

1-29-15 Follow up—

Class member: Our family with prayer has been doing good with family prayer. I've been listening to the repetitiveness of it. I was trying to gear them towards being more personal. I thought, "Do my prayers get repetitive?" I started at family prayers I started being more specific. It was sweet to listen to their prayers and how they turned outward by following my example. My 9 year old was saying a prayer the other day and we have been praying for a family. She said, "Please bless this family. They have been going through hard stuff. We love them."

Class member: I went home last week excited about the lesson. I actually talked about everything at dinner. We decided we would work on doing morning and night family prayer. We have been getting up and doing those family prayers. This last week I feel like we have had extra protection. We went to our Stake Conference and the 70 spoke on the 4 Table Legs. Our family was more prepared. It was nice to have them recognize we are focusing on 4 things. 4 are easier than all the other doctrines in the scriptures.

Class member: I read that article. I made the list. The biggest thing that hit me. I felt like my to-do list was pretty short and I didn't have enough room for the blessings. It was humbling that he gives so little and ask so much.

The thing that amazes me is that this list has the things we are praying for. Heavenly Father already promised those things.

Class member: I did the same thing. I was sharing with my husband. It's not good enough for just us to know this. For FHE I want to type up this massive list of blessings and talk about it in FHE.

Class member: I think we do really well on family prayer. I realize the importance of having everyone there. My husband works nights and weekends. So he is gone a lot. I thought...I have a phone. Instead of us taking those turns doing family prayer with him I felt like he still needed to be present. I put him on speaker. He started conducting and presiding over the phone. He can take 5-10 minutes out of his schedule. He says it's really cute to hear the guys around him say that's really sweet that you take the time to do that with your kids.

See how exciting it is. When you look for ideas inspiration will come.

Class member: I never thought to ask my kids if they have done their personal prayers. This week I taught them and ask them and hold them accountable. My 7 year old said You never taught me to do it in the morning time. He are some things you can pray for in the morning. I hold them accountable for making their bed. I never thought to hold them accountable for prayers or scripture study. We got markers for each of them. It's more of a study. I elaborate more. The kids are into it more. We do it every night before prayers.

Class member: I told them about prayer bears. I told them that these bears were different. I changed our scripture study. I have always read. My 4 year old had his set from his grandparents. I was reading from his. He wouldn't read scriptures before, but when I gave him ownership he marked every single verse. Ownership was important.

You own your testimony.

Class member: I used to be a teacher before I had kids. I like to plan myself. Something I can improve on it letting my children help teach. My 6 year old came home from church with popsicle sticks. It was horrible to begin with. She was frustrated with her siblings, but at the end it all came together. The Spirit had it come together.

When that Spirit came in did you identify it for your children? At the end when we prayed I mentioned it.

As they are learning many of you as adults will say, "Is that the Holy Ghost?" We have to teach them when they are little know what that feels like. We need to say, "Do you feel that? You invited the Spirit in and he came."

Your little tiny ones you tell the story and let your little ones put the flannel board story up. They will behave better.

I am working in the nursery. I only have about 6. I have little mats...placemats that says, "This is your spot." You do your opening song, prayer, announcements, and then lesson...put the mats in a circle. You only have about 2 minutes. They are going to excited about sitting down on the mat. If you kneel down on the floor with them for little people you are right there with them on their level.

Class member: I am doing Pathway. I am in my 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. One of the classes is the Book of Mormon studies. I was really lousy at reading my scriptures every day. I needed that boost and felt like it would help me. I used to go to my bedroom and study in my bed. Now I sit out in the dining room. I'm using my talks, scripture manual, my

computer, scriptures. I spend a lot of time pondering throughout the day. This last week we read this section on chastity and teaching my kids about it. I'm at that point where I really need to make sure they understand this. My 14 year old saw me studying and sat down by me and opened his scriptures and was reading with me. He put his arm around me. He said, "What are you studying?" I had him read from the manual about chastity and pornography. I would like to have a different perspective. We had about a 20 minute conversation. He had questions about words he didn't understand. We discussed the "why". I thought that was so cool. He went to his room. Then my daughter came in and did the same thing. She asked, "What are you studying?" I told her the same thing as my son. This thought I had was how am I going to teach my children. The door was open and Heavenly Father provided a way. We had such an incredible moment with both of them. There was no question in my mind they understood the importance of those principles. They opened the scriptures and read from then on their own. Changing where I studied has made such a difference. My daughter is right there with me every time. She asks me questions. She understands more than she did before.

A couple of parenting tools...the power of asking good questions. That is a spiritual gift you need to pray for. A good question will pull them in. A poorly phrased question will put up a wall. The power of example. There was a conference talk by someone that talked about "Do your kids know you have a testimony of what you do not what they say?" Holland? Do they see you reading your scriptures? Do they see you praying? Do they see you fasting with joy? Are you griping about your church calling? Are you saying nasty things about your scout leaders? Do they see you living a testimony? Example & questions. They are so important.

Jeffrey R. Holland "[A Prayer For The Children](#)" April 2003

"Live the gospel as conspicuously as you can. Keep the covenants your children know you have made. Give priesthood blessings. And bear your testimony! Don't just assume your children will somehow get the drift of your beliefs on their own. The prophet Nephi said near the end of his life that they had written their record of Christ and preserved their convictions regarding His gospel in order "to *persuade* our children ... that our children may *know* ... [and believe] the right way."

Nephi-like, might we ask ourselves what our children know? From us? Personally? Do our children know that we love the scriptures? Do they see us reading them and marking them and clinging to them in daily life? Have our children ever unexpectedly opened a closed door and found us on our knees in prayer? Have they heard us not only pray *with* them but also pray *for* them out of nothing more than sheer parental love? Do our children know we believe in fasting as something more than an obligatory

first-Sunday-of-the-month hardship? Do they know that we have fasted for them and for their future on days about which they knew nothing? Do they know we love being in the temple, not least because it provides a bond to them that neither death nor the legions of hell can break? Do they know we love and sustain local and general leaders, imperfect as they are, for their willingness to accept callings they did not seek in order to preserve a standard of righteousness they did not create? Do those children know that we love God with all our heart and that we long to see the face—and fall at the feet—of His Only Begotten Son? I pray that they know this.”