

# PrayKids!

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

## Born to Fight

By Sandra Higley

### The Word on...

## Spiritual Warfare

“Spiritual warfare” describes the battle all Christians are involved in. That’s right! If you have asked Jesus into your heart, you are automatically in the battle between good and evil. The best weapon to use in this war is prayer.

The **spiritual war** takes place in a world we can’t see with our eyes. We usually don’t see God or His angels, but we know they are there. We usually can’t see Satan and his demons, but they are just as real. Don’t be afraid! God will win—and He will help you be a strong and good warrior. ★



ILLUSTRATION BY CINDY REVELL

You are standing in the middle of a battlefield. The enemy is all around—but you aren’t afraid. You make sure your shield and sword are ready. Suddenly, an enemy soldier runs at you with all his strength. You leap at him with your sword and he disappears in a puff of smoke. Another attacker tries to pull

you off balance. You dig in with the heels of your boots and stand strong. One by one, they come at you—but you strike them down. The rest turn and run. They can’t stand up to your weapons and your courage.

Is this a cartoon or video game? A movie? No, this is real! The Bible tells us we are fighting a war against evil. Many Christians don’t even realize that a battle is going on. We can’t always see the enemy, but the battle is real just the same. And if we belong to Jesus, we can defeat the enemy.

Who is this enemy? He has many  
*continued on page 2*

# Give the Enemy a Black Eye

God created you to be a warrior, and He's given you all the weapons you need to WIN! Here are some of the weapons the Bible talks about:

- **God's Word** (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12). Quote a Bible verse and watch Satan scam!
- **Prayer** (Ephesians 6:18). You win when you pray God's Word!
- **Praise** (Psalm 8:2). Hush Satan up with your praises to God!
- **Jesus' blood** (Revelation 12:10-11). Overcome the devil by telling him that you love and belong to Jesus—and are protected by Jesus because He died for you on the cross!

*continued from page 1*

names: Satan, the devil, the serpent, and Lucifer are a few.

Lucifer was once one of the highest angels, but he got jealous of God. He rebelled and was kicked out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). Now there is **war** between the kingdom of Light (God's army) and the kingdom of Darkness (Satan and the angels—sometimes called demons or evil spirits—that followed him).

The enemy is really tricky. He'll try to get us to think, feel, say, or do things like people who don't love Jesus. He'll lie, steal, or destroy to get us to turn our hearts away from God.

Why would the enemy be interested in YOU? Well, you were made in God's image. That makes the devil so mad, because every time he looks at you it reminds him of God. He'd like to turn you into someone who doesn't remind him so much of God.

Want to hear the good news? Even before God made the world, He planned out exactly what you would be like—and what you would do as a soldier in His kingdom. You are special! You were born for this!

So remember: **Spiritual warfare** is real, and the weapons are real. And God has given you everything you need to be one of the most amazing warriors the kingdom of Light has ever seen. Go for it! ★

Sandra Higley is a grandma who loves teaching her grandkids how to pray. She is also the director of member relations for the Church Leaders Prayer Network.



## 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  
the PrayKids!  
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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!



# Enemy, Get Lost

By Allyson Miller

**E**ven though I have a mom and dad—and many other people—who love me a lot, I used to struggle with feelings of being unloved and alone.

Sometimes I would have the same dreams over and over again for a long time. These dreams made me feel afraid, sad, and very alone. When I woke up, I cried and felt scared and lonely. I felt like nobody loved me, not even my parents.

At school, sometimes the other girls would have clubs and they wouldn't include me. Or they would let me in for awhile and then vote me out. I felt like I didn't have any friends.

When I get those kinds of feelings and they don't go away, I know I am in a fight—but not with people. I have to fight the enemy, who is a spirit. When fear and loneliness attack me, I can put on the armor of God and fight.

I ask Jesus to help me. The Bible says, "God didn't give us a spirit that makes us weak and fearful. He gave us a spirit that gives us power and love. It helps us control ourselves" (2 Timothy 1:7, New International Reader's Version). I know I can ask Him for His power and love, because He promised it. Jesus takes away my fear and my feelings of being unloved, and He always makes me stronger. He reminds me of how much He loves me.

Then I tell the enemy to go away, in Jesus' name. The enemy has no right to keep bothering me if Jesus is on my side. I ask Jesus to take away the alone feeling in me. Then I tell the enemy to stop trying to make me feel fearful, sad, or alone. I know my mom and dad love me. I know I have friends. I don't have to believe the lie of the enemy that nobody cares about me. The enemy has to listen to me because Jesus gives me the right to tell him to go away. I don't have to feel sad, alone, or scared anymore.

Sometimes I still have bad thoughts and dreams, but I know what to do. I pray—right out loud! The enemy has to listen to Jesus, and Jesus lives in me! So when you are scared or lonely, you can just do what I did. Ask your mom and dad to pray with you. Jesus will answer your prayer, and you won't feel so scared and alone. ★



By Allyson Miller, age 10

## Raise Your SWORD!

Some people get kind of scared when they think about fighting Satan. But guess what? God created you to be a warrior, and He's given you weapons to help you fight and win! His Word, also called the "Sword of the Spirit," is one of them. When you take God's Word and turn it into a prayer, you are using that powerful weapon against the devil and his army of darkness. It tells Satan that you know he's already been beaten because of Jesus.

You can use the Sword of the Spirit for your family, school, yourself, or even for people around the world. Satan hates it when you pray God's Word!

Here is a prayer from Isaiah 54:17 that you can use to wage war against the enemy:

"Lord, You've promised that no weapon Satan tries to use against me can win. So when he tries to trick me or make me feel bad, help me remember that You can prove false anything he says. Thank You for protecting me like this because I'm Your servant. I'm so glad that You've chosen to save me and use me in the battle!"

Now try it yourself. Use these Bible passages to create your own **spiritual warfare** prayers: Psalm 8:2; Matthew 16:23; 2 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Peter 5:7-9. ★



# Showdown at t

A fictional story based on Acts 16:13-18

"Now, be back before lunch, Hannah," Mama said, as she tucked my towel tightly under my arm.

"I will," I replied. I was eager to get down to the river to swim.

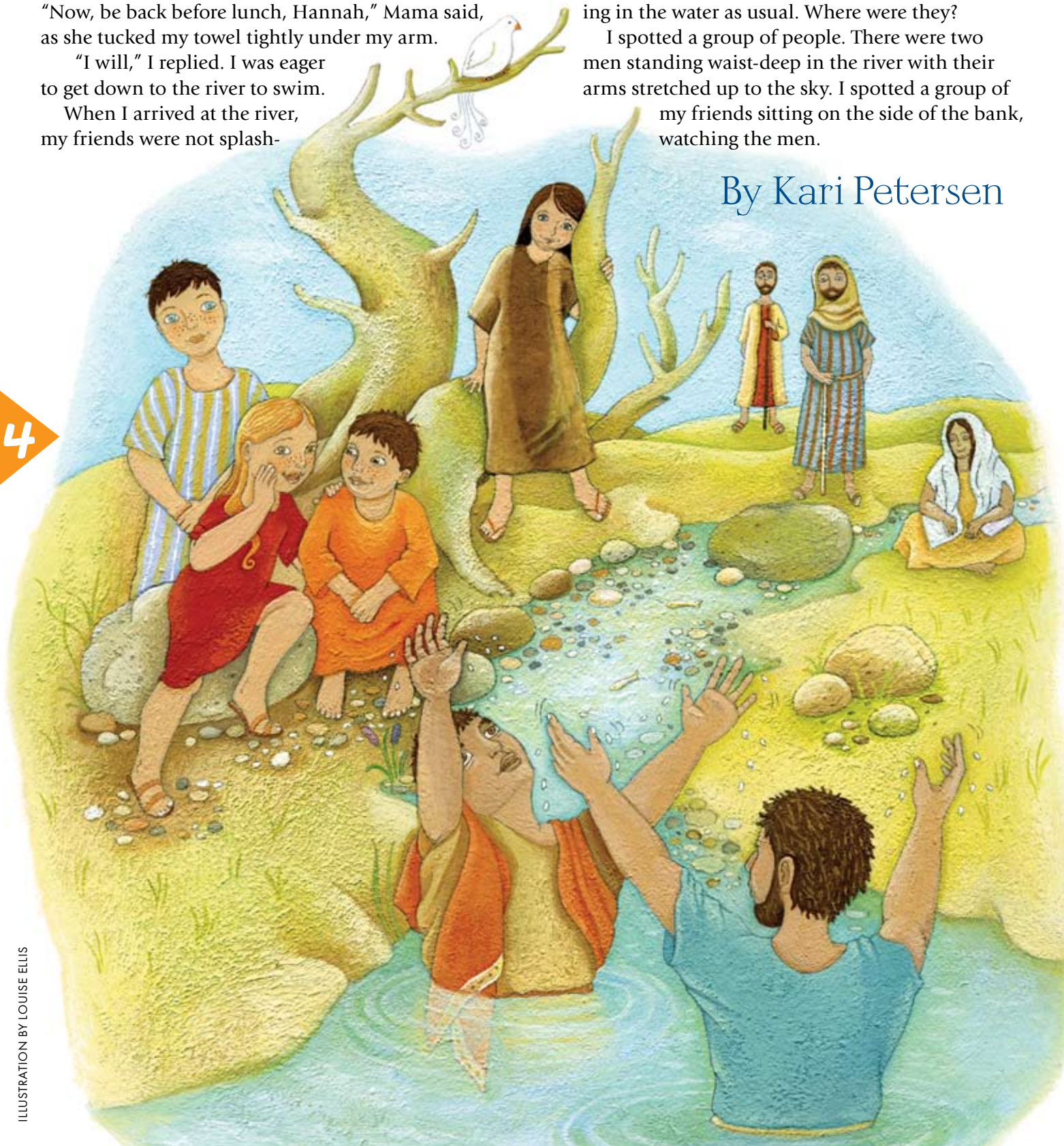
When I arrived at the river, my friends were not splash-

ing in the water as usual. Where were they?

I spotted a group of people. There were two men standing waist-deep in the river with their arms stretched up to the sky. I spotted a group of my friends sitting on the side of the bank, watching the men.

By Kari Petersen

4





# The River

"What are they doing?" I whispered to my friend Matthew as I came up beside the group.

"That's Paul. He's here in Philippi baptizing families in the name of someone named Jesus. People are coming from all over to see him. Watch!" Matthew did not take his eyes off the men in the river.

I knew who Jesus was. And I knew who Paul was, too. My mother had told me about Paul's teaching. We all sat now and watched Paul baptize entire families. The words he was saying had a lot of strength and power. I wanted to hear more.

When I got home, Mama said she would take me to the river the next day so she could explain to me what was happening. But the next afternoon, on our way to the river, we came upon a strange sight.

Cassandra, a girl about my age, was running after Paul and his friends. She was shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God who are telling you the way to be saved."

"Who is Cassandra yelling at, Mama?" I asked. "What is she talking about?" Mama looked just as puzzled as I felt.

We watched a little longer as Cassandra went after Paul. People in their houses and along the road stopped and watched, too. No one spoke a word. Cassandra was a slave girl who belonged to some people who lived in the city. Mama told me that Cassandra's owners made her talk to evil spirits and tell people's fortunes in exchange for money. We had prayed for Cassandra once when we passed her on our way to the city gate. She had been on her knees, just inside the entrance of her tent, swaying back and forth and speaking in words we could not understand. Mama prayed that the evil spirits would not torment her. We prayed that the fortune-telling spirit would leave her.

"Why is she shouting at Paul, Mama? Why is he not stopping to talk to her?" I asked again.

"What she is saying is true," Mama explained. "But the devil is trying to use her to stop Paul from teaching people about Jesus. He wants people to think that Paul is connected to Cassandra and her fortune telling. He wants people to think Paul is evil so they won't believe what he says about Jesus.

Cassandra was getting louder and louder and mov-

ing closer and closer to Paul. Paul finally stopped in his tracks. I took a breath and held it, not sure what would happen next.

Paul lifted his face toward the sky. "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name," he said. "I have all authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy! I will not allow the enemy to torment this girl another day!"

At that moment, Paul spun around to face Cassandra. "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" As soon as he shouted the words, Cassandra fell to the ground, and the evil spirit left her.

We never saw Cassandra near the city gates again. In fact, the only place we ever saw her was standing on the riverbank, telling the story of how the power of Jesus set her free. ★

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Kari Petersen lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and their two sons.

## Don't Fall for Lies!

One of the ways Satan tries to get a foothold in our lives is by getting us to think wrong thoughts. The Bible says that sin doesn't start with an action—it starts with a thought or desire (James 1:14). The enemy knows that if he can get us thinking the wrong way, he can gain a hold on our actions (see Ephesians 4:26-27).

A wrong thought is any thought, idea, or feeling that goes against God's truth. Look at each of the following examples. Then look up the Bible verses and see what the truth is. Jesus said that when we know the truth, it will set us free (John. 8:32)!

Fear—2 Timothy 1:7

Rejection—Isaiah 41:9-10, 1 John 3:1

Inferiority—1 Timothy 4:12

Rebellion, disobedience—1 Peter 2:13,18; Ephesians 6:1

Anger—James 1:19-20

Envy, jealousy—1 Timothy 6:6

Bitterness—Ephesians 4:31-32

Selfishness—Philippians 2:3-4



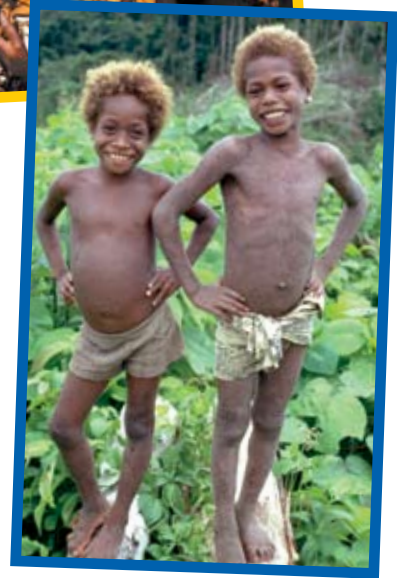


# Let's Pray for Animists

People in many parts of the world believe that spirits exist in trees, rocks, mountains, rivers, and animals. These people are called animists.

Animists worship evil spirits because they fear that something bad might happen to them and their family members if the spirits get mad. They believe evil spirits could bring sickness, death, a terrible accident, or a natural disaster such as an earthquake, tidal wave, or famine. They make sacrifices (kill an animal) to the evil spirits to try to make the spirits happy with them. This is one of Satan's favorite tricks: He loves to make people worship him by keeping them in fear.

Animists put charms on the wrists, ankles, waists, or necks of babies when they are born to try to protect them from evil and sickness. They also put *fetishes* (strands of goat hair, bones, feathers, or other small objects) over their doors or in rocks or trees to try to get magical power from them.



SIX

## LOVER THE GLOBE

### How You Can Pray for Animists:

1. Pray that animists will seek to know the Creator-God. The Bible says people everywhere can know God through His creation (Romans 1:20).
2. Pray that people will be willing to go as missionaries to the places where animists live so animists will have a chance to hear about Jesus (Romans 10:14-15).
3. Pray that Satan will be unable to blind the spiritual eyes of animists, so they can be set free from what's keeping them in darkness (Isaiah 42:7; 2 Corinthians 4:4).
4. Pray that animists will realize that there is only one sacrifice that can really save them and take away their

- sins—Jesus (Hebrews 7:27).
5. Pray that animists will come to know Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life and be freed from fear and Satan's hold on them (John 8:32, 14:6).
6. Pray that animists will see miracles and healings performed in Jesus' name, causing them to believe in Him (Psalm 77:14).

"T.H.U.M.B." cards are a great *PrayKids!* resource to help you pray for people around the world. "T.H.U.M.B." stands for Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious, Muslim, and Buddhist. Call (800) 366-7788 or (719) 548-9222, and ask for Item #22 (\$3 per set). The Tribal card shows more ways to pray for animists.

If you looked in an animist's home, you would probably find some of the idols they worship. Some

animists also worship their ancestors (family members who have died), hoping that these spirits from the dead won't make bad things happen to the living.

When animists become Christians, they usually destroy their idols, fetishes, and charms as an act of **spiritual warfare**. Once they know Jesus, they realize that they no longer need these things because He protects them and saves them from their fears. ★

Margot Kennedy is the composer of *Kids on a Mission*, a missions musical. She and her husband, David, spent many years as missionaries in Africa.



# Putting on the Whole Armor of God



2.

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 to learn about the armor God has given you to protect yourself when you do **spiritual warfare**. Then fill in the blanks below with the piece of armor that fits each prayer. Pray these prayers as you get dressed each morning. As you put on each article of clothing, you can put on the armor of God at the same time!



6.



7.

1. "Lord, I don't want to lie today, so I put on my \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "Lord, I want to do what's right today, so I pray on my \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "Lord, I don't want any fights today, so on go my \_\_\_\_\_."
4. "Lord, I'm not sure what I believe right now. I'd better get on my \_\_\_\_\_."
5. "Lord, help me understand Your Word and use it wisely. I'll need the \_\_\_\_\_."
6. "Lord, to save me from doing this sin, I'm grabbing my \_\_\_\_\_."
7. "Lord, I always want to talk to You first before I do anything else. I wrap myself in \_\_\_\_\_." ★



5.



1.

—Danielle Schofield, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Answers: 1. belt of truth 2. breastplate of righteousness 3. shoes of peace 4. shield of faith 5. sword of truth 6. helmet of the Spirit 7. prayer



3.



4.

## Escape!



Hands On

Jesus said that we can escape from Satan's lies and tricks by knowing the truth (John 8:32) and praying with authority (Luke 10:19). Below are some of the specific ways God has given us for escape. Look up the Scripture passages and find the words in the puzzle. Then use them when the enemy tries to trap you with his lies.

**Luke 10:19** | authority, command, enemy

**John 8:32** | truth, freedom

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** | feelings, thoughts, weapons, lies, know

**Ephesians 3:18-19** | God, Jesus, love, people

**Ephesians 6:10-18** | battle, fight, Bible, Spirit, pray, friends ★

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# Clean Those Dark Corners

By Eddie Smith

Your family's home, as well as your lives, is an important reflection of the presence of Christ. Your possessions are a part of that.

In Joshua 7, a man named Achan hid forbidden things in his tent that dishonored God. His "stash" made God angry. Israel's enemy was strengthened, and Israel ended up losing what should have been an easy battle. Like Achan, many of us have things in our homes that give strength to the enemy.

As parents, we can practice powerful **spiritual warfare** simply by ridding our homes of things that dishonor the Lord. Some of us have inadvertently allowed our children to use violent games or video games that glorify the demonic. Although there is debate in Christian circles about popular products that glorify the occult, the Bible has much to say about occult practices—see Leviticus 20:27 and Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

It's your choice; but why allow



anything that even possibly opens a door to evil? When it comes to our children, we must take special care to teach them the truths of **spiritual warfare** without causing fear or provoking an unwise interest in spiritual darkness.

**How do we start cleaning house?** First, pray! Ask the Lord to reveal to you anything in your home that reflects the nature of the enemy or would attract him or make him feel at home. Walk through each room and look through each drawer, cabinet, and closet. Throw away materials and objects related to astrology, false religions, and secret societies. Also look for demonic jewelry, art, videos, music, furniture, or anything

that depicts extreme violence. Such things, which violate God's love, joy, and peace, should be removed from your home.

**What about our children's possessions?** Many children are quite sensitive to the Lord. They are capable of praying over their own possessions and deciding what honors Christ and what doesn't. Encourage your child to ask God to reveal anything that displeases Him. Pray with your child and support what God tells him or her, even if it means tossing out an expensive toy or video game.

**What if you're not sure about a particular item?** Shine the light of Philippians 4:8 on it: "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." ★

Eddie Smith is the director of the U.S. Prayer Center in Houston, Texas ([www.usprayercenter.org](http://www.usprayercenter.org)).

## MEMORY VERSE

*[Jesus said] "I have given you authority to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."*

—Luke 10:19

## Prayer for Your Child

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for this precious child who is truly a gift from You. May \_\_\_\_\_ desire to surround himself/herself with things that honor You. Open my child's eyes to see which things could hinder his/her walk with You. Help \_\_\_\_\_ to delight in getting rid of anything that invites Satan to gain a foothold in his/her life. Amen.

**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](http://www.praykids.com).

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