

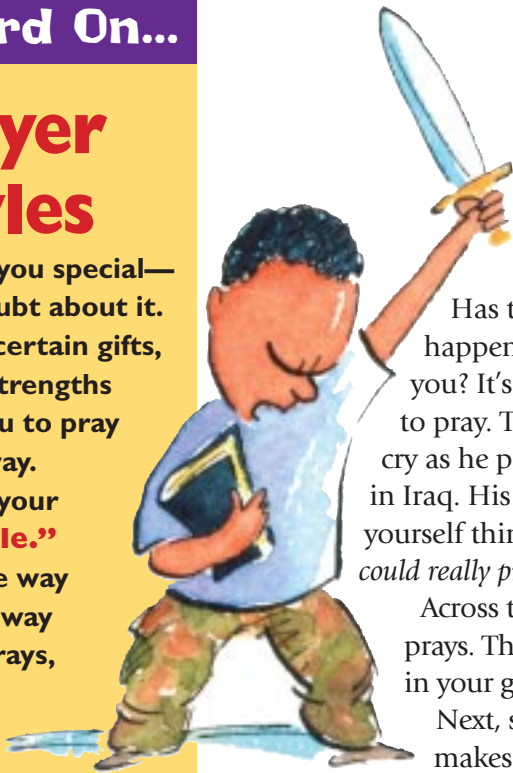
Pray Kids!

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

The Word On...

Prayer Styles

God created you special—there's no doubt about it. He gave you certain gifts, talents, and strengths that cause you to pray in a certain way. That's called your **"prayer style."** God takes the way you pray, the way your friend prays, the way your mom and dad pray, and the way everyone else prays and He uses them all to accomplish His purposes. Read what it says in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. It's like we are all different parts of the same body. We all have important prayer jobs to do. "There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us" (1 Corinthians 12:6, NLT)! ★



Has this ever happened to you? It's time to pray. The kid next to you starts to cry as he prays for the hurting children in Iraq. His cries get louder and louder. It starts to bug you! You find yourself thinking, *If the teacher would just let me organize this group, we could really pray the way we are supposed to!*

Across the room, a friend of yours gets louder and louder as she prays. Then she fiercely tells the devil to leave in Jesus' name. Others in your group flash looks that say, "Wow, she really needs to chill!"

Next, somebody starts to pray from a list of prayer requests. It makes you squirm because it's really *a long list!* Then comes the kid whose prayers sound so perfect that nobody else feels like praying when he's done.

What's up with all this? Who is doing it the "right" way? Are we all supposed to cry? Should we all be shouting at the devil? Or should we just pray through a list and move on to something else? They can't all be right . . . or can they?

Good news! There isn't just one "right way" to pray! We all have different **prayer styles**. That's because God gives each of us different kinds of gifts. 1 Corinthians 12 says that some of us have gifts such as mercy or teaching. We each have our own personality and interests as well. When you put those things together, it makes us pray in a different way from the person next to us.

continued on page 2

Praying Style

By Alice Smith



Different Strokes for Different Folks

Crisis Intercessors . . . are always “on call” to pray for emergencies of any kind.

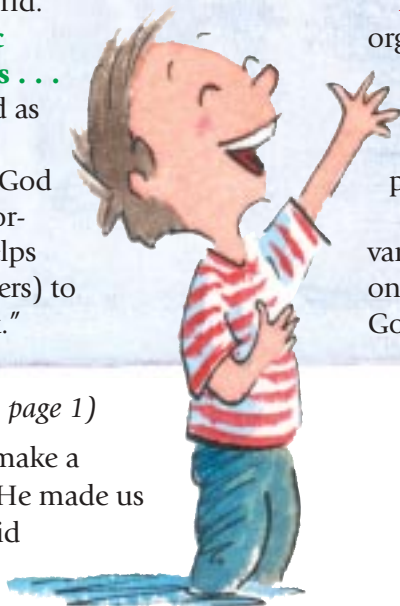
Issues Intercessors . . . get upset by the news. They may not be able to do much physically about disasters, scandals, or government decisions, but they pray!

List Intercessors . . . love to pray from a list. Missionaries, sick people, unsaved friends, whatever. Ask them to pray for you, and they’ll add you to their list!

Mercy Intercessors . . . feel what other people are feeling. Sometimes they feel the heart of God. This helps them pray in a way that brings God’s mercy to situations.

Nations Intercessors . . . enjoy praying over a map. The way God moves in other cultures fascinates them. This motivates them to pray for countries around the world.

Prophetic Intercessors . . . listen to God as much as they speak to Him. God gives them information that helps them (and others) to pray “on-target.”



(continued from page 1)

God didn’t make a mistake when He made us different. He did it on purpose. Just as we need

all the parts of our physical body, we need all the different **prayer styles** in the body of Christ. If our body was made up of a bunch of hands, how could we smell or hear or talk? If all we had were eyes, how could we walk? We need each body part so things work like they are supposed to. We need all the different prayer styles to pray everything that is on God’s heart.

So put all the different **prayer styles** to work! Be glad for every one. That way, God will be blessed, the enemy will be defeated, and your group will pray powerful prayers! ★

Alice Smith is author of *Beyond the Veil* from which this article is adapted.

Evangelism Intercessors . . . care deeply about people who haven’t accepted Jesus. They pray and pray and pray until unsaved people give their hearts to Him.

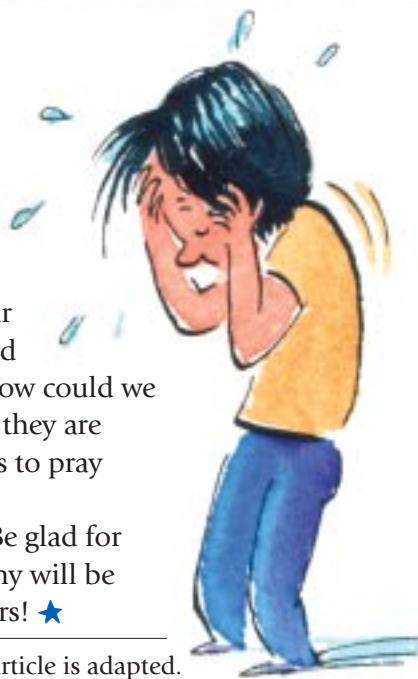
Special-Assignment Intercessors . . . are like spiritual “bodyguards.” They pray for individuals God puts on their hearts. It may be a president or a pastor. Or someone at school. It might even be someone they don’t know, like someone in the news.

Warfare Intercessors . . . understand that the devil is out to kill, steal, and destroy. They like to uncover his evil plans. Then, through prayer, they stop him in his tracks!

Worship Intercessors . . . bring God’s joy, comfort, and hope to situations when they sing their prayers instead of saying them.

Administrative Intercessors . . . organize others to pray. They inform others of prayer needs, set up prayer meetings, organize prayer chains, and so on. They work to help others pray more effectively.

Flexible Intercessors . . . engage in a variety of **prayer styles**. They move from one to another, depending on where God needs them at the moment.★



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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.

Encourage Your Kids

If your child has a story of an answered prayer, how his/her life was impacted by prayer, or how his/her class prayed and something special happened, please send it to:

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

Scary Story Stopper

This is a story about how I overcame my fear. Once when I had a friend over to my house she told me some really scary stories. That night I couldn't sleep. I was scared and nervous. For a few nights I didn't tell my parents. Then about a week later I couldn't handle it anymore so I told my mom. I told her what the stories were about and why they scared me. We prayed and then my mom read me some Bible verses on fear. I was able to fall asleep that night, but I kept being afraid to sleep alone.



By Angela Lange, 12 years old

After everything we had done I was still afraid, so my mom got out her Bible and read some verses about the armor of God. We prayed that I would put on the full armor of God and then we prayed that God would bind Satan and take away my fear. I stopped being afraid for about two months. Then one night I started thinking about the scary stories again and couldn't fall asleep. I went to my dad and he put all of my stuffed animals around me. It helped, but I still felt like I was alone. So we prayed that I would put on the armor of God again, and in the name of Jesus we told Satan to leave.

I don't have fears anymore, and that's because every night I pray that God would arm me with His armor and that He would take Satan away.

The armor of God verses are in Ephesians 6:10-18. Here are some other verses that my mom read to me that were a really good help:

"When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me" (Psalm 56:3-4).

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

God be with *you*. ★

GOD'S WORD FITS ALL

God's Word is so exciting! You can use it to pray God's heart no matter what your **prayer style** might be! Here's how:

Say you have a friend named David. You find out David's mom is very sick in the hospital. Here are some Scriptures that different **prayer styles** might pray for this situation:

Mercy pray-er: "Lord, send someone to comfort David who understands just exactly how he feels" (2 Corinthians 1:3,4).

Warfare pray-er: "Lord, send Your love to cast out any spirit of fear David might be feeling right now!" (1 John 4:18a).

Special assignment pray-er: "Lord, help me bear this burden with David in prayer. Give me strength to pray for him continually" (Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Now it's your turn! Say you're praying for hurting children. How would you make a prayer out of these verses if you were . . .

- an **evangelism pray-er** (2 Peter 3:9)?
- a **crisis pray-er** (Psalm 25:20)?
- a **nations pray-er** (Psalm 2:8)? ★

Who Am I?

The Bible is full of stories about people who prayed. But did you know that these great pray-ers used many different **prayer styles**? Can you figure out who the intercessor is in each of these stories? Which one are *you* most like?

By Cynthia Hyle Bezek

I'm a nations intercessor. God gave me a specific assignment to pray for the nation of Israel. He told me about Israel's problems and sins, and then He told me to be a watchman for Israel. He said that I would be able to save people's lives by praying for them and then warning them about what God says. My story is in Chapter 33 of the Bible book that comes between Lamentations and Daniel.

I'm a warfare intercessor. I helped my friend Paul start the church in Colosse, so of course I cared about those Colossian Christians! Imagine how upset I was when I heard that Satan was trying to get them to believe lies about Jesus! I was so mad! I started praying—but I didn't pray quietly, and I didn't sit still. I would stomp around and raise my voice and tell Satan to leave my friends alone. When Paul wrote about my kind of intercession, he called it "wrestling in prayer." You can read about me in Colossians 4:12.

I'm a crisis intercessor. One time God told me that He was about to destroy the city my nephew lived in. I immediately prayed to God for my relative and his family. I kept praying until God answered me, assuring me that He would rescue my nephew. My story is in Genesis 18.

Who Am I?

Who Am I?

I'm a mercy intercessor. When I hear about other people's pain, I want to cry. The only way I know to help hurting people is to pray for God to show mercy. When God was judging Judah for her sin, I cried and prayed, and prayed and cried. People gave me the nickname "The Weeping Prophet" because I cried so much. One of my prayers is recorded in the book of Lamentations. Lamentations means grief. A bunch more of my prayers show up in the book right before Lamentations.

Who Am I?

I'm an issues intercessor. When I hear about a problem, I can hardly eat or sleep until it gets better. I've found that the best way to make problems better is through prayer. One time I heard that Jerusalem was in trouble and disgrace. I'm an important servant to the king—but I still cried when I heard about Jerusalem. I fasted and prayed before God about Jerusalem for many days. Finally, God showed me the answer to this big problem. My story is in the 16th book of the Bible.



I'm an administrative intercessor. I like to organize people and requests in order to pray effectively. One time my people needed to make a dangerous journey. None of the religious leaders (called Levites) were around to organize things. So I gathered people together myself. I told everyone to fast and pray. I told them to ask God to protect us and provide for us during our trip. God answered our prayers! My story is found in Chapter 8 of the first book in the Old Testament that begins and ends in a vowel.

Who Am I?

I'm a worship intercessor. I am 84 years old. My husband died when I was a very young woman. I was lonely at first, but then I learned to worship God and to enjoy His company. I did not get married again. Instead, I have spent my entire life worshiping God. Everyone at the temple knows me because I spend my days and my nights there, fasting, worshiping, and praying. My story is in Luke 2:36-38.

Who Am I?



Let's Pray for Persecuted Christians

Talia lives in Colombia, South America. She is six years old.

Talia's father owned a small store where he sold snacks and other things. One day, some men came to his store and commanded him to pay them a "protection tax." "If you don't pay, we will make trouble for you," the men said.

Talia's father refused to pay. "We believe in Jesus Christ," he said to the men. "Our protection comes from the Lord, not from you."

Guerilla: In South America, guerilla soldiers are unofficial fighting groups that attack in small groups, usually unexpectedly.

The men were angry. They were guerilla soldiers who are trying to take over Colombia. Sometimes they kidnap boys and girls and take them to training camps to learn to be soldiers. They repeat "God does not exist"

over and over again in their camps.

The guerillas tore down the store. Then they forced Talia's family out of their home. Now Talia and her parents live in a refugee camp. Their new



Talia, age six, from South America

home is made of four long sticks and a sheet. Talia has nowhere to go to school.

Talia's father earns about \$1 a day selling oranges. Every night when his family goes to sleep in their small shelter, they do not know where their food for the next day will come from. Together they pray, "God, You are our provider," and they thank God for the next day's food that they haven't seen yet. Talia's father says, "God has provided a meal for us every day for the last six months."

Talia's father faced danger from people who don't want others to believe in God or follow Jesus. In spite of the risks, he stood up for his faith. Talia's family is like millions of Christians around the world who have

been persecuted, or punished, for believing in and following Jesus. Our prayers are very important to them! ★

—By The Voice of the Martyrs/LINK staff. The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) serves persecuted Christians around the world. VOM's free *LINK International* newsletter is for kids ages 5-

13. For more information, log on to www.linkingup.com or call (877) 337-0302.



PHOTOS BY VOICE OF THE MARTYRS

COVER THE GLOBE

Things You Can Pray for Persecuted Christians

1. God, give the people who persecute Christians eyes to see the courage of the Christians and ask, "What must we do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30; 1 Timothy 2:4).

2. Lord, please help suffering Christians to stand firm in hard times (1 Corinthians 16:13; Philippians 4:13).

3. Jesus, give Christians the strength to love, forgive, and pray for their enemies (Matthew 5:44; Luke 23:34).

4. Father, please meet the needs of persecuted families for food, clothing, shelter, and education (Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:11).

5. Thank You, Lord, for Christians who show us how to be courageous in difficult situations. Help us to remember them and their needs (Hebrews 13:3).



By Special Invitation

God invites each of us to pray in a special way using the gifts He gives us. What kind of **prayer style** has God invited you to? Do you have more than one? Take this quiz to help you find out!

There's going to be a party, and helpers are needed. Which of the following would you most like to do?

If you'd most like to . . .

You're **prayer style is probably a . . .**

- Make out the invitation list ➤ **list intercessor**
- Plan the games, food, and decorations ➤ **administrative intercessor**
- Keep your eyes and ears open to find out what's needed and the best way to make things work ➤ **prophetic intercessor**
- Make sure no one gets left out ➤ **mercy intercessor**
- Deal with any bullies or bad behavior at the party ➤ **warfare intercessor**
- Have someone give me a specific job to do ➤ **special-assignment intercessor**
- Provide the music ➤ **worship intercessor**
- Be "on call" to take care of anything that comes up unexpectedly ➤ **crisis intercessor**
- Do all of the above ➤ **flexible intercessor**

So what did you find out? It's okay if you had more than one answer. A person could be something like a "crisis-mercy-warfare intercessor," or some other combination! And you may find that your interests change as you get older. Just make sure you use your **prayer style**—whatever it is—for God's glory! ★

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Ready, Set, Go!

If you've figured out what kind of **prayer style** you have, it's time to get ready! Gather what you need to help you pray using your own personal **prayer style**.

Things you might find useful:

A list pray-er: notebook, pen, calendar, 3x5 cards to list your requests

A mercy pray-er: photos of the people you are praying for, a box of tissues (!)

A worship pray-er: tape or CD player with worship music, hymn book

A nations pray-er: a globe or maps, THUMB cards (www.praykids.com), *Operation World*, or *Window on the World*.

A crisis or issues pray-er: newspapers or magazines with current events

Be creative. Think of other things that might help you pray *your way*! ★



Wired for Prayer: Do You Know Your Child's Calling?

By Cynthia Hyle Bezek

Our nine-year-old was crestfallen after Sunday school one morning.

"What's wrong?" I asked.

"They wouldn't pray for my prayer request," he said.

"What do you mean?"

"I wanted to pray about the panda bears in China, but they said we should pray for personal things. Why couldn't we pray about the pandas, Mom?"

My heart sank. Ian's Sunday school teacher wasn't trying to be insensitive, she just didn't understand how God had wired our son. From early on, he has had genuine concern for what's going on in the world. When he learned that the pandas' habitat was being threatened, he was troubled.

God gave me a window into Ian's soul that day. "You know what, Ian?" I said, with new insight. "I think God is calling you to something very special. He has made you to notice things that other people might not notice or even understand. It is important to pray for the pandas in China, and for the people who need to make hard decisions about how to solve their country's problems. Why don't we pray for that right now?" And so we did.

From then on, whenever Ian would show concern over something he heard in the news, I would suggest we pray about it. God was calling Ian to be an issues intercessor, and I

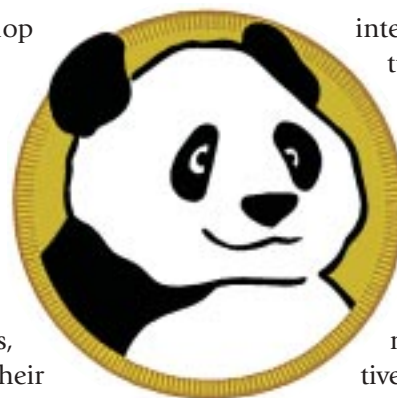
wanted to help develop his calling.

Are your kids comfortable praying in a group? Or do they hold back because they think other kids pray "better"? If your children are believers, they probably have their own **prayer styles**. In this issue we've tried to give children stories and activities to help them discover their **prayer style**. But as parents, we can help them by pointing out things they may not notice themselves. That way they can learn to enjoy the uniqueness of their **prayer style**. And they won't feel self-conscious around others who pray differently.

So where do we begin? First, ask God for insight. Then make observations: What does your child enjoy? What does he do well? What are her weaknesses?

For example, if your child is organized and loves routine and repetition, he may be a list intercessor. A journal for prayer requests and answers would be a great tool to encourage a young person with this prayer style.

Is your child sensitive? Does she cry easily? Does she try to comfort hurting people? Maybe she's a mercy



intercessor. Give her opportunities to pray for sick and hurting people.

Encourage her to visit and pray with people directly, not just from home.

Is your child bossy? Good news! He just might be an administrative intercessor. Give him

the opportunity to organize your family's prayer time. See if he can help at church to organize a day of prayer for kids or a prayer time for his Sunday school class.

Does your child love music? Encourage her by providing kid-friendly worship music. Help her to see that singing worship music can in itself be intercession. Challenge her to make up her own prayer songs, using Scripture or original words.

Does your child argue and fight? Perhaps God is calling him to be a warfare intercessor. Encourage him to channel his anger against the true enemy, Satan, rather than against people. It's okay to stomp his feet and raise his voice, as long as it's directed at the real bad guy!

Be aware that children may have more than one **prayer style**, and their prayer styles may shift over time. Just be sure at every stage to help your kids find a **prayer style** that works and is enjoyable for them. ★

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.

Back issues of *PrayKids!* are available in packs of 10 for \$6.99. Nineteen different topics/themes (with new ones released bimonthly) to teach groups of kids about prayer. To order, **go to www.praykids.com or call (800) 366-7788 or (719) 548-9222** and mention offer #6258.