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Prayers contributed by Vanessa Reese: On Being Different, On Resisting Cheating, Study Prayer, and Prayer before a Test

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To the Light of Our Lives, Our Son, Jared Heller







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Introduction

God is always there to listen to us and to help us. But sometimes we may not be sure of the best way to share our thoughts and feelings with God. Praying is a wonderful way to talk to God. And the best thing about prayer is that there are all kinds of ways to pray.

This is a book that will help you explore different ways to pray about all different subjects. The fun part is that there is no right or wrong way to pray. All you need is a sincere heart and your imagination and your belief in God.

As you go through the pages of this book, you will find prayers about things like playing sports or having a best friend. There are prayers about holidays like Christmas and Halloween. You'll also find prayers about the environment and social problems like drugs and homelessness.

Following each prayer is either a suggestion to help you write your own prayer or an activity related to the particular topic. You can try this suggestion or make up your own way of praying about the subject. You may want to get ideas from your teacher or parents as well.

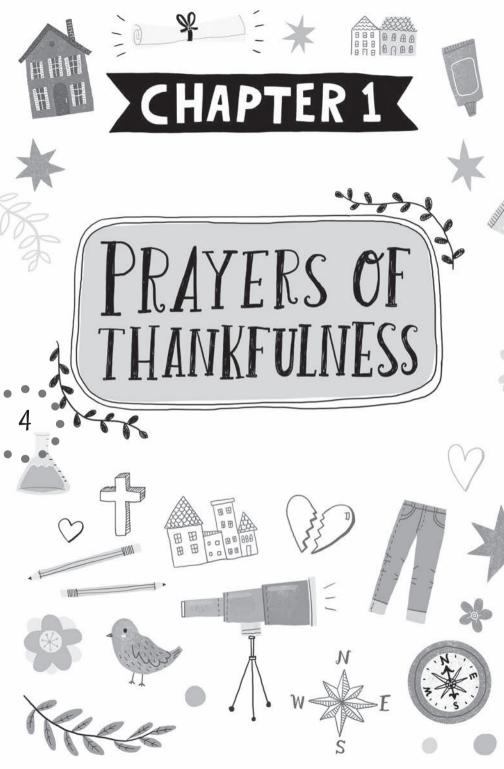
Sometimes where you pray can be important. Maybe you are most comfortable at church, or in your room or outside under a favorite tree. Or maybe you like to pray in the kitchen while dinner is being prepared. Some people like to choose a special place they call "a prayer corner." You can turn any quiet place, where you won't be bothered much, into a prayer corner. Spending time in this special place can give you a chance to think about things that are important to you. You can choose to pray wherever you are most comfortable.

The Kids' Book of Prayers about All Sorts of Things is a fun way to talk to God. Prayer is a wonderful way to communicate your feelings and thoughts to God and to get to know God better and better. As it says in the Bible: "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive" (Matthew 21:22).

> Elizabeth Heller, Brookline, MA David Heller, Brookline, MA







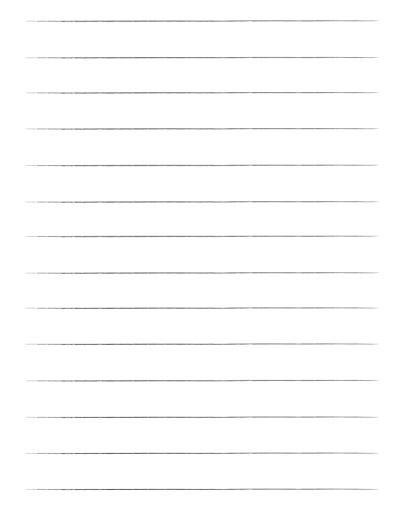




Dear God,

- Thank you for my family and all the love they give me every day.
- I am grateful for how they keep me safe, take care of all the things I need, and how they teach me to be a good person.
- I know how blessed I am to talk and laugh with them and to do fun things together.
- And I am especially grateful for how they help me understand the world and even myself.
- Please take care of my family and make them strong and loving always.

Now write your own original prayer about your family. What would you especially like to say to God about your special family? Try and think of some specific things you really enjoy about your family.



Dealing with Divorce

I am asking for some special help, God.

As you know, my parents are divorced.

This is pretty hard on me,

and it's hard on my parents

sometimes, too.

Could you look after us

with a little extra care?

Make sure we aren't lonely

and that we remember that we are still a family, even if it's a different kind of family.

Help me not to feel jealous of some of the other kids because their parents are still married.

Amen.

8

If your parents are divorced, what special circumstances does that create for you? What is unique about your family life? What are the good things and some of the difficult things about your new situation? Now write to God about your family life and ask for the things you need to strengthen you.





A Prayer about a New Sibling

Dear God,

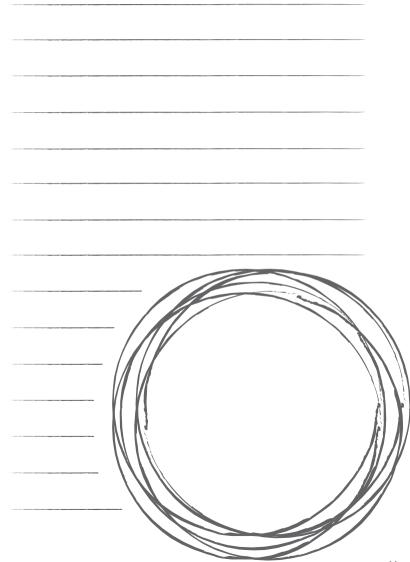
thank you for the new member of our family!
Please help me to understand that this change in our lives takes time to adjust to.
Sometimes it is hard when

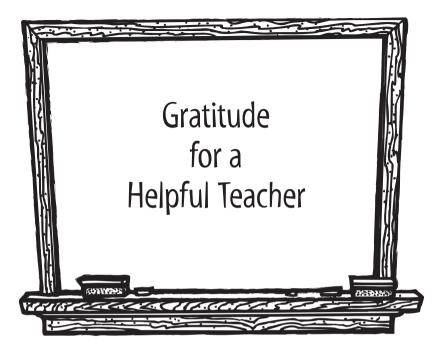
don't get the attention I want
because my sibling needs something.

Help me to be patient

and to be a good role model for my sibling
and to be a good helper when it's needed.

Help me to remember that love
grows and grows and is never limited. Make a list of things you enjoy about having a new sibling. Draw a picture of yourself helping your new sibling in some way. Write a few words about how helping in this way makes you feel.





God, thank you for my teacher.

It is very nice to have someone who helps me with my schoolwork and makes learning fun.

I know my teacher cares about me, even when I get in trouble for not paying attention.

Plus, my teacher never makes me feel silly for asking a question.

Thank you so much, God,

for my wonderful teacher.

Who is the teacher or adult in your life who is most helpful to you? What does that person do to provide you with support and help? Write an original prayer about a teacher or another adult in your life who helps you in a special way.

