

# PrayKids!®

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

## The Word On...

### Intercession

Wouldn't it be fun to act like a lawyer—right now, today?

When you pray for other people, it is called *in-ter-ces-sion*. That means you come between two sides to help settle differences—just like lawyers do. So when you *intercede* in prayer for someone, you are coming between that person and God, pleading the person's case with Him.

The Bible tells us that only Jesus can bring God and people together (1 Timothy 2:5). But we can stand with Jesus and ask God to be kind and merciful to people who need Him. That's what *intercession* is all about. ★

# WANTED



# GAP-STANDERS

By Esther Ilnisky

**D**o you know that kids all around the world, in places like Russia and Africa, are praying for you? Every day, millions of kids from all over the planet are praying, some for kids they don't

even know. They are being "world Christians," and their prayers are making a big difference.

Well, *your* prayers can make a big difference too—in your home, around the corner, and all over the world. When you pray, make

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sure to remember kids in other countries. Imagine what it's like for them to go to bed hungry, to be an orphan, or to live in places where people hate each other or fight in wars. Think of the Muslim or Buddhist kids. Many of them have never heard of Jesus.

Now, imagine a *huge* gap—a big empty space—with God at one end and those millions of kids at the

other. The gap is there because the kids don't know God and are very far from Him.

Next, picture yourself standing right in the middle between the kids and God, reaching out toward

both. You've become an **intercessor**, a person who

brings people and God together.

When you pray in order to do that, it's called "**intercession.**" As you **intercede**, you help to bring people to Jesus.

Have you ever heard the Bible story about Moses in Exodus 32:7-14? God was about to destroy a whole nation because of its sin when—wham!—Moses actually talked Him out of it. Why? Because Moses stood between God and the people and reminded God of

His promise to them. Get the picture? The people's sin created a huge gap between them and God, and Moses stood in that gap and asked God to change His mind—and God did it!

Right now, Jesus is doing an amazing thing in heaven. In Hebrews 7:25 it says, "He always lives to **intercede** for [you]."

Remember how Jesus "stood in the gap" between God and you so you could know your heavenly Father? Jesus is your best example of **intercession**. And He asks you to do the same for others. In Ezekiel 22:30, God says He is looking for people who will "stand . . . in the gap" for other people. What about you? Can God count on you to be a "gap-stander" for kids—in your school, your neighborhood, your city, your country, and the whole world?

Being an **intercessor** is a really fun adventure. And it will change your life, because you will be making a *big* difference in the lives of kids all over the world. ★

Esther Ilnisky is the founder of the Children's Global Prayer Movement.



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### Mission Statement

The mission of PrayKids! is to teach, encourage, and equip children (ages 7 to 12) as they develop a deepening relationship with Christ through prayer, so that they might become more effective prayer warriors.

## Grown-ups!

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This is a *free* monthly newsletter, including timely PrayKids! articles you may have missed, exclusive subscriber-only offers, and updates on newly released resources and tools. It's perfect for Sunday school teachers, children's workers, Christian school teachers, homeschool parents, and anyone else who has a heart to encourage kids in growing their prayer lives! Just go to [www.praymag.com](http://www.praymag.com), look at the lower left under the newsletter sign-up section, check the box next to PrayKids! Online Newsletter, and click the SIGN-UP button!

## Make Major MIRACLES

When you pray for Jesus to save someone and it happens, you know that's a *major* miracle! It proves to you that your prayers really *do* make a difference. How do you start making miracles?

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you whom and what to pray for.
2. First, pray for kids you know. You could also pray for:
  - kids with the same name as you
  - kids the same age as you
  - kids who like the same sport as you
  - kids who have the same problems as you
3. Keep a prayer list. Write down who you pray for, what you prayed, and when or how the prayer got answered. ★



# My Prayers Make a Difference!

## I've been praying

for the world since I was about three. I'm just one kid, but my parents and my pastor say that my prayers make a *big* difference. And I *know* they do!

I pray by myself, with my family, in Sunday school, or in prayer meetings at my church. Sometimes a bunch of us kids will hang out and we get a map and pray for kids all over the world. This helps me to be thankful that I know Jesus and that I live in a Christian home.

When I was eight years old, there was an Ebola virus (a powerful disease) in Zaire, Africa, that was killing thousands of kids. It was spreading fast. So I sat down and prayed a long time and really cried out for those kids.

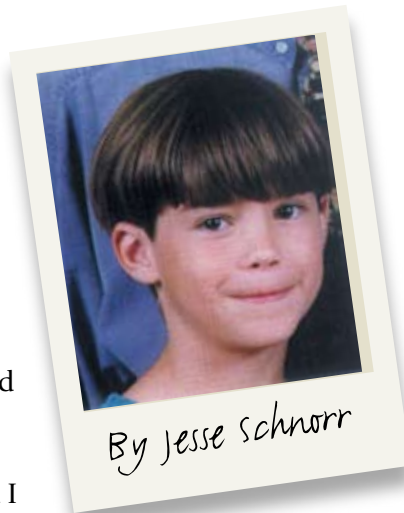
After a while, I began to be peaceful and happy. I just knew God was hearing and answering my prayers. It was kind of a new thing for me actually to feel like that for other kids because of what was happening to them. My pastor told me that what I did was true **"intercession"** (praying about situations or people we may not even know, with a really caring heart).

Well, three days later, I saw a newspaper headline in big bold letters saying, "Ebola Virus in Zaire Arrested" (that means it was stopped). It made the news on TV and radio and in newspapers all over the world.

I know that my prayers helped save a lot of kids' lives. Thank You, Jesus! ★

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Jesse Schnorr lives in West Palm Beach, Florida.



## Just Like JESUS

When we **"intercede"** for others, we should pray just like Jesus did for us. Jesus did not pray only for needs. He prayed that His friends would love each other and get along. And He prayed that they would be made holy by the Word of God. One way to be sure we're interceding for others the way Jesus did is to pray God's Word.

Here are some Scriptures you can use when you pray for others:

**For someone who needs to know Jesus:** "Heavenly Father, I pray for (friend's name), that he/she will come to know how much You love him/her and that he/she will believe that Jesus died for his/her sins" (Romans 5:8).

**For someone going through a hard time:** "God, You are the Lord of peace. Please give (friend's name) peace in every way. Be with him/her today" (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Here are some other Scriptures to pray for someone who is in need: Romans 8:28, Philippians 4:8, Ephesians 6:10, Psalm 119:9, and Isaiah 41:10. In a notebook, write any other Scriptures you find that might be good to pray for people in different situations. ★

# The Great Escape

BY JOYCE K. ELLIS

*A fictional story based on Acts 12.*

A knock at the door startled me. Automatically, I jumped up to answer it.

Losing my balance, I stumbled over my friend John Mark. But we didn't dare laugh.

Dozens of new followers of Jesus had crowded into my master's house to pray really hard that Peter, our teacher, would get out of jail. A few days before, King Herod had thrown Peter into a stinking Roman jail for telling people about Jesus.

As I tiptoed toward the door, my master was begging God to spare Peter's life. I'd never heard him sound so sad.

The knocking came again, louder. It was my job to answer the door, but I didn't want to miss what people were praying. I glanced back at my mistress, Mary. Her son—my friend John Mark—held his mother as tears rolled down her pretty face.

In the entryway, I leaned against the closed door. "Who is it?" I asked, a little scared.

"Rhoda, it's me. Let me in." Peter's thundering voice made my heart pound.

I was so surprised that I raced back to the prayer meeting without opening the door. "Hey, everybody," I blurted out. "Peter's here!"

My master looked up. "Shh! Rhoda, we're talking to God!"



The stern faces looking up at me made me feel foolish. "You're out of your mind!" someone mocked. "Peter's in jail. In case you didn't realize it, that's why we're praying for him!"

"Wait!" someone else argued. "Maybe he's already dead, and it's his ghost at the door! Ah, this is terrible!"

"No," I insisted, "it's really him."

Just then, Peter started *really* pounding on the door—so hard that I thought he'd break it down.

I slapped my forehead. What was I thinking? I hadn't even let him in! I rushed back to the entryway. Some of the people followed, including my master, mistress Mary, and John Mark. Unlocking and opening the door, I threw my arms around Peter.

My master clasped our teacher's shoulder. "Peter!" he cried. "It is you!"

"When did you get out?" John Mark quizzed him. "How did you escape?"

Everyone began crowding around Peter, firing questions at him.

Peter held up his hand. "You are not going to believe this," he said. Peter told us how an angel had come into his cell and led him out right past the guards. "The chains on my wrists just fell off!" Peter exclaimed. "As we left, a huge iron gate swung open as if the hand of God Himself pushed it open. I knew you'd be praying for me," he said. "That's why I came here first."

As I headed for the kitchen to prepare some food for everyone, I punched John Mark lightly on the arm. "If we believe God can do anything," I said, "why are we so surprised when He answers our prayers?"

He smiled at me. "Good question." ★

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Joyce K. Ellis is an author, speaker, and writer. She created the book, *One-Minute Bible Devotions for Kids* (Broadman & Holman), which is a great tool to help you enjoy Scripture each day of the year.



## MUSCLE BUILDERS

Here are some ideas to help you build your "faith muscles":

**1. Pray specifically.** Don't just say, "Bless all the missionaries everywhere in the world." You won't know how God answers. Instead, find out what one missionary needs. Then pray for that person and see how God answers.

**2. Tell one or two friends that you believe God answers prayer.** Then ask how you can pray for them. Check with them often to see how He's answering.

**3. Start a prayer notebook.** Write the date and what you asked, then later fill in God's answer. Keeping a record of how He works will strengthen your faith.

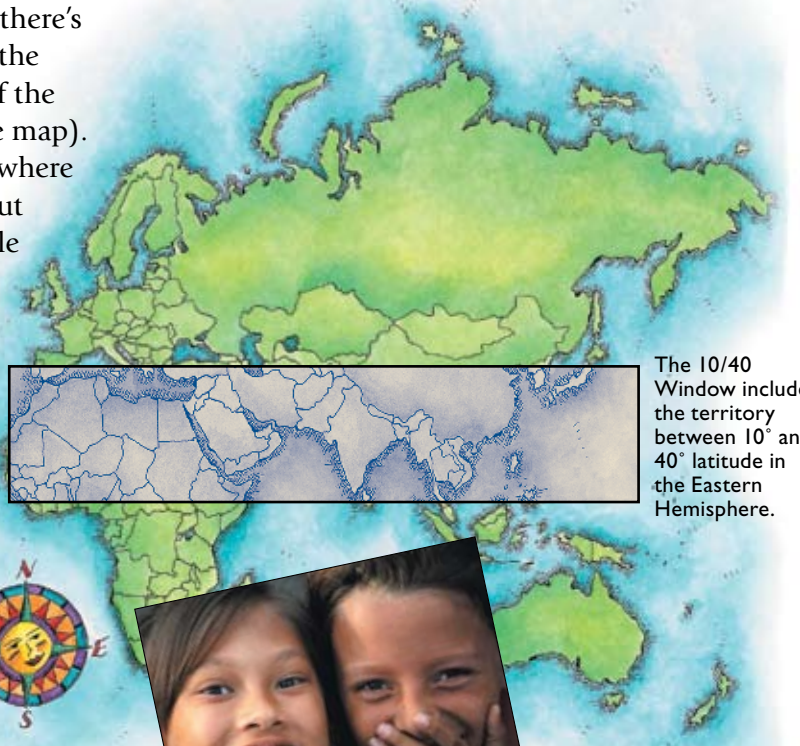


## Let's Pray for Kids in the 10/40 Window

Everyone knows what a window is, right? But there's one window that's totally different. It's called the 10/40 Window. This is the name for an area of the world, and it includes many countries (see the map).

The 10/40 Window is the part of the world where people have the least opportunity to hear about Jesus. Many of the people there live their whole lives and never hear the name of Jesus once. Most of the poorest people in the world live in the 10/40 Window. It is also the home of some of the major nonChristian religions such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

There are millions of children who live in the 10/40 Window and, like their parents, most of them don't know Jesus. Many of these children don't have enough to eat. Some are refugees, which means that their families have had to leave their homes because of war or other problems. Some children live on the



The 10/40 Window includes the territory between 10° and 40° latitude in the Eastern Hemisphere.



streets because their parents have died or can't take care of them.

Many missionaries are needed in the 10/40 Window to tell people about Jesus.

One of the most important things you can do is **intercede** for the people who live there. Ask God to send Christians to the 10/40 Window to tell its people about Jesus and lead them to believe in Him as their Savior. ★

By Lane Powell, Operation Mobilization, USA

SIX

## COVER THE GLOBE

### Pick a country from the 10/40 Window and pray:

**1.** Lord, please open the spiritual eyes of the people so they will want to know Jesus. Help them to understand the truth that Jesus died for their sins so they can become Your children (2 Corinthians 4:4).

**2.** Heavenly Father, help the Christians in this country to be bold and courageous. Protect them with Your power when their lives are in danger because of their faith. Comfort them when their families and friends reject them because of their love for Jesus. (2 Corinthians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:5; 2 Corinthians 1:4-5).

**3.** Lord, please establish churches where believers can worship,

study Your Word, and pray together. Help believers to find one another and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25).

**4.** Father, please give this country a good government. Raise up leaders who will make good decisions and make it possible for people to live peaceful lives (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

**5.** God, we ask that you would send more missionaries from other nations around the world. Give these workers great boldness and everything they need to do the work of Your Kingdom (Matthew 9:38, 28:18-20).



## Target Practice

Just like in other things, you can be a more effective **intercessor** when you have a goal and are focused on it and organized about it. Making “prayer targets” can help you do that.

Take several large sheets of paper and cut each into a circle. Draw four circles inside each circle to resemble a target.

Now ask God to show you some areas He wants you to pray for—maybe your school, church, or neighborhood. In the center circle of each target, write one of those areas. Next, in the outer circles, write some other things that are related to each area. For example, on the target with “school” in the center circle, you could write things like: “Teachers would have patience



with kids”; “Kids who don’t know Jesus as Savior”; and “Safety and protection for everyone” in the outer circles.

Put the targets on a wall and pray for the things written on each, starting with the center and moving to the outer circles.

Invite your family or friends to join you. Focus your prayers so you’ll score

“bull’s-eyes” on every prayer target! ★

Cheri Fuller is a popular speaker and the author of *When Children Pray* (Multnomah). For more information, go to [www.cherifuller.gospelcom.net](http://www.cherifuller.gospelcom.net).

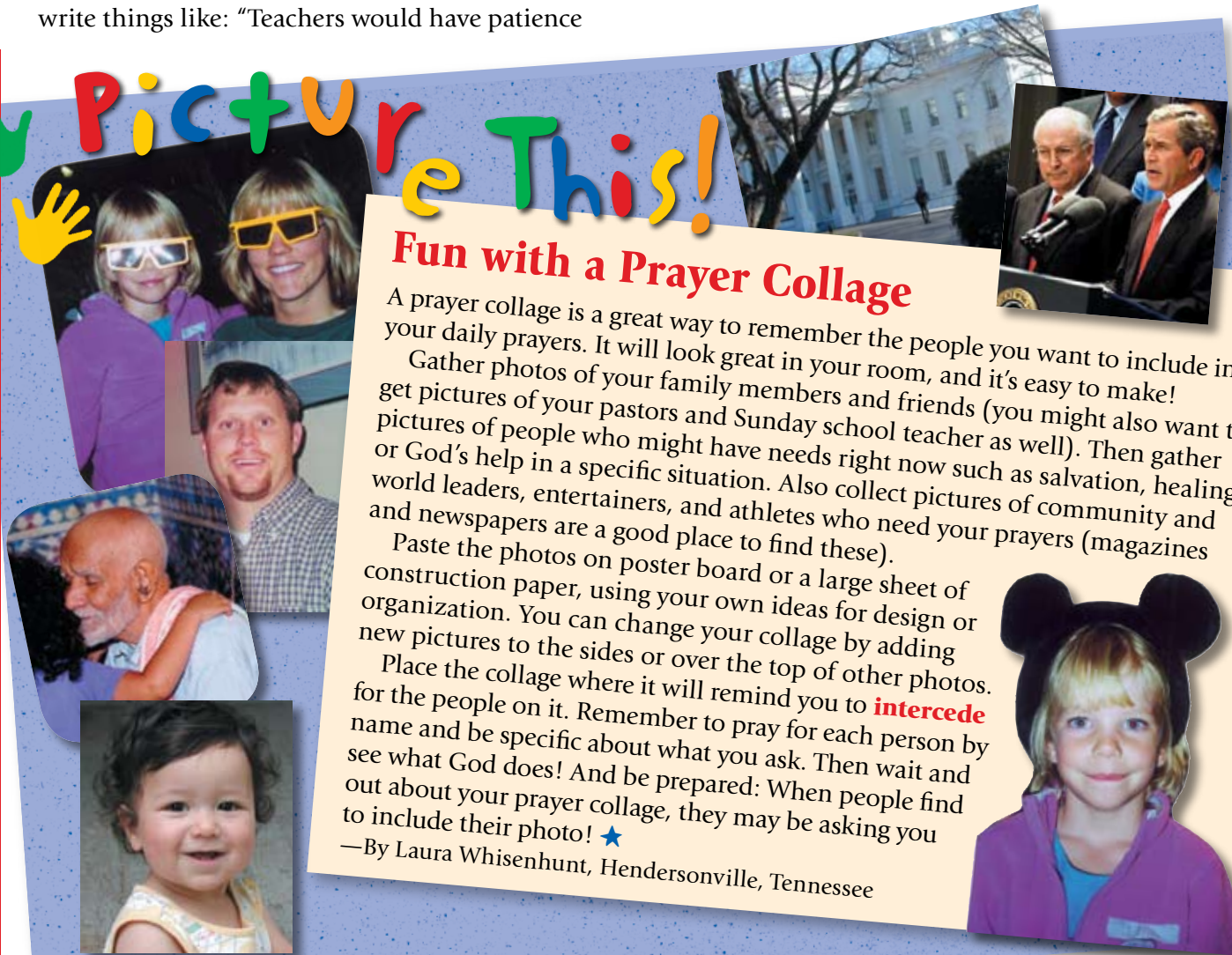
## Picture This!

### Fun with a Prayer Collage

A prayer collage is a great way to remember the people you want to include in your daily prayers. It will look great in your room, and it’s easy to make! Gather photos of your family members and friends (you might also want to get pictures of your pastors and Sunday school teacher as well). Then gather pictures of people who might have needs right now such as salvation, healing, or God’s help in a specific situation. Also collect pictures of community and world leaders, entertainers, and athletes who need your prayers (magazines and newspapers are a good place to find these).

Paste the photos on poster board or a large sheet of construction paper, using your own ideas for design or organization. You can change your collage by adding new pictures to the sides or over the top of other photos. Place the collage where it will remind you to **intercede** for the people on it. Remember to pray for each person by name and be specific about what you ask. Then wait and see what God does! And be prepared: When people find out about your prayer collage, they may be asking you to include their photo! ★

—By Laura Whisenhunt, Hendersonville, Tennessee



# Rain or Shine:

## A Family Bible Study on Elijah

By Lani Hinkle

Having a family Bible time together is a great way to show your kids how to study God's Word, and studying **intercessors** in the Bible is a great way to reinforce prayer. Pick a time when your family isn't rushed. Choose a comfortable setting. Have each family member bring a Bible (children's picture Bibles are fine for preschoolers). Most of all, be flexible in your approach and have fun.

### Background information (for adults and older children):

*"Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops" (James 5:17-18).*

Elijah was a prophet. But he was foremost a man of prayer. **Intercession** was woven into the fabric of his life. Whether it was out of compassion for the pain of another person, zealotness for God's reputation, faith in God's promise, or fear for his own life, Elijah prayed first and asked questions later.

Since Elijah was a man just like us, we can learn something from how he prayed. With your family, read the following passages and use the questions to spark discussion.

### 1 Kings 17:17-24

- How do you think Elijah felt when the widow's son died (vv. 17-18)?
- If you were Elijah, what would you

have done? Why do you think Elijah first asked God a question (v. 20)?

- Why do you think Elijah stretched himself out on the boy while he prayed (v. 21)?
- How many times did Elijah pray the same thing (v. 21)? Why do you think God often wants us to repeat our prayers?

### 1 Kings 18:1-2,41-46

- Why did Elijah pray for rain when God had already told him it would come (vv. 1,42)?
- What do you think Elijah might have been thinking while he sat and prayed with no sign of rain?
- How many times did Elijah send his servant back to look for rain (v. 43)? What does this say about Elijah's faith?
- When the servant reported the tiny cloud that finally gathered, what did Elijah do immediately (v. 44)? Would you have acted so quickly?
- When was a time you prayed and had lots of faith in God? When was a time you only had a little faith? What do you think made the difference between the amount of faith you had each time?

### 1 Kings 19:1-18

- What was Elijah afraid of (vv. 1-3)? How does Satan sometimes discourage you after God has answered your prayers?
- Why do you think Elijah said to God, "Take my life" (v. 4)?

- What did God do for Elijah when Elijah was weak and scared (vv. 5-8)?
- How do you think Elijah was feeling in verse 10?
- What do you think God was trying to do by asking Elijah twice, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (vv. 9,13).
- After Elijah experienced the presence of the Lord in the small, whispered conversation, what do you think was different for him?
- When God sent Elijah on to yet another mission, do you think Elijah was ready for it?

You and your family can study other Bible **intercessors**. Paul was a remarkable example of an **intercessor** who was mindful of God's kingdom (Romans 15:5-6,13; Ephesians 1:15-19, 3:16-19; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; Philemon 1:6). Daniel was a strong example of sacrificial **intercession** on behalf of his people (Daniel 9). ★

### MEMORY VERSE

*Be alert and always  
keep on praying for  
all the saints.*

—Ephesians 6:18

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