriously. Perhaps John's expertise surfaces in the day-to-day life he lived to a vision of holiness that was bigger than his family, and even bigger than his ministry. This vision of holiness comes from God, anchored in Jesus, and given through the Holy Spirit. Only that vision satisfies what families might become as they understand how God's grace can work through their relationships and practices. This message might be the "expertise" that John Wesley offers us for the future. Wesley's prayers remind us that one could be a product of one's environment (good, bad and ugly), like John, yet also be "both" descriptive of his heritage "and" also redemptive in later years by the very grace of God.

### The Prayers

This book starts with Sunday prayer. It seems appropriate we begin the reading with Sunday as our starting point. Each "day" possesses a morning and evening prayer, so the book concludes on Saturday, when we often prepare for the next day's worship as families. The prayers are designed for families, but they are not written just with children in mind. With young children, families may choose to break up the prayers into smaller portions and return to new sections each week. However, many sections may require older family members to explain the concepts or ideas in the prayer to younger children, so they might "grow into" the passages. Collectively, the prayers should present both affirmation and challenge to all family members regardless of age. I also include an appendix of condensed prayers for each day of the week that can be substituted with children, though adults may choose to pray the longer prayers at a different time.

The book also contains basic questions for family discussion. Wesley believed we should be accountable to each other, so the questions help us think about our lives. You might also draw questions from the prayer itself depending on the makeup of your family. Collectively the questions should present both affirmation and challenge to all family members regardless of age.

As you read the following prayers, remember Wesley's vision.

- How does each prayer teach us something about God and about our role as family members?
- What are the sources of our family's strength and hope?
- To whom do we owe allegiance? With whom are we responsible?
- How might praying each prayer lead us, as families, deeper into our journey with God and with each other?

Hopefully praying these prayers exposes us not only to John Wesley's heart, but ultimately the heart of God, who brings life, light, and hope to each family.

# SOME HELPFUL GUIDANCE

## *Prayer*

Prayer is a key part of the Christian life. Prayer isn't some stale, difficult, boring duty we are expected to perform. Rather, in the same way good human relations are built, God desires open communication and expressions of love from us in prayer.

*Prayer Is Reaching Out to God:* Prayer is when we reach out to God from our hearts. It starts with our need for him.

*Prayer Is Fed by a Vision of God:* As we turn to God in prayer, as we learn of him in the Scriptures, as we experience him in the body of believers, we get a new vision of him. We realize he is here with us. Knowing he is present, prayer becomes a natural response to him.

*Prayer Is a Response of Praise:* God is so great, so good. And praise is a natural response to standing in his presence.

*Prayer Is a Response of Love:* Prayer is a response of love. The more we love him, the more precious he becomes to us and the more we want to pray.

*Prayer Is a Response of Trust:* Trusting God grows from a relationship, a love that is alive and vibrant. It develops over time, through trials and daily commitment.<sup>1</sup>

## *Getting the Most Out of Your Family Prayer Time*

**Plan:** We all live busy lives. Finding time to pray in the morning and evening can be difficult. Look for times when the family is together such as at breakfast before school or just before bedtime. Make it a regular part of your daily life.

**Perspective:** Foster a “want to” rather than a “have to” experience. Consider incorporating Scripture, singing, sharing about your day, and taking time to pray for one another.

**Participation:** Involve everyone, if possible, by asking various members to read, pray, and so on. Create an atmosphere of family participation.

**Patience:** Some words, ideas, and concepts might be difficult for some family members to grasp. Don't be in a hurry. Take time to ask and answer questions, ensuring that family members understand the meaning and message of each prayer.

**Purpose:** The goal is not to “do” prayer, but to speak and listen to God--growing closer to God and each other.

1. *Teach us to Pray* (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2002).

# SUNDAY MORNING

**A**lmighty and eternal God, we really want to praise your holy name for graciously raising us up with a sound body and mind, to see the light of this day.

We bless you on behalf of all of your creatures, for everyone looks to you and you sustain them at the proper time (Psalm 145:14-16). Above all, we acknowledge your immeasurable gifts given to humanity in Jesus Christ. We thank you for Jesus' miraculous birth, his holy life, his agonizing death, his glorious resurrection celebrated this day, his ascension to heaven, his triumph over all the powers of darkness, and his sitting at your right hand forevermore.

God, how great is your love to sinful humanity, to give your one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life! (John 3:16). How great was Jesus' love that gave our souls as a trust to the God so powerful to save us. God, you chose us as your children and heirs, together with Jesus Christ. You set Jesus as a priest over your house and family, to intercede for us, to pour blessings on us, to send angels to minister to us as heirs of salvation! The riches of your grace continues in your sending the Holy Spirit to give us a boundless hope that we will one day rise from death, following our brief time here on earth, and rest with you in eternal glory.

Help us begin this day in devout prayer, in joy unspeakable, and in blessing and praising you, the One who gives us good hope and everlasting comfort. Help us raise our minds above the little things that might distract our thoughts. Help us keep our thoughts above, till our hearts are fully shaped to seek you every day, just as Jesus did before us, even if it results in losing everything we possess.

We are ashamed, Lord, to think that we ever disobeyed you, the One who redeemed us by the precious blood of your own Son. May everything we do in the future agree with your will. Give us all the power our souls and bodies need to be dedicated to your service. We genuinely desire that all the thoughts and plans of our minds, all the affections and dispositions of our hearts, and all the actions of our life, prove pure, holy, and blameless in your sight.

Search us Lord and test us, test our discipline and our desires. Look to see if there is any wickedness in us and lead us in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23-24). Let your grace be better than life itself, so in all things we might prove our hearts before you and feel a sense of your acceptance; giving us a joy the world cannot give.

May we delight to praise you, to remember your loving-kindness, and to offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving. Help us to be careful, lest our hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life (Luke 21:34). Help us to speak without coveting, to be content with what we have, to give our bodies to holiness and honor, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to live peacefully as possible with everyone, to clothe ourselves in a meek and quiet spirit. Help us to take the example of those who took the Lord's name and suffered affliction but displayed patience. So, when we suffer as Christians, we will not be ashamed, but glorify you, our God, at that time.

Please accept, our good Lord, all the praises of all your people who meet together this day. May your ways be known on earth and your salvation among the nations (Psalm 67:2). In particular, may all our national Christian leaders be filled with the Holy Spirit and faithful subjects to the Lord Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords. May our ministers be clothed with righteousness, and the saints of the church rejoice and sing, so that all those in distress might trust in you, their savior and their God. Lord, please hear us and make your face shine upon your servants, so we may enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise, that we might be thankful and bless your name. We pray for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose words we conclude our imperfect prayers, by saying:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

(Matthew 6:9-13, NKJV)<sup>2</sup>

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How can we praise God today for everything God has provided?
2. What should we pray to God today, both for what God has done, and for what we would like God to do for ourselves and particularly for others?
3. Where will we hear from God today and what might God teach us that we need to know?
4. How can we worship God today to be filled with God's love?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

2. The Lord's Prayer throughout this book is from Matthew 6:9-13, NKJV.

# SUNDAY EVENING

To you, the high and holy One who inhabits eternity, you are to be awed and loved by all your servants. All your works praise you God. We especially give thanks to you for your marvelous love in Jesus Christ, by whom you have reconciled the world to yourself (2 Corinthians. 5:19). You have given us very great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4). You have sealed them with Jesus' blood, confirmed them by his resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit. We thank you that you have given us so many happy opportunities of knowing the truth as it is in Jesus; this mystery which was hid from ages and generations, but now revealed to them that believe.

Blessed be your goodness for that great comfort, and for the assistance of your Holy Spirit. Blessed be your goodness that we have felt this comfort often in our hearts, inspiring us with holy thoughts, filling us with love and joy, and providing pleasant expectations of the glory you shall reveal. We thank you for graciously allowing us to focus on you in your public worship. As a result, we have begun a pursuit of that eternal Sabbath-rest for the people of God (Hebrews 4:9).

We offer up again our souls and bodies to you to be governed, not by our will, but by yours. Let it be always the ease and joy of our hearts to be under the direction of your unerring wisdom, to follow your advice, to be ruled in all things by your holy will. Let us never distrust your abundant kindness and tender care over us, regardless of what you have us do, or suffer, in this world.

God purify our hearts that we may entirely love you and rejoice in being loved by you; that we may trust in you and absolutely give ourselves to you; and that we may be filled with constant devotion toward you. May we never sink into a selfish love of anything here below, nor be oppressed by the cares of this life. Instead, help us hate what is evil and cling to what is good (Romans 12:9). Help us use this world without abusing it. Give us a humble spirit so we may not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. Let our gentleness be known to all. Make us devoted to each other, delighting in doing good, showing all gentleness to everyone. Help us give everyone what we owe, paying taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due (Romans 13:9), and owing nobody anything, but loving one another. Make us so happy that we may be able to love our enemies, bless those that curse us, do good to them that hate us; to rejoice with those that do rejoice, and weep with those that weep. Craft our spirits to a quiet and steady dependence on your good providence, so we neither take undue concern of our lives nor care for anything. Instead, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, may we make our requests known to you, our God. Help us to always pray and not give up, to give thanks in everything, and offer up sacrificial praise continuously. Help us to rejoice in the hope of your glory, and resting in your strength, learn to be content whatever the circumstances. Teach us in times of abundance, and when suffering need, so as to enable us to do everything through Christ, who gives us strength.

May the light of all Christians shine before others, so we might glorify you, our Father which art in heaven. Send forth your light and truth into the dark corners of the earth so all leaders might bow before you and all nations do your service. Bless these countries and give us grace in time to bear fruit worthy of repentance. Lord, save our leaders and establish their authority in righteousness. Prosper the efforts of all those ministers who faithfully feed your people and increase their number. May the seed that was sown this day take deep root in all our hearts so, being not forgetful hearers but doers of the word, we may be blessed by our deeds. Help us in the following week to set a guard over our mouth and keep watch over the door of our lips; and help us not be drawn to what is evil or take part in wicked deeds along with those who are evildoers (Psalm 141:3-4). Instead, knowing how we ought to live and please you, may we do this more and more.

Protect us, we urgently ask, and all our friends everywhere this night. Awaken us in the morning with good thoughts in our hearts, so the words of our Savior may abide in us and we in him, who taught us when we pray to say:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How did we praise God today for everything God has provided?
2. What did we pray to God today and how did God provide for us regardless of our circumstances?
3. Were there things we did today that we might feel sorry for and how might God help us?
4. How did we respond to God today by making a difference in other people's lives?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# MONDAY MORNING

**W**e humble ourselves, Lord of heaven and earth, before your glorious majesty. We acknowledge your eternal power, wisdom, goodness, and truth. We wish to give you sincere thanks for all the good things you pour upon us; most of all your inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask your tender mercies in the forgiveness of all our sins, where we have offended you in thought, word, or deed. We desire to be truly sorry for all our misbehavior and completely renounce whatever is against your will. We desire to devote our whole lives: body, soul, and spirit, to you. And, since you are the one that inspires these desires, always provide grace so we might every day, with whole hearts, give ourselves to your service.

We desire to be as holy and pure as our blessed Lord was. We trust you will fulfill all the gracious promises Jesus made to us. Let those promises be more important than being wealthy and let them be the comfort and joy of our hearts. We ask nothing but that we live and receive this life as servants according to Jesus' word. You have mercifully sustained us this last night, bless you for your continuing goodness. In the same way receive us into your protection for this day. Guide and assist all our thoughts, words and actions. May we be willing to both do... and endure... what you provide while we wait for the Lord Jesus Christ's eternal love.

Bless you for your goodness; which did not allow us to wander without guidance after the foolish desires of our own hearts. Instead, you have clearly shown us where our happiness lies. May we thankfully receive those holy words that teach us the blessedness of humility, of sorrowful longing for you, of meekness and gentleness, of compassion and purity of heart, as well as of doing good to all and patiently enduring hardship for doing the will of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May we always be counted with the blessed souls. May we ever feel happy in having the kingdom of God within us, in experiencing the well-being of the Holy One, in being filled with the fruits of righteousness, in being children of the Lord, and, above all, in seeing you, our God. Help us to be more and more filled with your love. May we also be full of continual prayers and praises to you, the Father of mercy, and God of all comfort, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

You know we also desire the good of all humanity, especially all Christian people. May all Christians walk worthy of the gospel and live together in unity and Christian love. To that end we pray that all Christian leaders, national and local, might be wise, spiritual, just, and merciful. May these leaders work hard so that their citizens may lead peaceful lives in all godliness, and in honest living. May even our most national leadership be blessed with a spiritual, quiet, lengthy, and prosperous administration. May all those in authority under them, regardless of position, seek to provide for the poor and needy and relieve everyone who is in misery. Bless those who watch over our spiritual lives, please make their efforts successful and give us grace to follow their godly advice and to hold them in the highest regard in love for their work (1 Thessalonians 5:13). We ask the same blessings for our friends, family relations, and acquaintances that we may all live in perfect love and peace together. May we rejoice together at the great day the Lord Jesus' return, in whose holy words we sum up all our desires as we pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How can we begin the day thanking Jesus for what he has already done for us, even as our day begins?
2. Is there a particular struggle that we want to give to Jesus now, even as the day begins, so he can intercede for us?
3. What do we want Jesus to teach us so we can do God's will, and live in God's love, even more today than in previous days?
4. Where might we see God's presence today in the lives of people we meet and in the things we do?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# MONDAY EVENING

Father of all strength and mercy, in you we live, we move, we owe our very existence. It is because of your tender compassion that you kept us safe this day, gave us comfort and hope for the future you provide. We give you praise Lord; we bow before you and admit we actually own nothing that did not come from you. But what we have received in this life we give thanks to you God, who daily pours out your gifts upon us.

Bless you for your goodness in providing us health, food, and clothing; as well as our peace and safety. Bless you for the love of friends, for our blessed life now, and for our hope to attain immortal life. Bless you for your love and providing any love we feel in response to you. Lord, we place ourselves before you to be filled with such life-giving love that it can motivate us with greater earnestness, zeal, and diligence, to do our duty. We ask that you renew in our lives a vibrant likeness of your righteousness, purity, love, faithfulness, and truth. Please let Jesus, the hope of glory, shape within us a deep sense of humility, gentleness, and patience; as well as the total surrender of our souls and bodies to your holy will. Shape us so that we might not live to ourselves as much as Christ lives in us; so, like the apostle Paul, we might say, “The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20, NRSV).

May our memory of Jesus’ love, who offered himself for our sins, be always dear and precious to us. Let that memory continually motivate us to offer ourselves to you, to do your will, just as our Lord Jesus did. May we place our confidence in you and trust our lives with you, the God who did not spare his Son but freely gave Jesus for us. May we humbly accept whatever you send our way and, in everything, give thanks. We know you will never leave us, nor abandon us. Guide us safely through the many changes in this life with an unchangeable love to you, and a vibrant sense of your love for us, till the day we finally come to live with you and enjoy your presence forever.

As we prepare to sleep, graciously protect us. Settle our spirits with such peaceful and delightful thoughts of where Jesus lives that we may wish to drift away into the presence of him who died for us. That way, whether we wake or sleep, we know we will live with Christ forever.

We ask that you bless all people, famous or unknown, rich or poor, so they might all faithfully serve you and enjoy whatever they need. Please, we ask that you peacefully order and govern this world in a way that the church can joyfully serve you in godly quiet. We entrust you with all we have, especially our friends and other people close to us. We ask that when we die, friends and loved ones will lift up their souls to you the same way we have loved you; and they will teach the people that follow them to praise, love, and obey you. If we wake in the morning, may we praise you again with joyful lips and offer ourselves an even more acceptable sacrifice to you through Jesus Christ. It is in Jesus’ name we ask you to hear us, and we pray the first words of your prayer like we really mean it:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. Where did we see God's goodness today?
2. Where do we feel God helped us in our daily living today?
3. What did we learn today about God that we want God to help us to remember for the future?
4. How might we thank God for a love that sees our best, often overlooks our faults, and keeps us safe?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# TUESDAY MORNING

Good morning our great and mighty King, the owner of heaven and earth. All the angels bless and praise you, the Father of all spirits. You have created all things and wisely made everything while spreading love over all of your creation. We yearn to thankfully acknowledge your gifts to us... alongside all your creatures... and particularly recognize your grace and approval, demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ, our merciful redeemer. Give us a deep sense of the same love which moved Jesus to die for us so he might become the Author of eternal life for everyone who obeys him.

Dear God, you have said that you would give your Holy Spirit to anyone who asks. Loving Father, let it happen to us according to your proclamation. Please cherish those things that you already gave us that were acceptable to you. Since we are undeserving servants who can do nothing more than our duty, enable us to do everything you command with sincerity, goodwill, and true love in your service. May we always approach you with a sense of delight and feel joy in our hearts just to think of you, praise you, give thanks, and unreservedly offer ourselves completely to you. Let the same love that pleases you, please us, causing us to be always just and righteous, ignoring all personal injustices. Help us to freely deny ourselves anything that is not for your glory, willingly submit to you for the kind of fatherly correction you give, and perform the duties that surface through our many relationships with a single heart. Remind us of our Lord's great love, so we earnestly see Jesus' glory and diligently promote Christ's message in the world. Help us to commemorate Jesus' death and passion, giving our lives as a joyful sacrifice (Romans 12:1), so we may earnestly hope that the Lord's reign would extend over all the earth.

Loving Lord, answer our requests; and, as you have graciously protected us last night, now join us this day. Bless us so we may please you with our whole lives and live with a sense of security in your protection, since you are always close to those who call upon you.

We pray everyone wakes up with a vibrant and thankful sense of your gifts to them. Provoke the minds of all Christians to follow "the truth that is in Jesus" and strive to have consciences that remain empty of any offence toward God or people. Bless this country and give the leadership real wisdom and passion so we might see good times under this government. We pray that a deep sense of true religion, justice, love, kindness, and other praiseworthy things, flourish among us all, so that we might enjoy the blessings of peace and plenty in this land, so there be no complaints where people live.

We pray to you for all our friends and neighbors, for all the poor, sick, and afflicted. We pray for love and mercy for them as much as we would ask for ourselves if we were in the same condition. Dear God, whose providential love orders all things in heaven and earth, keep them and us, we humbly ask, from all things that might hurt others. Instead, give us those things that will benefit us according to your abundant love for our Lord Jesus, a love expressed in the very words we use to conclude our requests as we say:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How can we thank God today in how we care for God's creation?
2. Can we name one thing today that we can do where we can sincerely and lovingly serve Jesus?
3. Will we commit that in all our daily tasks we will not offend Jesus by what we do?
4. How can we respond to God today by making a difference in our neighbors' lives and in the lives of people in need?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# TUESDAY EVENING

Everlasting Father of all strength, exclusive Lord of all creatures in heaven and earth, we acknowledge that our total existence and everything that brings comfort depends on you, the source of all goodness. We possess nothing that does not come from your free and overflowing love, our blessed Creator, and from the richness of your grace, our blessed Redeemer. So, we give you the honor and praise alongside all creatures where you have revealed how great and good you are. We also give you all our love and obedience as long as we exist, just as the ancient prayers have taught us that “it is good, right, and dutiful that we should always and everywhere give you thanks, our Lord” (*Book of Common Prayer*). We earnestly give both soul and body to you, so you can completely govern and oversee our lives according to your holy will.

Also, we ask you to increase every desire in our hearts, let us live fully like your creation and live consistently as befitting disciples of Jesus Christ. Help us to increase our love for your laws till they are written on our hearts. Quicken our wills to love your laws and hold them so close they become like our very lives.

Please help us heartily surrender our wills to your will, so we might constantly cling to it with a great and sincere love toward all your commands. Help us experience forever a strong and powerful sense of your love through Jesus Christ so this love may compel us to freely and willingly please you through our daily living of righteousness, compassion, temperance, love, humbleness, patience, truth, and faithfulness. May we hold these virtues collectively with a contented and peaceful spirit, worthy of our faith in our Lord and Master. May our hearts joyfully seek to be righteous as you are righteous, merciful as you, our heavenly Father. May we also seek to be holy even as you, who called us to be holy, remain holy in all your conduct (1 Peter 1:15). Endow us with your divine wisdom so we might mirror you in faithfulness and truth. Please let the example of our blessed Savior always be dear to us and may we cheerfully follow him in every holy disposition and delight to do your will. Please God, let these desires, which you have given us, never die or languish in our hearts. Keep these desires we possess always full of life, always possessing vitality and force, by the constant inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Accept our thanks for keeping us safe this day. We courageously commit ourselves to you this night. Defend us from all evil powers and raise us up body and soul in the morning. Give us such a vigorous sense of your continuing goodness that it will encourage us all day long to unfailing diligence in our doing good.

The same care we ask for ourselves we also seek for the rest of humanity, particularly Christians. May each Christian faithfully do his or her duty. May the leaders of all countries be tenderhearted, caring like parents for their countries, and may their citizens be dutiful and obedient as children. May pastors of your church sustain their congregations with wisdom and understanding and may church members yield to their leaders and follow godly advice. Let the rich and powerful have compassion on those poor and in misery. May people in distress actually find joy in the prosperity of those who help them with their needs. Allow husbands and wives, parents and children, as well as employers and employees, the grace to conduct themselves in their relationships. This way everyone will witness to the gospel of our Savior in everything and will receive honor. This honor comes from the very holy name and words we use to seek your grace and love toward us and all your people everywhere as we pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How did we praise God today for everything God has provided?
2. What did we pray to God today, both for what God has done, and for what we would like God to do for ourselves, and particularly, for others?
3. Where did we hear from God today and what might God teach us that we need to know?
4. How did we respond to God today by making a difference in other people's lives?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# WEDNESDAY MORNING

Dear God, who is blessed forever, we thank and praise you for the good things of this life, and our hope for everlasting salvation in the life to come. We hope to have a vibrant sense of your love always in our hearts. We pray this love compels us to love you, obey you, trust you, and to remain content in the way you love us, and even rejoice in the middle of the troubles that come our way in this life.

You gave your own Son for us all. With Jesus now by your side, will you not also freely give us the things we need? We depend on you, especially for the gift of your Holy Spirit. May we constantly feel the Spirit's presence by the strength of our holy faith. May the Holy Spirit keep us above all those temptations that attack us and keep us free from the stain of worldly influences. May we hold close to you in righteousness, humility, a pure heart, and with our entire minds set upon Christ.

Let your mighty power enable us to fulfill our duty to you, and toward all humanity, with compassion, diligence, zeal, and perseverance to the end of our lives. Help us to be humble and gentle in our conversations, wise and discrete in our daily activities. Help us be attentive to your fatherly providence in everything that happens to us. May we be thankful for your gifts, patient when you correct us, and always receptive for every good word and work. Help us to remember that you are always present and intimately aware of our lives. Keep us aware of your inestimable love in Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus we remember your many promises and our great responsibility to account for our lives when he appears. Let this memory help us constantly to be unwavering and resolute, to be generous in our work for the Lord, and to know our labor will not be in vain when done in Christ.

Please deliver us from the cares that come from this world, from foolish desires, from vain hopes, and senseless fears. Set our hearts so that even the thought of death will not disturb us, that we welcome the possibility of dying with a smiling face, regardless of when and how death occurs.

We pray our hearts will be so firmly grounded in grace that nothing scares us or shakes our dependability. Instead, may we choose to die rather than dishonor Jesus who died for us! We give up our lives to your wisdom and goodness, particularly since you know what is best for us. We believe you will never let us be tempted beyond our ability and will provide an escape so we can bear up under them (1 Corinthians 10:13).

We recommend to you all of humanity, especially the church. We particularly recommend the country and community we live in, hoping all will believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and earnestly seek to do work. Bless our leaders, and all those who work in public service, so whatever they do may be for your glory and the public good. Guide us, good Lord, and govern us by the same Spirit, so we might be united to you in this world, and not divided when you call us to you. May we enter your glory together, dwelling with you in love and joy that will never die. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and savior, who taught us that when we pray, we say:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How can we begin the day thanking Jesus for what he has already done for us, even as our day begins?
2. Is there a struggle that we want to give to Jesus now, even as the day begins, so he can intercede for us?
3. What do we want Jesus to teach us so we can do God's will, and live in God's love, even more today than in previous days?
4. Where might we see God's presence today in the lives of people we meet and in our daily activities?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# WEDNESDAY EVENING

Lord, how great is your workmanship. With wisdom you made everything. Day and night are yours as you prepared the light and sun. We thank you for all the good things you give to the whole world. We thank you especially for our knowledge of the grace of Jesus Christ. You have loved us with a marvelous love. Not everyone knows the depths of that love, nor all the great and precious promises that you provide.

Loving Father, we ask you to accept our good commitments, ones that you inspired through the Holy Spirit. Graciously strengthen our resolve. Let no sudden desires, powerful inclinations, poor purposes, and half-way actions lead us into a false opinion of ourselves. Instead, may we consistently demonstrate the fruits of righteous living that Jesus gave us.

God, do not deny the desires of people who serve you. Help us maintain a serious spirit in light of our calling. May we be self-aware of our weakness, so we will be faithful in our responsibilities. Remind us of times we were neglectful in our duties if only to encourage us to be more diligent in efforts. Let your good commands help us be more fruitful and generous in our work for Jesus. Turn our reverent love into the real work of spiritual and holy action. Mold all our activities with enthusiasm. But shape our enthusiasm with wisdom, not crafty intentions. Join our actions together with a complete integrity of the heart. Decorate our holy faith when, through an upright, loving, and discrete message, we receive praise from Jesus when he returns. May we find ourselves numbered with your saints in everlasting glory.

Help us keep our hearts set on things above. Let us be content with doing good, patient in suffering, hopeful, and always joyful knowing you always love us. Free us from the cares of this world, from distrusting your providence, from complaining about problems we encounter. Enable us to give thanks, to believe you order the world wisely, and to know you always work for the good.

Into your care we give every aspect of our lives, which you mercifully sustained this day. We trust ourselves to your watchfulness and providential care; you who “tells the angles to watch over us” (Psalm 91:12) and you who knows “when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar” (Psalm 139:2). God, continue those holy thoughts and desires in us till we fall asleep; so, if we still live, we receive the light of the morning with new joy and thankful love for you.

We ask also for the good of the whole world. Forgive the follies of humanity, deliver them from their troubles, and forgive all their sins. Listen to the groans of all people throughout the world in bondage to sin. Deliver them to your wonderful freedom as sons and daughters of God. Hear the daily prayers of the universal church. Free her from awful and divisive mistakes. Let Jesus’ truth prevail and peace rest within the church’s borders. Please God, help all Christian leaders seek peace and attain it. Make your ministers the messengers of peace and incline Christians to maintain “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).

May your light shine in the minds and hearts of people from other religions and those unbelievers. Bring back people who wander from their faith and raise up those fallen in sin. Strengthen those that stand in their faith and give them a steady purpose in faith, love, and obedience. Relieve and comfort everyone in distress. Let the earth bring forth fruit in the right seasons and bless all honest and industrious people in their work.

Remember the people who have done good to us and reward them in their spirit. Give forgiveness and love to all our enemies and continued good will among all our neighbors. Support the sick with faith and patience and assist those who are leaving this world. Receive those people you have redeemed by your Son’s precious blood, and those you sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Lord, give us all a glorious resurrection and eternal life as we pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. Where did we see God's goodness today?
2. Where do we feel God helped us in our daily living today?
3. What did we learn today about God that we want God to help us to remember for the future?
4. How might we thank God for a love that sees our best, often overlooks our faults, and keeps us safe?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# THURSDAY MORNING

Dear Lord, the God of our salvation, you are the hope for everything across the ends of the earth. All eyes wait on you, for you give life, and even breath, to everything. You always watch over our well-being, and you renew within us both life and love. You give us assurance in what you promise; that should we commit our daily activities to you and acknowledge you in everything, then you will direct our daily walk.

Lord, we seek to remain under your gracious plan and fatherly protection. We ask the guidance and help of your good Holy Spirit. Please assure our legacy for us and encourage us to glorify your name in everything that concerns our lives.

Lord, never take away your tender love from us, nor withdraw the comfort we feel in your presence. Never punish us by merely allowing our sins to overpower us. Instead, please pardon our sins and save us from our iniquities. Give us, our good God, a continuing sense of your gracious acceptance of us, through Jesus' love. Then we can bless you with "all that is within us" and praise your holy name (Psalm 103:1)

Help us find the joy of the Lord as our strength, defend us from all our sins, make us eager to do good works. May we live our lives so that our conscience is clear of any offense to God or other people. Help us to live wisely, always making best use of our time, improving our opportunities and daily Christian living as you provide them. Sanctify our efforts in the world, the challenges we must face, our comforts, all the situations we encounter, and every event that we find ourselves in. Regardless of the circumstance, keep us holy through the life of Jesus and your extensive love, at least till we arrive safely at the end of our lives to be with the Lord.

Thank you for Jesus, who "gives strength to people" (Psalm 89:19) and completely saves those who come to God through him. Through Jesus you encourage us to approach you with confidence, gain all your love, and find grace in time of need. Help us to humble ourselves as those who are truly children of God, redeemed of the Lord, and members of Christ. Put your Spirit in us, causing us to follow your laws and keep your judgments... and do them. Yes, let it be our daily task to do your will and to follow your commandments.

Our gracious Father, help us we pray, to live in your awe and love. Teach us through thoughts, words, and deeds to live to your glory. Lord, if you do not guide us we are lost, if you do not hold us, we fall. Let your good providence protect us. Let your Holy Spirit serve as guide, counselor, and supporter in everything we do. Help us do what is acceptable to you through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose holy name and words we close these imperfect prayers by saying:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. Since God is the hope of the world, how might Jesus help us in our daily living and loving others today?
2. How might God help us to use our time wisely and to help others?
3. How might Jesus give us strength today?
4. What do we need to learn from Jesus today?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# THURSDAY EVENING

Dear Lord, our God, your glory is above our thoughts and your love above all our works. We are definitely living monuments of your love. You have not abandoned us in our sins; instead, you give us good hope and strong comfort through grace. You sent your only Son into the world “so whoever believes in Him will not perish” in his or her sins “but have everlasting life” (John 3:16-17). Lord, we believe, so help our unbelief by giving us a true repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This way we may be counted with those who repent and believe till our souls are saved. As those justified by faith, allow us to have peace with God through our Lord Jesus and rejoice in Christ who provides redemption through his blood. Let the love of God spring out from our hearts through the Holy Spirit which you give us.

We also pray you will be the Father of all love and a God who consoles us. You will make us followers of God, as your dear children. Please be always jealous of our hearts and watchful over our ways, so we will be careful not to offend you and instead please you. You know, God, all our temptations and tendencies toward sin. You know the devices of evil in this world and the deceitfulness of our hearts. We pray, good Lord, that you will arm us with the “whole armor of God.” Hold us up with your free Spirit and watch over us for the sake of ongoing goodness.

Let our prayerful requests rise up before you for the whole of humanity. Send your word to the ends of the earth, and let it be the very essence of life for all who hear it. Be gracious to our native land. Lead our leaders, counsel our counselors, teach our teachers, and order all the activities of public life to your glory. Turn away whatever potential consequences we may feel or fear. Continue your blessings to us, both body and soul. No matter how much we provoke you, please remain our God and let us be your people. Lord, please be compassionate upon those children struggling with self-inflicted pain. Please saturate with love any of your fatherly corrections of their actions. Be gracious to our friends and neighbors. Reward those who seek our well-being. Bless those people that we live in close relationship with. Give them the best of your blessings as well as with your awe and love. Keep us from our enemies and reconcile them both to us and to you. May all of our households be houses of prayer! Be especially kind to those families that call your name. Let your blessing also rest upon us as members of this family. Bless our present situation and prepare us for whatever you are pleased to call us to do. Teach us how to live with little, or with a lot. In every situation, hold close our hearts to yourself and help us prove ourselves sincere and faithful in your service.

Now, Father of all love, please accept our evening sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Please stamp and preserve upon our hearts a lively sense of your kindness toward us; so our souls might bless you and all that is within us praise your holy name. Indeed, let us give you thanks from the bottom of our hearts and praise you as long as we exist: for your patience with us, your care over us, and your continuing love toward us. Blessed be your name, Lord God, our heavenly Father. To you Father, with the Son you love, and the Spirit of grace, we give thanks and praise, now and forevermore as we pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How did we praise God today for everything God has provided?
2. What did we pray to God today, both for what God has done, and for what we would like God to do for ourselves and particularly for others?
3. Where did we hear from God today and what might God teach us that we need to know?
4. How did we respond to God today by making a difference in other people's lives?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# FRIDAY MORNING

God you are merciful, gracious, patient and abounding in both goodness and truth. Your love covers a multitude of sins. You pardon all our iniquity, transgressions, and sin. God, how excellent is your love and kindness! All humanities' children should put their trust under the "shadow of your wings" (Psalm 91:4). So, we still look to your bountiful hand since you give us every good thing. Lord, have favor on us, as you do for all that love your holy name! Do not look upon our sinful desires, nor the sins of our hearts and lives, which are more than we can remember and greater than we can express. It is only due to the Lord's love that we are not consumed by sin, because your compassion does not fail. Instead you look upon the face of your anointed Son, who came to this world to take away our sins. Through Jesus we have access to you and your glorious majesty.

God, be merciful to us as sinners for the sake of Jesus, our Prince and Savior, who gives us both the opportunity for repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Be merciful, God, be merciful to our souls, who have sinned against you. Heal our backslidings; give us a new repentance and set firm our hearts in awe and love. Please also set firm our daily walk in your way so we do not lose our steps. Help us to waver no more and help us to never be weary or faint of mind. Help us so we do not rebel against you or turn to foolish actions again. After you speak peace to our souls, may we continue by overcoming all the enemies of our spiritual lives and all that hinders our salvation till you place Satan under our feet.

We know Jesus Christ provides an infinite fullness to all we can want or wish. May we receive that fullness as grace upon grace. Give us grace to pardon our sins, subdue unjust actions, justify our persons, and sanctify our souls. May we complete this holy transformation, the total renewal of our hearts, so we may be transformed into the blessed image in which you created us. Make us worthy to take part in the inheritance of your saints in your presence.

Teach us, God, to use this world without abusing it. Help us to receive what we need for the body without losing what we have gained in your love, which is better than life itself. Whatever we have in this world, may we be content with your gift and love, made holy by the word of God, prayer, and our stewardship to your glory. Regardless of what we want from this world, do not leave us destitute of the very things that come from salvation. Adorn our souls with such gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit that we may adorn the message of God, our Savior, in all things.

Now that you have renewed our lives, as well as your love to us this morning, help us to live anew our desires, commitments, and efforts to live in obedience to your holy will. Restrain us from sins we are most prone to fall into. Encourage us to embrace the very duties we are reluctant to perform. Grant that we may think, speak, will, and accomplish those things that are becoming of the children of our heavenly Father. As you do so, we will find comfort in your gracious acceptance of us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How can we begin by thanking God for always expecting the best from us in what we will do today?
2. Where will we look for God's mercy today? For God's guidance today?
3. How will God help us respect the world around us, to seek only what we need without wanting too much?
4. Where do we need God's help to accomplish our tasks today?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# FRIDAY EVENING

**L**ord, you were before everything, above everything, and always unfailing. You search our hearts, knowing their inattention, hardness, vanity, and deceitfulness. We were born sinners and have lived the same way. We have added more sins to our sin, abused your great and marvelous grace, tried your patience, and despised your goodness. You have every right to push us into the outer darkness, where there is wailing and gnashing teeth (Matthew 8:12)

But, your loving-kindness proves infinite. You still call us to return to you. And we know whoever responds to you, you will not reject. Oh God, meet us with your heavenly grace, enable us to come to you. Graciously stretch forth your hand and remove the chains that entangle our souls. Free us from every influence of sin, from the yoke of bondage. Help us to feel, bitterly regret, and forsake all our sins. May we never feel we lack the real assurance of your forgiveness of our sins, your acceptance of us, and your love toward us, all anchored in your blessed Son Jesus, that you love for all time.

You are never weary, Lord, of doing good for us. Let us never be weary of doing service to you. Just as you take pleasure in the prosperity of your stewards, let us take pleasure in serving our Lord. Let our service overflow in doing your work alongside your love and our praise forever. Please fill any need, and reform what is wrong in our lives. Bring to completion those things that concern us. Let the witness of your pardoning love rest in our hearts. Speak into every one of our souls the peace that passes all understanding and let us always look to you as our Father, reconciled to us in Jesus Christ.

In your great name we cry out on behalf of all of humanity. Please, may all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God. Continue to be merciful to our sinful land. Teach us diligently to know your will concerning our lives, and please turn all our hearts to you as if they were the heart of one person. Bless our leaders Lord, prolong their days and prosper their leadership. Make them both a fear to those who do evil and a praise to those who do well. Grant to civil judges, and to ministers of your word, a continuous supply of the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit. Continue to be the Father to the fatherless, the Physician to the sick, the Helper to the friendless; and a God of comfort to the sorrowful and distressed. Bless us with whatever you are pleased to give us and for everything that we encounter. May everything work for our good, to strengthen us in your grace, and help us to go on to your glory.

Continue your fatherly care over us this night. Maintain and defend us, bless and keep us, so no evil happens to us; or any illness come close to our homes. Give us a comfortable sleep to strengthen us for your service. When the day of death comes, let us cheerfully resign our spirits to your grace and worthiness of your Son, in whose merits and mediation we put our trust. For all Jesus had done and suffered for us and for your name, blessed God of our salvation, we give praise, honor, and glory. Together with all your people now and forevermore as we pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How did we experience God's loving forgiveness today?
2. Were there times when we needed God to help us escape sinful thoughts or deeds today?
3. Where did we see God at work today either helping others spiritually or working to protect others from harm?
4. How will we say thanks to Jesus for everything he has done for us; and thanks for how he protects us even this evening as we prepare for sleep?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# SATURDAY MORNING

We present ourselves before you, our Lord and our God, to give you our gift of gratitude and thanksgiving, desiring only that you lovingly accept us, and our service, under the direction of Jesus Christ. In his great name we come to ask your pardon and peace. Please give us your growing grace and your expressions of love, even when we are not worthy of the least of your love. But worthy is the Lamb that was slain to take away the sin of the world (Revelation 5:12; John 1:29). For his sake you will give us everything since Jesus fulfilled all the holy laws we broke and set right our offenses. In Christ we know you are gracious and merciful to people who deserve nothing but punishment.

Merciful Father, do not consider what we have done against you; only consider what our blessed Savior has done for us. Do not regard what we have made of ourselves but please regard what He became to us for our God. Please let Christ become to each of our souls “wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30). Let Christ cleanse us from all our sins, and your Holy Spirit renew and sanctify our souls. May Christ crucify our sinful human affections and lusts, putting to death any earthly sinful actions. Don’t let sin reign in our human bodies to the point we obey its lustful desires. Instead, let us be free from sin and servants of righteousness. Let us commend to you our hearts and may all our actions be pleasing to your sight.

Teach us how to know you our God, and to know Jesus Christ, whom you sent. Enable us to do your will on earth as it is done in heaven. Help us to live in awe and love, to trust and delight in you. Help us hold closely to you with such heartfelt purpose that no temptations may lure us, or drive us, away from you. Instead let all your arrangements and dealings with us serve as messengers of your love to our souls. Awaken our dull senses, so we do not serve you in a lifeless and listless manner. May we increase in your work, zealous in spirit as we serve the Lord. Make us faithful in our daily exchanges with our neighbors, ready to do good or bear evil, so we might be just and kind, merciful and meek, peaceable and patient, sober and temperate, humble and self-denying, inoffensive and useful in our world. With these dispositions and acts, may we glorify you here and may we be glorified with you in your heavenly kingdom.

Day by day we give you glory, Lord, who adds each new day as an extension of your love. We bless you for keeping us safe and giving us rest this past night. Help us to hear your loving-kindness in the morning, for we do trust in you. Help us to know the way we go, for we lift up our souls to you. Please never take your Holy Spirit from us. Instead, direct all our activities so they please our God. Help us to see your power, to embrace your presence, to admire your wisdom, to love your goodness in everyone. Most of all, draw our hearts nearer to you. With your love and grace we ask for ourselves, for everyone and everything that is ours and yours everywhere, in our Mediator’s blessed words:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. How can we begin the day thanking Jesus for what he has already done for us, even as our day begins?
2. Is there a particular struggle or sin that we want to give to Jesus now, even as the day begins, so he can intercede for us?
3. What do we want Jesus to teach us so we can do God's will, and live in God's love, even more today than in previous days?
4. Where might we see God's presence today in the lives of people we meet and in the activities that we do?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# SATURDAY EVENING

Lord, our God, you are infinitely good, and you show us what is good in our world. You send your light and truth, so they may guide us and make quite plain your way before our very faces. You give us many opportunities and advantages, so that you can encourage and empower us in your service. We have instructions and commands, your messengers all day long, to help us open your word so it can patiently invite or warn, direct, and exhort us. Yet look how little we have improved all the precious abilities you have placed into our hands! Lord, you might be justified in taking away the good news of your kingdom from us and giving it away to another, more fruitful, people. Because you have called, yet we refused, you might just leave us to our own perverse, stubborn ways till our sins become the ruin of us all.

But... oh God, do not enter this judgment to your servants. Pardon all our contempt of your word, and our failure to grow as a result. Help us in the future to put to good use those opportunities set before us. Just as the rain descends from the heavens but does not return the way it arrives (since rain waters the earth and makes it fruitful), don't let your word return void. Instead, let your word prosper in the work you send it to do. Make your word effective in the building up of us all in the true reverence and love of God, and in the right understanding and faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gracious God, may your Holy Spirit cause your word to work completely and successfully in all our hearts. As we daily learn how we ought to walk and please you our God, help us to "walk worthy of the Lord, pleasing him in every way" (Colossians 1:10), so we may abound much more in every good work, which is pleasing in your sight through Jesus Christ.

At his hands, dear Lord our God, we beg your gracious acceptance of our humble praise and thanksgiving for all your blessings, spiritual and daily, so freely bestowed on us. We praise you for all the comforts and conveniences of this life, and all the means and hope for a better life. We praise you particularly for what we received this day: the food of our souls set before us, the word of salvation sounding in our ears, and the Spirit of God striving with our hearts. Do not withdraw your tender mercies from us. Instead, continue your customary goodness and increase your grace and heavenly blessings. Let your joy over us do us good.

In love, disregard all that your most pure and holy eyes have seen that is wrong in us this day. Forgive the shortcomings of our holy endeavors; overlook all our sins and failings through our great Mediator and Redeemer, who is always at your right hand to intercede for us. To Jesus Christ, and all which you are please to give us together with him... not on our merits but, Lord, on your name.... be all the praise, honor, and glory which is humbly offered by us, and all your church, now and forevermore as we pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE FAMILY

1. Where did we see God's goodness today?
2. Where do we feel God helped us in our daily living today?
3. What did we learn today about God that we want God to help us to remember for the future?
4. How might we thank God for a love that sees our best, often overlooks our faults, and keeps us safe?
5. (Create your own from the prayer.)

# BENEDICTION

You might find it interesting that Wesley concluded each prayer with the Lord's Prayer each day of the week, except one morning. On Thursday morning Wesley inserted a closing benediction. For the sake of this devotional, may Wesley's words serve as a final benediction for each prayer, and for every family that gathers in prayer:

*For our benediction, we ask:  
Let your grace, Lord Jesus;  
Your love, heavenly Father; and  
Your gentle fellowship; blessed Holy Spirit,  
Together rest with us  
and with everyone that needs our prayers  
this day and evermore.*

# WESLEY'S PRAYERS WITH KIDS IN MIND

## *Sunday Morning*

Good morning God! Thank you for giving us health and a brand-new day! We just want to bless you for all of the animals and how you give us life! Thank you for Jesus and what he did for us. Even when we do bad, Jesus can be our savior, so we can be your children. Help us pray and praise you today. Help us to think good thoughts so you fill our hearts. Forgive us for the bad things we have done and let Jesus' love save us! Help us to follow you and give us the power we need to give our lives fully for you.

Search our hearts God and help us to know you are near at all times. Help us to praise you today and avoid all the bad choices we might make. Help us to live a life like Jesus, even when people might not like it. Help us to pray for our friends at church today, for those Christians that lead our country, for our pastors, and also those who serve so we can all give thanks to you. So, we pray,

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## *Sunday Evening*

God, you are awesome and holy! You have given us so much, from Jesus to the Holy Spirit. You also give us love and joy in everything we do. Thank you for letting us worship today and to find a chance to rest this Sunday. We offer all that we are to you and ask you to guide us. We know you are always kind and you care for us regardless of what we do.

God, fill our hearts with love, help us always love you. Help us to avoid evil and hold onto what is good. Keep us humble and gentle toward others. Remind us to respect others and keep our pledges. Help us love our enemies and do good to them. Help us to depend on you, to pray, and to never give up so we can be happy regardless of what happens.

Help us to shine before all people and help our pastors. Help us to grow from what we learned of your love today so it settles in our hearts. Help us to speak and live this week to please you. Protect us and our friends as we sleep tonight so we can wake up with good thoughts in our hearts in the morning. So, we pray...

## *Monday Morning*

Good morning our good and powerful God! We thank you for all the good things you give, especially your son Jesus. We are very sorry if we did anything last week that displeases you. We devote our whole lives to you and ask your grace for each and every day just to serve you. We trust your promises which give us more

comfort than money or things. Just as you were with us last night in our sleep, be with us this day regardless of what might happen.

Thank you for your goodness and please guide us today. Show us how to be happy, humble, gentle, and loving in doing what Jesus wants us to do. May you bless us with friends and put your love within our hearts as your children. We pray and praise you as you fill our hearts with love and comfort in Jesus. While you want everyone to be good, help all Christians to follow you and live as one people of love. Help those who lead us to be wise, just, merciful, and filled with your Spirit. Make sure all leaders help the poor and needy as well as those in misery. Bless those who lead us as well as friends and family, so they can live in peace and love. So, we pray...

### *Monday Evening*

God you are so strong and loving, you give us everything we have! We thank you for our health, our food, the clothes we wear, our peace, and our safety. We thank you for your love which helps us to do what you want us to do. Make our love for you to be new, true, faithful, and pure. Help us to live humble, gentle, and patient lives. Remind us what Jesus has done for us so we can trust you more. As we go to sleep, protect us since we know you are with us. We ask you to bless everyone whether they are famous or unknown, rich or poor, so they can help others in need. Make the world safe for everyone and we hope that people will remember how much we loved you when they think of us today and always. So, we pray...

### *Tuesday Morning*

Good morning our majestic God! Everyone praises you from the angels in heaven to all of your creation on earth. So, we also give you praise as we remember your love and grace through Jesus, who gives us eternal life! You even give us the Holy Spirit along with everything else we have in this world, so let us live to be sincere, good, and loving servants of your goodness. May we delight and feel joy in our hearts today and praise you. May we be willing to put up with people who might even hurt us and to give up things that do not honor you. May we follow your lead in everything we do.

Just as you protected us last night, let us live to honor you. We also hope other people feel the same way, remembering all the good things you gave them. May we live a life that really provides justice, love, and kindness for others. Help those who are poor, sick, or hurting today. Let your love pour out on the whole world and help us to not hurt anyone today. So, we pray...

### *Tuesday Evening*

God, you give us so much! So, we honor you alongside everyone else who recognizes how great and good you are. And we know we should always give thanks and praise for your goodness and guidance of our lives. Help us be good people and good followers of Jesus. Help us to follow your instructions so we will follow them out of love. Help us to lovingly give ourselves to you so we can experience a strong sense of your love through Jesus. May we always try to be compassionate, careful, loving, humble, patient, truthful, and faithful in our daily lives. Make us holy and wise in what we do, desiring those things provided by the Holy Spirit. Thank you for keeping us safe today and watch over us as we sleep. We ask you give the same care to everybody in the world, particularly our Christian friends. May each person follow you in the kind of work they must do, including our leaders and pastors. Help the rich and powerful care for those who are poor. Help all mothers

and fathers, as well as all employers and employees, treat each other with respect. We know this only happens from your grace at work in all of us. So, we pray...

### *Wednesday Morning*

Good morning God, we thank you for the good things you give us, the promise of our salvation, and the love we have in our hearts for you. Thank you for giving us Jesus who is by your side. Thank you for giving the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith and to be with us when temptations come our way. Help us to keep Jesus on our mind as we live truthfully, humbly, and with a pure heart. Help us to live the life you want us to live, helping everyone with all love and dedication to the end of our lives. Help us speak carefully and live quietly in what we do. Remind us that you give us our abilities, guide us when we go astray, and remain deeply interested in our lives. So we will care for others, help us remain aware of Jesus, what Jesus did, and how we will stand before him when Jesus returns.

Help us God, so that we do not do anything foolish today. Help us avoid either thinking too much of ourselves or living in fear of others. Give us confidence so that we will not be afraid of anything that scares us. Let your grace be so strong in us that you know you can always count on us no matter how difficult life might be. Since you are wise and good, we know you always want what is best for us and we can stand any temptation that comes our way. As you help us we ask you also help others as well, including our church, our community, and our country. Help our leaders to always do good for others and guide us so we can be united together in your love and joy that never ends. So, we pray...

### *Wednesday Evening*

God, as we prepare for bed tonight, we remember all that you have wisely made in this world. We also remember the good things you give, including Jesus Christ, and your love given to us through Jesus. God, help us to remember our promises that we have made to you and help us to keep them wholeheartedly. Help us live our lives totally for you and to turn our love for you into real deeds for other people. Help us combine our love for you with knowing how to best live each day so Jesus will be pleased at the end of our lives.

Rather than complaining about things that annoy us, help us remember what you say is most important for our lives. Remind us that you oversee this world and you always work for goodness and care. So, we give you everything that happened today and trust that, even as we fall asleep, you will watch over us and care for us regardless of what happens.

We also ask you watch over the world. Forgive people when they are foolish in what they do, or struggling with sin, and help them find true freedom in your love. Watch over all churches and help leaders seek peace during times of conflict so all people can remain united in peace. Reach out to those in other religions, or those lost, to help them find faith. Give strength to those who need it to keep their faith and survive difficult times. Reward people that do good, forgive and love those who do bad, and help our neighbors just as you help those who are sick and in trouble. So, we pray...

### *Thursday Morning*

Good morning God, thank you for providing hope across the whole world! Thank you for the gift of life, even the air we breathe, and for the way you care for us. Thank you for guiding us when we choose to follow you

and how you care and protect us each day. Thank you for the Holy Spirit who guides and protects us. May every good thing we do be for your glory.

Even when we do something you would not want us to do, we ask you to love and forgive us, so we can do good. Instead we want to constantly have Jesus' love in our lives so we know you hold onto us and we can always praise you God. Let the joy of Jesus give us an eager strength to do good and protect us from bad choices. Help us make the right decisions and grow through the opportunities you give us. Regardless of our choices, challenges, or comfort, may all that we do be Christlike and dedicated to you through Jesus and your love for us.

Thanks again for all that Jesus does for us. We know Jesus encourages us to come to you, receive your love, and receive your grace for difficult times. Let the Holy Spirit guide us in following your direction for our lives. Just remind us how awesome you are so that everything we think, say, and do will bring glory to you. We know we are really in trouble when we do not follow you so protect us every day, guide us through the Holy Spirit, and support everything we do, in Jesus' name. So, we pray...

### *Thursday Evening*

God, you are more awesome than we can imagine and more loving than anything we can do. Thank you for staying with us in our bad decisions and giving hope and comfort through your grace in our lives. We know you sent Jesus to save us from sin and we honestly turn to you for our salvation and a peace through Jesus. May your love jump out of our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

We know you are a loving Father and one who helps us when we feel down. Watch over our hearts tonight, help us avoid temptations that come from deceitful people in our world. Let the Holy Spirit protect and support us so we can do good in this world. Help us to pray for others, for the spread of your good news around the world. We pray you will lead our leaders, support those who help people, teach our teachers, and guide all the things done in our community. Protect us from bad consequences that we feel or fear. Bless us as you always bless us and help us remain your children. Help people who tend to hurt themselves or others so that your love guides your correction. Be gracious to our friends and neighbors, helping those who help us. So, we pray...

### *Friday Morning*

Good morning God, thank you for your love and patience in our lives, helping us know both what is good and what is true. Thank you for forgiving us for all the times we have done something bad. You are so loving and kind! Everyone should trust you, since you give us all the good things that in our lives. Please do not look upon the bad things we have done or even thought about! We know you are the reason we can do good things based on your love, what Jesus has done for us, and how Jesus brings us close to you.

God, because of Jesus, we trust your mercy in our lives. When we sin, we just ask you to give us a chance to repent and be forgiven. When we are sin sick and just seem to always do bad things, we ask for your healing love to help us live as we should. Help us to follow Jesus in everything, and to draw strength and peace from your love so we can also avoid temptations around us. We know Jesus can give us more than we can ever hope for, from feeling forgiveness, to living in your presence, to completely loving others. Totally change our hearts so we can become everything you want us to be! That way we will be fully like other Christians who have followed you.

Teach us not to abuse the world we live in. Help us to live healthy lives but also rest in your love. Help us to be content with what you provide for us and with your love for us. Help us to be thankful for what you give

us particularly the things that come from your saving love. Let your Holy Spirit make us strong so we can be live our lives dedicated to you. Help us take on difficult tasks, particularly if they cause us to speak, live, and do what children of God should do. So, we pray...

### *Friday Evening*

God, you are greater than everything and never fail us. We are the ones that fail you when we don't pay attention to you, act with a mean spirit, think too much of ourselves, or deceive others. Even when we do bad things you are always kind and always willing to welcome us back. You set us free from the bad things we do by helping us regret and repent when we need to. Jesus is our anchor so we know you will forgive us, accept us, and love us.

God, you never get weary doing good for us so let us not grow weary serving you. Let our service overflow in love and good work. Help us to be better people. Let us rest on your love and leave a complete sense of peace in our hearts. We also ask that you help everyone else. Help them know about your love. Teach us to follow your lead and to act as one people with one love for you. Help our leaders and those who make sure justice happens in our land. Give our judges and our pastors the abilities they need through Holy Spirit. God, we ask you be a doctor to the sick and a counselor to those who feel sorrow or fear. We ask that you become the best parent to those who do not have parents and the best friend of people who do not have friends. Give us what you think we need in our lives.

We do ask you watch over us tonight as we go to sleep. Please be our defender so nothing bad happens to us, or that sickness does not come over us or others in our home as we sleep. We just ask our sleep gives us strength so we can continue to serve you as long as we live. Remind us that, because of Jesus, you will be with us forever. So, we pray...

### *Saturday Morning*

Good morning God, we stand up and present ourselves to you so we can graciously thank you for loving us and what we do in Jesus' name! It is in Jesus' name we ask for forgiveness, but also for the peace you give to us. Help us to continue to grow up in your gracious love, even when we don't act like we are growing. We know Jesus will be our defender even when we don't always do what we should. So God, we ask you don't dwell on our disobedience but remember what Jesus has done to save us and to provide for our full salvation. Help us to completely give up things that keep us away from you. Let Jesus make our hearts clean and the Holy Spirit make us alive and dedicated only to you.

God, teach us more and more about Jesus. Help us to do what you want in our world. Help us to live in awe and love, to trust and delight in you. Help us avoid temptations. Wake us up so we can serve you with all our hearts. Make us good neighbors through being kind, meek, patient, careful, humble, and helpful for others. We hope people will know all of this comes from you and give you glory both here and in heaven.

Thank you again for keeping us safe last night and giving us a good night's rest. Help us recognize how kind you are and to trust in you. Let your Holy Spirit be our guide today and we hope that we will see your presence, your power, your wisdom, and your goodness in everyone we meet. So, we pray...

## *Saturday Evening*

God you are so good, and you show us what is good in our world! Your light and your truth guide us all day long. You encourage us and give us strength to serve you. Your Bible can guide us, but we seem to do so little with your instructions! We can be so stubborn sometimes. But God, we ask that forgive us and help us to really do the right things. Make our reading of your Scripture something that makes a difference in our lives. We know reading your word can help us grow spiritually and in our love for you, God.

God, we ask that the Holy Spirit uses your word to transform our hearts and help us daily follow you. We ask that we learn how to do everything so that our actions please you God. Let everything we do start with our humble praise and thanksgiving for the good things you give us. We thank you not only for the comforts we now have, but also for the hope we have for an even better life. We thank you for how you feed our souls, provide the good news that you save us ringing in our ears, and give the Holy Spirit to help us do the right things in our hearts. We just ask you to continue your goodness and joy so we can do good for others.

Forgive us when we make bad choices. Help us to live not only on what we do good, but also out of respect for your name. Help us to praise and honor you in everything. So, we pray...