

PrayKids!

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

The Word On...

The Holy Spirit

As Jesus was about to leave earth, He promised that He would not leave His people alone. He said He would send the **Holy Spirit** to comfort and guide us. And here's something really interesting: Did you know that the **Holy Spirit** He sends to adults is the same **Holy Spirit** He sends to you? That's right! The Old Testament prophet Joel said that God would pour out His **Spirit** on *all people*, and that this would cause even the sons and daughters—the kids—to say prophecies! That's exactly what happened on the day of Pentecost (see Acts 2).

There is no "Junior **Holy Spirit**." You've got the real deal! And that means you can pray as powerfully as any adult! y

On the Right Channel

By Mell Winger

Do you have a walkie-talkie? They're really fun. I never had one, but my friend did. We played with it until my friend's mother got tired of buying new batteries. One day I think his mother accidentally lost the walkie-talkies, because I never saw them again.

Walkie-talkies work a little like prayer. They send radio waves from one walkie-talkie to another.

The radio waves can carry friends' voices back and forth over several

miles. With powerful batteries you can go on talking for 15 hours. That's long enough to make your throat sore! Walkie-talkies are a good picture of prayer. But prayer is better. It's not limited by distance. And it never runs out of batteries!

To work, walkie-talkies must be on the same channel. When you pray, that's what the **Holy Spirit** does. He helps you tune in to the right channel so you can communicate with God the Father (see Ephesians 2:18).

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God knew we'd need the **Holy Spirit's** help to stay on the right channel with Him. That's why Jesus said, "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the [b>Holy Spirit] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). You might forget your walkie-talkie. But you'll never forget to take the **Holy Spirit**. That's because once you've asked Jesus into your life, the **Holy Spirit** is with you forever (see John 14:16-17).

The other great news is that the **Holy Spirit** does more than just get you on the right channel with God. He also helps you stay there. If you don't

know how to pray, you can say, "**Holy Spirit**, help me pray God's will."

Praying God's will is very important.

It causes the Father to answer (see 1 John 5:14-15)! So when you pray about a problem, ask the **Holy Spirit** to show you Bible verses about it. The Bible says that, "The Spirit helps us . . . We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us" (Romans 8:26, New Century Version).

The **Holy Spirit** makes sure that you are never alone as you pray. He takes your prayers, and like walkie-talkie radio waves, He sees that God the Father hears them on the other end. He helps you stay on the right channel when God speaks back to you. Invite His help by asking "**Holy Spirit**, is there anything You especially want me to pray? Is there anything You want me to do to be a part of the answer to my prayers?" Then listen to what He says!

God is not far away. He's closer to you than anyone will ever be.

Stay Static-Free

Three things can cause "static" on your prayer channel.

Grieving the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30-32) Saying bad words and being ugly to others makes the **Holy Spirit** sad. When you grieve Him, it's like your walkie-talkie is out of range. You don't have close communication anymore.

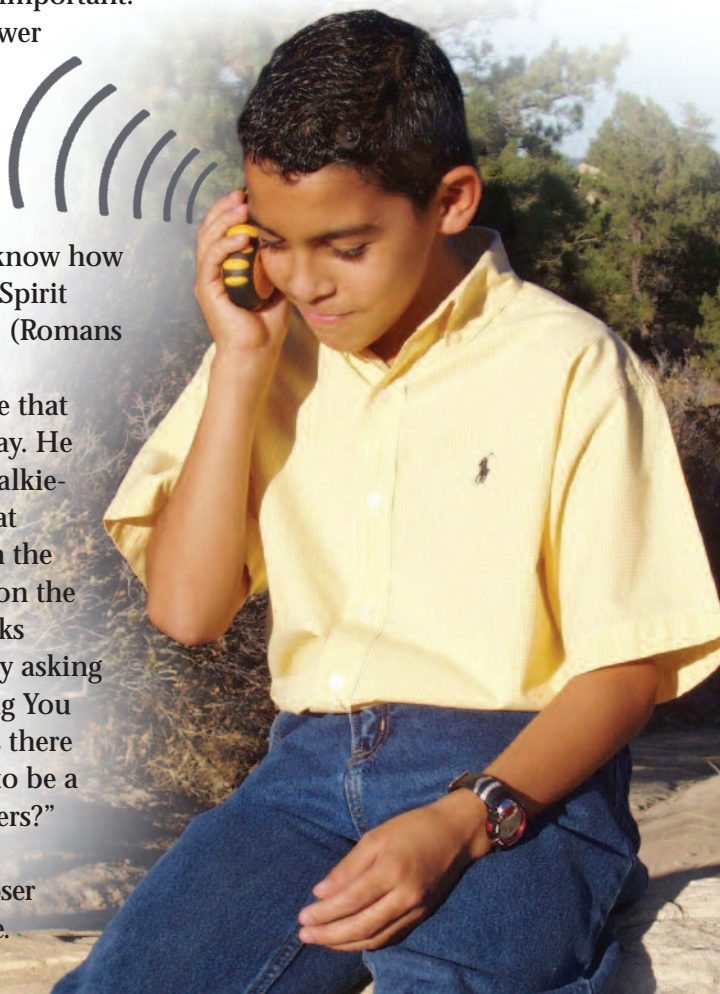
Quenching the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) Like a weak battery in your walkie-talkie, the **Holy Spirit's** power in your life can become weak. When you don't listen to the **Holy Spirit**, you "quench" Him. It's like turning the volume down low. You can't hear Him very well.

Resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51) Stubbornly doing what God says is wrong is like tuning in to the wrong channel on your walkie-talkie. Nothing comes in.

To fix static on your prayer channel, ask God to forgive you. The channel will come through loud and clear again. **Y**

So right now, ask the **Holy Spirit** to teach you to pray. He's the best Helper you could ever want. **Y**

Mell Winger is an author, a pastor, and the father of three children.



PrayKids!

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Mission Statement

The mission of PrayKids! is to teach, encourage, and equip children (ages 8-12) as they develop a deepening relationship with Christ through prayer, so that they might become more effective prayer warriors.

Hey Kids!

Josiah's story on the next page started out as a letter to PrayKids! Do you have a prayer story? We'd love to hear from you! Send it to:

PrayKids!

**P.O. Box 35004
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praykids@navpress.com**

While we cannot publish everything that is sent in, we will put some additional stories up on our website.
www.praykids.com

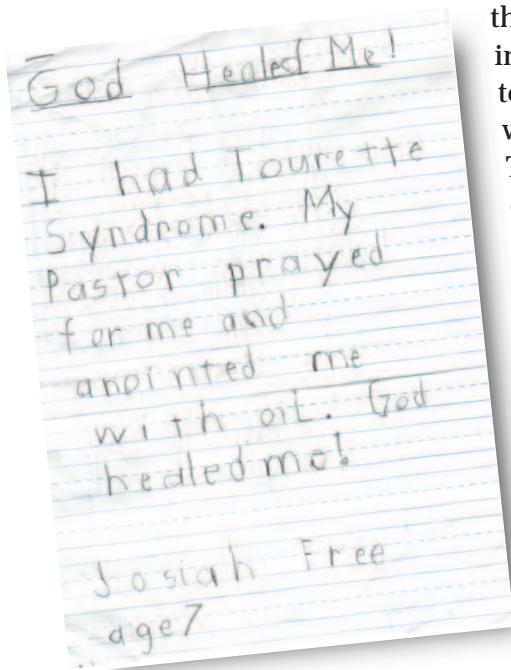


Healed!

Josiah is just like you. He has big dreams for the future. At age seven, Josiah dreams of becoming an astronaut and someday visiting Mars. He likes building things with Legos.

When Josiah was six, he came down with a nervous system condition called "Tourette's Syndrome." The condition caused him to have "tics." Tics are sudden body movements and unusual sounds that a person can't control.

We started praying for Josiah right away. We prayed every day. At first, it seemed like God wasn't listening, because Josiah's tics kept getting worse. But we never stopped praying. We kept asking God to heal him.



One day, we found some verses in the Bible (James 5:14-15) about healing. It seemed that God was speaking to us through those verses. Here's what it said: "Are any of you sick? Then send for the elders of the church to pray over you. Ask them to anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer offered by those who have faith will make you well. The Lord will heal you" (New International Reader's Version).

We believed what the Bible said, and we called our pastor. We asked if we could bring Josiah to the church to be prayed for and anointed (have a drop of oil put on his forehead). When we got to the church, Pastor Dave took us

into the sanctuary. He asked Josiah if he believed that Jesus could heal him. Josiah said, "Yes." Then we all put our hands on Josiah and Pastor Dave anointed him and began to pray. We could tell right away that the **Holy Spirit's** power was at work in Josiah's body because he suddenly became very still, almost as if he had fallen asleep. And when the prayer was over, the Tourette's was gone!

God healed Josiah! And God can heal you too!! y

Josiah lives in Richmond, Indiana. This article was written by Angela Free (Josiah's mom) and Pastor David Anderson of Fountain City Wesleyan Church.

Pray for the Holy Spirit

When we ask Jesus into our hearts something huge happens! God the **Holy Spirit** actually comes to live inside of us!

But do you know that we can experience even more of the **Holy Spirit**? The more we pray and seek to know Jesus, the more His **Holy Spirit** fills us.

In Luke 11:13 Jesus invites us to ask for the **Holy Spirit**. And Ephesians 5:18 commands Christians to "be filled with the **Holy Spirit**." The verse actually means to **keep being filled with the Holy Spirit**, not just once but many times!

Would you like to experience more of the **Holy Spirit**? Let this Scripture prayer help you:

"Jesus, one time Your disciples prayed for help to boldly tell others about You. You answered by filling them with the **Holy Spirit**! I know Your **Holy Spirit** lives in me, but would you please fill me up with Him? You said You would give the **Holy Spirit** to those who ask. I'm asking. Thank You for filling me" (Acts 4:31; Luke 11:13). y

Knock, Knock...

A Fictional Story Based on
Luke 11:5-13

By Sandra Higley

Tara knelt beside her bed. How she wished God would answer. She had been asking Him for something very important—something her family really needed. Papa had been sick and unable

to work. Her family would lose their farmland if they didn't repay the debt they owed. How simple things would be if the sky would just open up and coins would fall from heaven!

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Tara blew out the candle and slipped into bed. She closed her eyes. Her chore list today had been a long one. She was so tired.

Just as she was drifting off to sleep, there was loud pounding on her window. Tara jumped out of bed and threw the shutters open. It was Mary, the neighbor girl.

"Mary, what are you doing?" Tara said, trying not to sound as angry as she felt. "It's late! Everyone is asleep!"

"I'm sorry, Tara," Mary answered. "It can't be helped! My uncle and his family showed up unexpectedly. They traveled two days to get here. Mother sent me to borrow some bread so we can feed them."

"Mary, our door has already been bolted for the night. I can't get up and give you anything now."



Maybe in the morning . . . come back then."

"Tara, we can't wait until morning! The children are so hungry—they need some bread right away." Mary's words were urgent.

Tara sighed. The thought of going to the kitchen and making up a bundle of bread for her neighbor was not appealing right now. True, Mary was a good friend, but it was so dark and cold! And Tara was so tired.

"Tara! Tara!" Mary continued to pound. Tara rubbed her sleepy eyes. She knew her friend would not give up until she got what she came for.

"Meet me at the kitchen door. I'll get some bread," Tara whispered.

Tara had just opened the breadbox when Papa appeared. As Tara explained what Mary was asking, Papa began to get out other things too. A jar of jam, cheese, grapes, and a roasted chicken soon became part of the package. Tara smiled when she saw Papa's generosity when they had so little. Mary gratefully received the food and scurried back to her house to share it with her relatives.

As Tara sank back into her warm bed, she began to understand. Mary had been willing to come and ask again and again for what she needed. She kept asking and knocking until her request was granted.

...He's There!

One time, Jesus' disciples asked Him how to pray. Jesus told them a similar story about a friend's late-night visit. He told them that if they prayed—if they kept on asking, seeking and knocking—they would get the gift of the **Holy Spirit**. He would come!

God will send the **Holy Spirit** to you, too, when you ask. So what might happen when He responds?

Sometimes the **Holy Spirit** will give you God's heart for people you've never met. You might even start to cry for them (that's called "travail"). He might give you a mental picture of a need in the world. Or He might give you a song to sing as a prayer, or words to pray that you've never heard before.

But whatever He does, it will always be good. His gifts are much more than we can ask for! ★

And when Papa heard of the need, he gave Mary not only what she asked for, but much more.

Tara slipped to her knees again. "Heavenly Father, I'm not going to stop asking You for what *my* family needs. You are the best Father ever, and You know how to give good gifts to Your children! I'll keep asking, seeking, and knocking because I know You want me to!"

As Tara continued to pray, the presence of God the **Holy Spirit** filled her room. She knew the answer to her prayer was on the way. God would take care of them as He promised! ★

Sandra Higley is assistant editor of *Pray!*





Let's Pray for the Entertainment World



Do your parents ever say you can't watch certain TV programs? Do they say "no" to some video games and CDs? Do they tell you which movies you can't go to? Do you ever wonder why?

Your parents probably are trying to protect you. Lots of entertainment these days is bad for us. It makes sin look *fun*. And it makes it look *normal*. But violence, greed, disrespect, bad language, and bad choices are still sin. Psalm 101:2-3 says, "I will live an innocent life in my house. I will not look at anything wicked" (New Century Version). God hates sin. Sin destroys lives.

Take violence, for example. The average child between the ages of two and 11 watches 27 hours of TV a week. Did you know that the more hours of TV kids watch, the more they argue with parents and fight with friends? That's because there's a lot of



violence on TV—and watching violence makes people more violent. It also causes fear. And it makes people less concerned about how others feel.

The people who produce our entertainment don't make bad stuff because they want to hurt us. They do it because it makes them famous. They also do it because it makes them rich. Entertainment is big business. (Just think how much money people spend each year on movies, cable television, books, magazines, toys, music, and video games!) But most of all, people produce bad products because they do not know Jesus.

Entertainment has great power to affect people for good or for evil. That's why we need to pray for the people who produce our entertainment. Pray for the writers, producers, actors, and musicians who don't know Jesus. And don't forget to pray for the ones who *do* know Jesus. They have an important role in producing wholesome entertainment. Pray they will use their talents for God. ★

SIX

COVER THE GLOBE

How to Pray for the Entertainment World

1. Father, give wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to entertainment decision makers. Help them to avoid advice from wicked people (Proverbs 2:6; Psalm 1:1).

2. God, help entertainment leaders know the power that words and pictures have for good or evil. Remind them that one day You will ask the reason for their choices (Proverbs 18:21; Matthew 12:36).

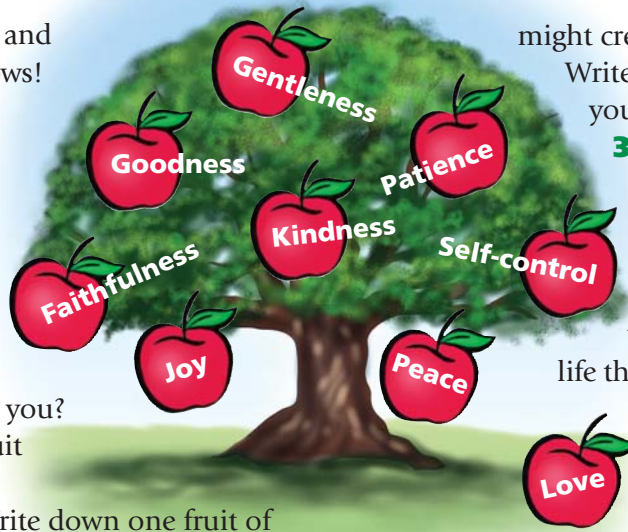
3. Give the media eyes to see children as You see them, Father. Give them a tender heart that wants to protect the innocence of children (Mark 9:42).

4. Lord, guide producers to create entertainment that shows Your truth. Lead them toward things that are good, worthy of praise, true, honorable, right, pure, beautiful, and excellent (Philippians 4:8).

5. God, open the eyes of Christians so they will turn from godless and sinful pleasures in entertainment. Protect them from the lies that Satan has hidden in music, TV, movies, and electronic games. Help them to be self-controlled and devoted to You as they make entertainment choices (Acts 26:18; Titus 2:11-12).

Be a Fruit Inspector

When the **Holy Spirit** is alive and active in your life, it really shows! You know how a tree that has strong roots, good soil, and enough water will bear fruit? Well, the Bible says that your life will bear certain fruits, or good qualities, when you are well connected to the **Holy Spirit**.



might create a better environment for it. Write down any ideas God brings to your mind.

3. Each day, ask the **Holy Spirit** to help you display that fruit with family, friends, coaches, teachers, and others this week. Each night, write down how the **Holy Spirit** showed in your life that day and thank Him. (If no fruits "showed up," write it down and ask God to show you how to be more in touch with the Spirit the next day.)

Are those fruits showing in you? Here's a way to conduct a "fruit inspection" on yourself!

- 1.** Read Galatians 5:22-23. Write down one fruit of the Spirit on a piece of paper.
- 2.** Read Psalm 139:23-24 as a prayer. Ask God to show you if the fruit you wrote down is visible to others. If it is, write down where and how. If it's not, ask God to grow that fruit in you. Ask Him how you

- 4.** Each week, focus on a new fruit of the Spirit.
- 5.** By week nine, you'll become a full-time fruit inspector who is connected to the **Holy Spirit** and bearing lots of fruit. Keep looking and asking for more! ★

What Are You Like, Holy Spirit?

In the Bible, there are lots of symbols to help us understand who the **Holy Spirit** is. Each one shows us a different thing He wants to do for us. Here's how to make a mobile for your room that will remind you to invite Him to do these things in your life each day.

Find a coat hanger and five pieces of yarn or cord cut to various lengths. Look up the Scriptures below. Write the missing word in each blank. Now use your imagination to create something to hang from your mobile that will remind you of how the **Holy Spirit** wants to be each of these things in your life. (Examples: for water, you might use silver tinsel; for a dove, you could use white feathers or a folded white paper bird (like).

Each day, ask God which thing you especially need from the **Holy Spirit**. Then ask Him to give it to you!

Matthew 3:16: The **Holy Spirit** is peaceful like a 1. _____.

John 7:38-39: The **Holy Spirit** is refreshing like 2. _____.

Acts 2:1-4: The **Holy Spirit** is powerful like a mighty 3. _____ and purifying like 4. _____.

1 Samuel 16:13: The **Holy Spirit** anoints (chooses and enables) us to serve God. Anointing is represented with 5. _____.

Down to Earth: Lessons on the Holy Spirit

Nicodemus, an important Jewish leader, couldn't quite get a handle on what Jesus was saying about the **Holy Spirit**. Under the cover of darkness, he questioned the Teacher. Jesus helped him understand by sharing an illustration about the wind. Jesus frequently used everyday examples to bring spiritual concepts down to earth.

Object lessons are one way to help your family—adults included—better understand the **Holy Spirit's** role in prayer. Try these with your children:

Fire & Ice

For this experiment you will need:

- An ice cube
- Matches and a candle, or a fireplace log lighter

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Symbols are used in Scripture to represent the **Holy Spirit**. One is fire. Place an ice cube on a flat glass or ceramic surface. Have your children touch and describe it. Some of their responses might include: cold, hard, etc. Have them blow on it to see that it is immovable. Explain that the ice cube represents our hearts. Now apply flame (representing the **Holy Spirit**) to the ice and let them observe what happens (the ice begins to melt, etc.). As a puddle begins to appear beneath the ice, explain that another symbol of the **Holy Spirit** is wind. Have each child take a turn blowing on the ice cube, which will now move in the puddle. Explain how the **Holy Spirit** makes our hard hearts melt, moving and guiding us as we pray.

Bird Watching

Take your children on a bird-watching excursion. Bring binoculars, a notebook and pencil. Another symbol of the **Holy Spirit** is the dove. Help your children make observations about birds. Talk about how they're like the **Holy Spirit's** influence on us as we pray (examples might be that He is gentle, He can come and go quickly, He may perch for a long while, He could surprise you, etc.).

Clay & Play

For this illustration you will need:

- One batch of cornstarch solution and one batch of play clay*
- Two baking pans (at least one with an edge around the outside)

Pour the cornstarch solution onto the baking pan with an edge and use the other pan for the play clay. Let your children manipulate both media. Help them make observations and answer the following questions:

Q. What does it feel like to work with the cornstarch solution?

A. Possible answers: slippery, can't get hold of it, at first it's there and then it's not, etc.

Q. What does it feel like to work with the play clay?

A. Possible answers: molds into any shape you want, gets hard or brittle if you don't keep working with it, etc.

Q. Which medium reminds you more of the **Holy Spirit**? Which reminds you more of yourself?

A. Cornstarch—**Holy Spirit**; play clay—ourselves.

Q. Why?

A. Answers will vary.

*For **cornstarch solution**, mix 1 cup of cornstarch with 2/3 cup water.

For **play clay**, wear rubber gloves and mix together 4 cups flour, 4 tsp. alum, 4 tbsp. salt, 4 tsp. oil, 2 cups very hot water, and food coloring (optional). ★

By Danielle Schofield, who is a mother of five from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

AKA (Also Known As . . .)

Did you know that the **Holy Spirit** has different names?

Some Bible translations call Him the Holy *Ghost*. But not like a ghost in scary movies. Quite the opposite! Actually, the words "ghost" and "spirit" mean the same thing. So whether we call Him the Holy Ghost or **Holy Spirit**, we mean He doesn't have a body like we do. He can be anywhere, anytime, like the wind can.

Other names for the **Holy Spirit** describe what He does:

- Need good counsel or advice? Ask the "Counselor" (John 14:16).
- Sad, scared, or discouraged? Call out to the "Comforter" (John 14:16, King James Version).
- Don't know what's really true? Ask the "Spirit of Truth" (John 14:17).
- Tempted? Feeling weak? Is it hard to obey? Pray to the "Helper" (John 15:26, New Century Version). ★

FREE

LEADER'S GUIDE for Teachers and Parents

Did you know we have a **free** leader's guide with extra activities, questions, and prayer points to go along with each article in *PrayKids!*? Go to www.praykids.com and select "Parents and Teachers." Then select which issue you want and just click on the article title. Download what you need so you can use *PrayKids!* with a group of kids.

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