

PrayKids!®

The Word On...

Hallowed

Jesus gave us an example of how to pray in **Matthew 6:9-13** and **Luke 11:2-4**. We call it the Lord's Prayer. It starts like this: "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name . . ." Hallow means to honor or **praise** as holy. So the prayer means: "Father God, who lives in heaven, Your name is **AWE-SOME!**"

When we **praise** God's name, we brag about Him! That's what it means to hallow His name! There are many reasons to **praise** God and His name. ★

Way to Go, God! ★ By Jon Graf

How do you feel when someone **praises** you for something you did? "Great job on that book report!" your teacher says. "You did an excellent job cleaning your room," your dad comments. "I love you just for who you are!" your mom says.

We all love to have people who are important to us say nice things about us—especially when they are said directly to us. That's called **praise**. God is no different. He loves to hear you **praise** Him. He wants to have a relationship with you. **Praising** Him helps you to know Him better.

Continued on page 2



You're the great- ★

You're awesome! ★

Continued from page 1

But did you know that when you **praise** God, it does something more than just give Him or you a warm feeling? The Bible tells us, “from the lips of children and infants you [God] have ordained **praise** because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger” (Psalm 8:2). In other words, God says that when we **praise** Him, it has power over His and our enemies. One example of this in the Old Testament was when Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, went into battle with a bunch of singers at the front of the army. They were singing **praises** to God. As they went, the enemy soldiers started to kill each other. Jehoshaphat’s army didn’t even have to fight (read 2 Chronicles 20:21-23). That’s the power of **praising** God.

Did you know that **praise** is a form of prayer? When we pray, we are simply talking to God. When we **praise** God, we are also praying. Even when we are singing songs of **praise** to God, we are praying. We are telling God how wonderful He is. We are “hallowing” Him—telling Him how awesome and great He is. We are showing awe and honoring God when we **praise** Him.

Because **praise** is so important, it is important to **praise** when we pray. While it is not a rule, it is still good to start your prayer with **praising** God. It doesn’t matter if things in your life are great or not so great—you can still **praise** God!

When you **praise** God no matter what your mood is at the time, you



You're totally

“exalt” (another word for **praise**)

Him or hallow Him simply for who He is.

To pray this way, think about descriptions of God such as: Rock (He never changes; He is solid and powerful), *Jehovah-Jireh* (He is our Provider; He supplies our needs), or Omnipresent [omni-prez-ent] (God is everywhere) and Omniscient [om-nish-ent] (He knows everything). In other words, He is always with you and He knows everything you are going through. I don’t know about you, but I sure can **praise** God for those things!

Praise is powerful. Look for ways to **praise** God! ★

PrayKids!®

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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!

Sign up now
for our **NEW**
PrayKids! Online
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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, 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!

Praise Scriptures to Pray

Did you ever have the problem of wanting to pray to God, but not knowing what to pray? One of the best places to find words to use is the Bible. It can be fun to sit down with your Bible and pray Scriptures. When you do that, you are praying God's own words back to Him. To do this, you simply take a phrase from a verse and pray it to God.

Here is an example of how to take a verse and turn it into a prayer. Psalm 9:1-2 says:

"I will **praise** you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing **praise** to your name, O Most High."

Here is a **praise** prayer you might pray using some of those words:

Father in heaven, I praise You, O Lord, with all my heart. I want to thank You for the wonders You have done in my life [name a few of the things He has done for you]. You make me glad, so I will sing praises to Your name because You are the Most High God. Amen. (Then you might even sing a praise song to God!)

Now you try it. Look up one of these Scripture passages, and make your own prayer of **praise** to God! Psalm 56:3-4, Psalm 96, Psalm 139:14. ★

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYANN COOLEY



One Kid Makes a Difference

By Cheri Fuller

It is hard to understand how your prayers can change things—even things thousands of miles away. But your prayers can make a big difference. Here is a story of a girl whose prayers God used to change a nation.

When Hope Smith, a nine-year-old, was researching a report on Mongolia as a homeschool project, one fact about that country moved her deeply. In a missions magazine, Hope read that in Mongolia there were very few Bibles and that instead of worshipping God the people knelt at Buddhist altars in their tents. The fact that over 98 percent of Mongolians were spiritually lost touched Hope's heart, and she began praying.

Hope prayed that God would replace the Buddhist altars with Bibles and send more missionaries to share the gospel of Christ. But she didn't stop with a one-time prayer. Hope faithfully prayed every day for this country and its people.

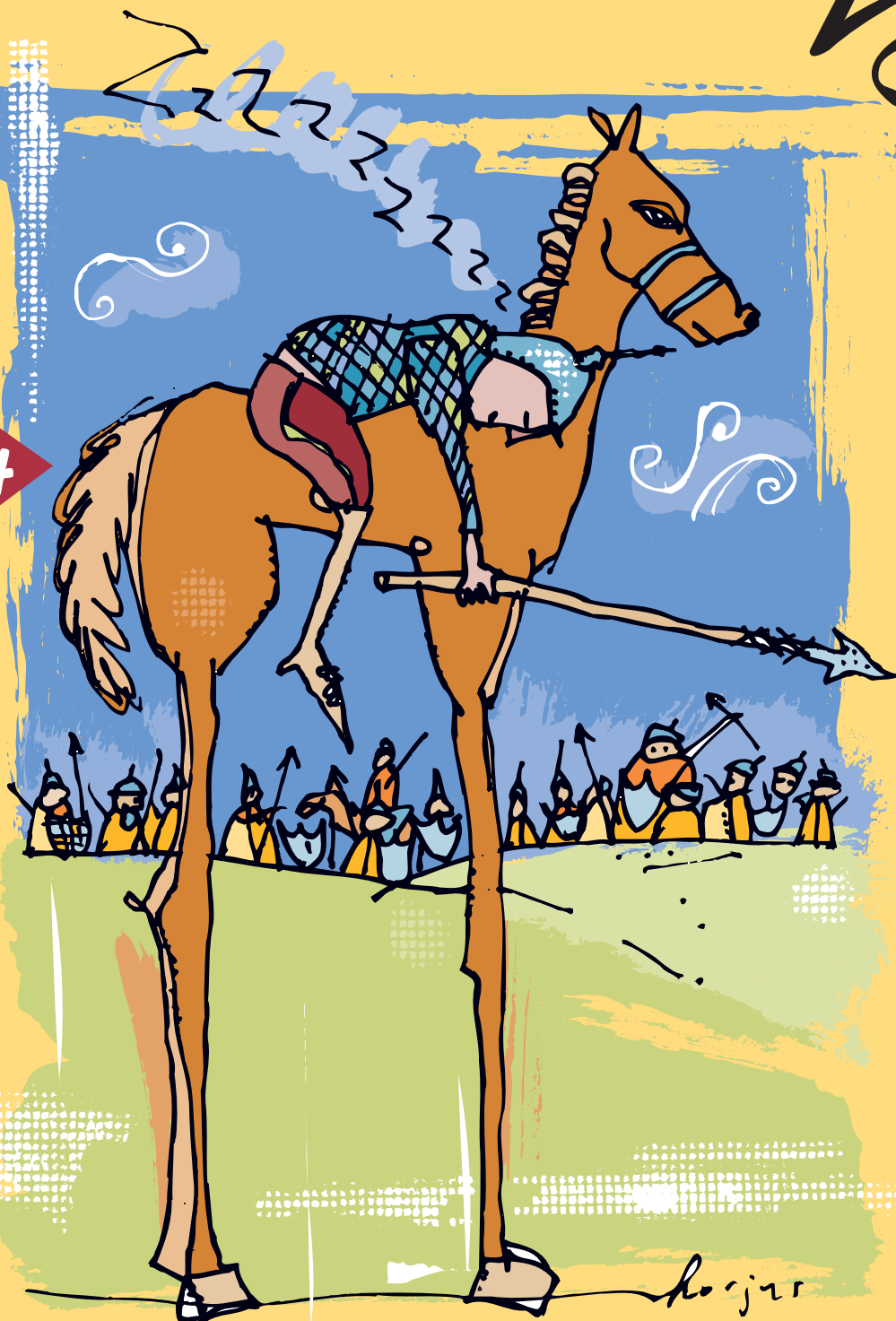
After two years of prayer, Hope read another article in the same magazine, this one entitled "Hope for Mongolia." The feature story described a revival in that country, with 500 people accepting Christ as their Savior. Hope felt this was God's way of saying He had answered her prayer. During the next year the number of Mongolian believers grew from 500 to 1,000, and the people started a church called "Hope Assembly."

I am sure it was not an accident that the first church bore Hope's name! ★

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David's No Good, Very B

by Pat Verbal
A fictional story



David is the author of most of the Psalms. The book of Psalms is full of **praises** to God. When we think of a Bible person who **praised** God, often it is David who comes to mind. But David, like any person, didn't always feel in the mood to **praise** God.

Not another giant!

David's hands shook as he wiped the sweat from his brow and replaced his helmet. The afternoon sun beat down on Israel's troops, engaged in another fierce battle with their enemies, the Philistines.

These were no ordinary soldiers. One, a distant cousin of Goliath, carried a bronze spear with a tip that weighed 300 shekels (about 20 pounds). He bragged he'd kill David this time with his new sword.

"Will these ugly, godless

giants ever give up and go home?" David teased, trying to draw his first officer's attention away from his own weakened condition.

"Please, Sir, let me escort you to the top of the hill where you can oversee the battle," begged his first officer. "You're much too tired to fight any more today."

David grabbed the horn of his saddle and straightened his aching back.

"I've faced a few giants in my day, and with God's help, I will kill one more!" His horse charged forward into the thick of the battle. His head throbbed as he tried to recall the faith

Bad Day

he had as the young boy who challenged a giant with a simple slingshot.

Suddenly, David was blinded by the glare of a silver blade. Thundering hooves raced faster and faster toward him. Clutching his shield, he prayed, "I call to the LORD, who is worthy of **praise**, and I am saved from my enemies" (2 Samuel 22:4).

David's nephew, Abishai (a-BISH-eye), had been watching David's back all day. When Abishai saw the Philistine charge at David, Abishai quickly struck down the enemy and killed him. Even

Look up these verses to find out the names of some people in the Bible who praised God.

1 Chronicles 29:10 " _____
praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly."

Nehemiah 8:6 " _____
praised the LORD, the great God."

Daniel 2:19 " _____
praised the God of heaven."

though David was very tired, his army won a great victory that day.

How did David respond? He sang a very long song of **praise** to God. You can read it in 2 Samuel 22.

You may not always feel in the mood to **praise** God. David probably didn't always feel like **praising** either, but throughout his life, he had learned that prayers of **praise** can change any situation.

When you're in a good mood, make a list of things to **praise** God for. Put this list where you can easily find it. Then someday when you find it hard to think of something to **praise** God for, get out your list. **Praise** God, and soon you'll find yourself in a great mood (and don't forget to thank Him for changing your mood). ★

Pat Verbal, founder of Ministry to Today's Child, is a children's pastor, speaker, and coauthor of *My Family's Prayer Calendar*.

What Can I Do?

The Bible tells us that it is our responsibility to pray for the leaders of our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Just as King David grew weary after many battles, our national leaders also get tired and need God's strength and protection. Your prayers can help them to remain strong and make good decisions.

Every four years Americans choose a new president, vice president, and congress. Election Day in the United States is always the Tuesday after the

first Monday in November. Even though you can't vote yet, you can participate by praying for godly leaders to be elected and for physical protection and spiritual strength for the candidates.

For information on how to pray for leaders, go to childrensprayernet.net/prayerforleaders.htm. Or, get *PrayKids!* bookmark prayer guide "Praying for Government Leaders" (available at www.praykids.com or by calling (800) 366-7788).





Let's Pray for Muslim Kids

Muslims are people who follow the teachings of a man named Mohammed. They believe that Mohammed was a prophet sent by "Allah," which is their name for God. The Muslim religion is called Islam. It follows Mohammed's teachings from a book called the Q'uran.

Islam started in the Middle East but has spread around the world. Maybe you know some Muslim people in your own school or town.

Muslims do not believe that Jesus is God's Son. They do not understand that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to die for their sins, and that all they have to do to be forgiven is to receive Him. They think they have to work very hard so that "Allah" will be pleased with them. They pray five times a day to him.

Every year (usually in late November and December) Muslims all around



SIX

COVER THE GLOBE

Jeremiah 29:11-14 says:

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD.”

Look at the verses again, and write in some things we can pray for the Muslim people. Then pray these things for Muslims, especially for Muslim children.

- Pray that Muslims will realize the true God has a _____ for them.
- Pray that Muslims will see that God wants them to have _____ and a _____ in Him.
- Pray that Muslims will _____ upon God and _____ to Him.
- Pray that Muslims will know God _____ to them.
- Pray that Muslims will _____ to know God.
- Pray that Muslims will _____ Jesus, the only One who will forgive their sins.
- **Praise** God for the Muslims who will seek God with their whole _____.

the world participate in a special religious time of prayer and fasting called Ramadan. During Ramadan, the Muslim people don't eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. The Muslim people believe their sins will be forgiven if they fast (don't eat). Children usually begin to fast when the girls are 9 and the boys are 11. How would you like to go without eating to try to make your sins be forgiven?

Christians can **praise** God, who forgives our sins when we ask. You can pray that Muslims will learn about how Jesus died on the cross to forgive their sins. ★



Putting Feet to Your Prayers

We can **praise** God for His wonderful creation of our earth. **Praising** God is terrific, but wouldn't it be great to put some "feet to your prayers," to do an activity while you pray?

Try this activity with your family or friends. Take some trash bags and rakes, and head to a local park or to an elderly person's home in your neighborhood. Clean up the area by raking and picking up trash. See how creative you can be in finding things to **praise** God for as you clean. Here are a few ideas:

🌿 "God, I **praise** You as Creator—all of Your



creation **praises** You! Even this park **praises** You—the rocks, trees, and grass!"

🌞 "God, I **praise** You because You are love. Thank You for loving all the people who use this park. I pray they will come to know Jesus as Savior."

🌀 "God, I **praise** You because You are everywhere at once! Thank You for watching over the kids who play here."

Challenge each person to **praise** God while working. Before long, the park or yard will be clean, and you will have **praised** God for lots of things! ★

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- 1/2 Tablespoon yeast
- 2 cups flour
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/2 Tablespoon salt
- 1/2 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 beaten egg for glaze *

Mix yeast, water, salt, and sugar. Gradually mix in flour and knead dough 3-4 minutes. Roll into nine long snakelike pieces. Take each piece, and form it into one of the letters to spell PRAISE GOD. Brush the letters with the egg, and sprinkle additional salt on top. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes.

raise Pretzels

After the pretzels are finished baking, get your family or some friends together. Let each person take one of the pretzel letters. Have each person think of something beginning with the alphabet letter of his or her pretzel that can be a **praise** to God. Example: P—Putting the world together so perfectly or being the Prince of Peace. Have fun thinking up praises for each of the nine letters in the words **PRAISE** GOD. Before eating the pretzel, have each person say his or her **praise** to God. Keep naming different **praises** to God as you eat your way through the letters. God loves to hear our **praises**, and you'll soon discover **praising** God also can be a yummy experience! ★

*These measurements will make 2" letters; double recipe for larger pretzels.

Family Prayer Calendar Activity

Your family can turn a calendar into a mighty prayer and **praise** tool. Take a calendar and designate it a "prayer calendar." Try to establish a regular time to meet and pray about the things on the calendar. Meeting at breakfast time allows all of the prayer requests to be prayed for before the day's activities begin. At the end of the day, your family could **praise** God for the answers to prayer. Here are some suggestions to help you get your family prayer calendar started:

⊙ Take your regular calendars and schedules and pray for each activity of the day. Example: soccer game—pray for safety to and

from the game, safety of the players, good sportsmanship, etc.

⊙ Pray for any meetings or classes attended by family members.

Example: Awana—pray for the leaders and helpers to be sensitive to the children's needs and display God's love to the children.

⊙ Each day, have a different family member write down something to **praise** God for.

⊙ Write down a Bible reference on the calendar. Have someone find and read the verse. Let another family member turn the Scripture into a prayer.

⊙ Write down a name of a leader (church, community, political), and have your family pray for the person.

⊙ Write down birthdays of relatives, friends, neighbors, church members, or missionaries. Pray for the people on their birthdays, and send a card saying, "I prayed for you today."

Don't forget to go back and circle or put stickers by any prayer requests God answered. At the end of the month, your family can easily see all the answered prayers.

—Nancy Sutton,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

For more ideas on how to help children pray using a calendar, go to: www.childrensprayernet.net. Under "Prayer Links," click on "Quiet Time Prayer Calendar."

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Prayer for Your Kids



Thank You, Jesus, that You always welcomed the children. We bring our children to You now. How we long for our kids to know You and love You with all their hearts, all their souls, and all their strength! Help us to live in such a way that they'll be drawn to Your banqueting table and taste and see that You are good. Guide us as we lead them in prayer and reveal Your love to them each day! Then give our kids hearts of **praise** and thanksgiving, so they can experience joy in Your presence even at an early age. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

*"I will praise you,
O LORD, with all my
heart; I will tell of
all your wonders."*

—Psalm 9:1

PRAYKIDS! TEACHER'S GUIDE! Are you ready for a leader's guide that makes it even easier and more fun to teach elementary-age children to pray? This REVISED and EXPANDED version of the 26 leader's guides comes handily bound in a single, easy-to-use volume. *PrayKids! Teacher's Guide: A Hands-on Guide for Developing Kids Who Pray* is currently available at www.praykids.com.

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