



**Ways to
pray for the
next generation**



Friendship
Vallejo

The Church For The City

Commend God's works to the next generation

***"We will not hide these truths from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the Lord,
about his power and his mighty wonders."
-Psalm 78:4 (NLT)***

God calls all of us to tell the next generation who He is and what He's done. When we recount God's faithfulness, it affects everyone around us and all those to come after us.

God doesn't want the next generation to be a stubborn and rebellious generation, but to display a faithful spirit and a heart loyal to Him. Let's pray for boldness in our own lives, that we might set a standard our kids and their kids can build off of for generations to come.

What to Pray:

Consider what you have seen God do around you — in your family, your friends, and your school. Start today by celebrating and thanking God.

What have you seen that can only be explained by God?

Whose faith has impacted you? Do you have older relatives or mentors who set an example of what it looks like to recount God's faithfulness?

Next, take a few minutes to ask God to show you any spaces or places where you might hold back praise or hide truths about who He is.

Talk to God about what you want to pass down to the next generation of believers.

What do you want the kids and young adults who are coming after you to know about God and what he's done in your life, your church, your community?

What do you hope they will be praising God for in 20 to 30 years?

Sit quietly and picture a community of people who are obedient, faithful, and loyal to God's Word. What does that look like? What needs to happen for that to exist? Pray for those things.

Expect God to do far more than we could ever imagine

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

- Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

Our ceiling is the next generation’s floor. God wants to do far more than we could ask or imagine through our kids, students, and young adults. So let’s pray that way! Let’s pray for more healing, more freedom, and more connection than what we’ve experienced.

What to Pray

- Think about all you’ve seen God do in the church in your generation. Consider the following, and thank God for how you’ve seen him at work within you and around you.
- Where have you seen salvation?
- Where have you seen friends and family experience freedom or step into their purpose?
- What is true of your generation that wasn’t true of the one before you?
- Think about how powerful God is and allow yourself to sit in awe of Him for a moment. Tell God all the things that come to mind as you reflect on His power and strength.
- What do you want to see more of in the next generation? Ask God to do those things. If you’re not sure where to start, borrow some of Paul’s prayers for the churches he started:
 - Romans 10:1
 - Romans 15:5-6
 - Romans 15:13
 - Philippians 1:9-11
- Ask God to give you a picture of specific ways He wants to do more in the next generation.
- If God gives you a word or picture, write it down.
- Respond in whatever way feels natural to you — whether it’s praising God with a worship song, sitting in quiet reflection, or declaring with confidence, “Yes and amen!”

Pray for revival in families

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

-Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NIV)

Children will have many teachers in their lives, but parents are the first and most influential teachers their kids will have. God wants more for our families than we could ever hope for. Let's pray for connection, reconciliation, guidance, and revival in families in our church!

What to Pray

- Think about how you have seen God move in your family. Consider the following, and thank God for what he has done within your heart and your family:
- How has putting God first changed your life?
- How has reading the Bible affected your day-to-day?
- Are there spiritual conversations you're having as a family that you weren't having a few weeks, months, or years ago?
- Have you ever wrestled with the commandment to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength? Be honest with God about that. He wants to hear how you really feel.
- We don't have to be parents to pray for the families in our church. Not sure where to start? Here are a few things to pray for:
- Pray for parents who are separated or arguing to reconcile.
- Pray for parents to have the courage to teach their kids about Jesus' love.
- Pray for wisdom in navigating all kinds of family dynamics: raising kids alone, blending two families into one, raising foster kids, and bringing adopted children home.
- Pray for parents in all kinds of circumstances to see God's purpose and feel His strength.
- Pray for wisdom as parents try to raise children in a fallen world.
- Pray for spiritual revival that starts in homes.
- Ask God how you can teach and train the children in your biological family or in our church family. Take time to meditate on this. Is there an action you feel led to take?

Pray for passion for the Great Commission

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

God is raising up leaders in the next generation. Let's pray that young adults would have a deep passion for our Great Commission. Let's pray that they would have the courage to go out into the world, make disciples, and baptize in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Let's pray that young adults would have a passion to take care of the least of these and grow in their love for God and for their neighbors. And more specifically, let's pray that a passion for God's mission would be birthed in us.

What to Pray

- Pray for the next generation to respond to Jesus' call to go out and make disciples in their cities, their states, and around the world.
- Pray for Friendship's young adults to grow in character and their love for God and others.
- Ask God to equip them for all manner of difficulty and for those hard times to grow their endurance, character, and hope ([Romans 5:3-5](#)).
- Ask God to surround them with a community where they are known, challenged, and supported.
- Ask God to give them mentors who lead them, believe in them, and are excited to teach them.
- Do you know any young adults who already have a passion for missions?
- Pray for that passion to grow and for protection against anything that might stop them from pursuing God's call on their life.
- Pray that they would flee from sin.
- Pray that they would care for the least of these.
- Pray that they would not allow suffering to discourage them.

Our stories were meant to be shared

“Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, ‘He told me everything I ever did!’” - [John 4:39 \(NLT\)](#)

The Samaritan woman reminds us that one person’s faith can change a school and a town ([John 4](#)). She found something special when she met Jesus, and she shared it with everyone she knew.

That’s our prayer for students; that they would see what they have is special and share their stories. If a whole town could be saved as the result of one woman’s faith, what might God do in our schools with the testimonies of a few?

What to Pray

- Where were you when you first heard about Jesus? Start today by thanking God for the people who shared their faith with you.
- How awesome is it that Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well? Spend some time thanking Jesus for all the ways He meets you in your everyday.
- In verse 10, Jesus replies, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.” Sometimes, we don’t ask because we forget who we’re talking to. Let’s pray for the following as people who know the living water Jesus provides:
 - What do you want Jesus to give to our students as they are sharing their faith?
 - What do you want to see as a result of students sharing their faith?
 - What do you hope will happen in schools and communities as students share their faith?
- Like the Samaritans, at some point, you stopped believing based on what someone else said and came to know Jesus for yourself ([John 4:42](#)).
- Pray for the same to be true for students in our schools. Pray that they wouldn’t just take our word about who Jesus is, but they would know Jesus for themselves.

Before you go, take a few minutes to reflect on your own story.

When’s the last time you shared it with someone else?

How can you set the example in evangelism for the students coming behind you?

Pray for those teaching and leading the next generation

“And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.”

Ephesians 6:19 (NLT)

If you’ve been to any sporting event at any high school or college, you know the energy in the student section sets the tone for the rest of the crowd.

So let’s pray for a spiritual awakening in our students. When students hear the Gospel and take it to heart, there’s no stopping them. Let’s borrow the apostle Paul’s prayer from Ephesians and ask God to equip leaders to boldly explain the good news about Jesus.

What to Pray

- Think of all the baptisms you’ve seen and stories you’ve read of students whose lives were changed as they heard the Gospel and believed.
- Celebrate those miracles and celebrate those who are partnering with God by sharing the Gospel with kids, students, and young adults.
- Have you voiced disbelief in the next generation? Be honest about that. Ask God to forgive your unbelief and give you a desire to pray for them.
- Paul asked the Ephesians to pray that God would give him the right words. Let’s pray and ask God to give our staff and volunteers the wisdom to teach the next generation God’s mysterious plan.
- Ask God to reveal Himself to the next generation and give them boldness to proclaim the Good News to their classmates.
- Before you leave this conversation, ask God how you be part of the wave.

Maybe you already are, and your Dad just wants to tell you He’s proud of you.

Pray for radical obedience at home and at work

“While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.” - Matthew 4:18-22 (ESV)

As a church, we can pray that they will heed Jesus’ call to become fishers of men. God didn’t meet kids so they would be familiar with classic Bible stories and learn some catchy tunes. He is raising up ministers of the Gospel who love Jesus and are eager to share His message in all kinds of creative ways.

What to Pray

- Think about God’s wisdom and His knowledge of the future. Praise Him for knowing the hearts of our young people better than they know themselves.
- Thank God for a church that teaches kids to love Jesus on their level. Thank Him for allowing us to see the Gospel pass from one generation to the next.
- As parents, we sometimes encourage our kids to pursue careers that seem more lucrative or stable rather than the career God is calling them to.
- Ask God to give students the courage to seek His will for their life, no matter how risky it looks to us.
- Pray for parents to respond selflessly and to encourage their kids to follow God’s prompting when choosing a career.

- Today’s young adults have more education and more options than the generations who came before them. Pray that those entering college and the workforce would find their identity in being sons and daughters of God and make decisions that reflect that reality.
- Pray that they would hunger for a life of significance rather than accumulation, distraction, self-indulgence, or fame.
- Pray that as they come in contact with new ideas, their belief in God’s Word would be strengthened.
- Ask God to help young adults see themselves as fishers of men in whatever career they find themselves in. And for those who do hear a call to full-time ministry, pray that they will recognize it and have the courage to respond.

Fully devoted hearts lead to full lives

“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him...” - 2 Chronicles 16:9, NIV

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” - John 10:10, NIV

God is looking for young adults whose hearts are fully committed to strengthen and change the world through. Too often, we buy the lie that our greatest achievements and adventures will come as a result of our careers, our social followings, or our travels.

But Jesus reminds us that the rich, full life every young adult longs for is found in Him. Let's pray today that men and women between 18 and 25 would know the abundant life God has promised.

What to Pray

- How has Jesus made your life full? What can you start today praising Him for?
- What do you want to see the next generation of leaders experience in abundance? Pray for those things specifically.
- God makes four promises to all of His children. He promises to save us, free us, to give us purpose and a family.
- John 10:10 says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...” Satan knows the power of that exists in a fully committed follower of Jesus, and he will do anything to steal our devotion.
- Pray for college students and young adults to be strengthened as they read the Bible, pray, and gather.
- Ask God to send spiritual mothers and fathers who can show young adults how to devote their lives to Jesus in every season.
- Pray for transformation on college campuses in your community and across the state as young men and women commit their lives to the Lord.

Pray that the next generation would be fearless

"It is the Lord that goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." - Deuteronomy 31:8

We know too well how it feels to be plagued by fear, anxiety, worry, and comparison. This is not the inheritance we want to pass down to our kids or their kids.

So let's pray for young people in our church to know and grasp freedom in ways we have not yet experienced. Let's pray for them to be so filled with the Holy Spirit there is no room for discouragement or shame.

Let's be a generation that isn't threatened by those coming up behind us, but would instead hit our knees in prayer on their behalf.

What to Pray

- How have you seen God prove Himself faithful when you took a risk and faced your fears? Take a few minutes to start today by thanking God for the ways He's been faithful to you.
- Brave isn't the opposite of scared. Brave is not being bullied by what scares us. 2 Timothy 1:7 says God does not give us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-control. Pray for kids and young adults to walk in the fruit of God's Spirit, to experience a life where they are not controlled by fear.
- Imagine what a life with no fear would be like. What could change if a generation knew God was with them and lived accordingly?
- Pray for kids and young adults to experience the confidence of knowing God is for them.
- Do you know kids and students who are struggling with fear or dismay? Ask God to fill them with confidence in who their heavenly Dad is.
- Read the following verses. Now, try praying them in your own words over the next generation.
 - Isaiah 41:10
 - Psalm 84:5-7
 - Psalm 23
- In a world that desperately needs the Gospel but runs counter to it in every way, pray that this next generation would have the courage to live differently and follow Jesus, to share His good news and to love as He did.

Jesus is present when His people gather in groups

“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”
- Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

Jesus is present wherever His people gather in groups. His Spirit and His presence are with all believers, wherever they are. Let that sink in.

We carry the power of God with us, just like Jesus did. And that’s not just true of you; it’s true of those younger than you, too.

Let’s pray that the next generation experiences more and more of Jesus’ presence as they gather in groups.

What to Pray

- Pray for the kids who are circling up in small groups each week. Ask Jesus to open their hearts and minds to recognize that He loves them and wants to be their friend.
- Pray for kids to take the understanding that Jesus is with them into their homes and schools. What could happen if kids learn from a young age that Jesus is with them when they gather?
- Pray for a generation who lives and operates from the knowledge that they are the church and miracles can happen anywhere.
- Pray for young adults between 18 and 25 to set a new standard for what life in the church looks like.
- Pray that as they get married and start families of their own that spending time with friends and family talking to Jesus and about His Word would be part of regular, everyday life.

Pray for freedom and confession of sin

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.” - John 1:5

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” - John 8:32, NLT

The enemy likes to work in the darkness, in the places we try to hide from others and God.

God’s light brings to light every sin so that He can make us more like Jesus.

Let’s pray that God’s light would fill every dark place in kids’, students’, and young adults’ lives.

Pray that the next generation would love God and His Word so much that they can’t help but follow Him.

What to Pray

- Think about where the Lord has driven darkness and sin from your own life. Consider the following as you thank God for His truth and the freedom it leads to:
- Where has the confession of sin led to freedom?
- Where have you seen God set you, your family, or your friends free from habitual or generational sin?
- Let God’s fierce love settle over you as you remember what a gift repentance is.
- Are there any habits, temptations, or sins you’re currently ‘hiding’ from Him? Allow the Holy Spirit to show you any dark places in your life today, and confess them.
- Where do you want freedom for the next generation? Ask God for it boldly.
- Pray for God to open their eyes to sin, to protect them from the world’s influence, and to fill them with such confidence in who He is that culture cannot sway them.
- Do you have a role in bringing light to the darkness and speaking the truth? Ask God to show you what that is.
- Maybe God wants you to open your home to your kids’ friends so they can see His love. Whatever it is, be brave and follow through. You can trust God to give you what you need.

Pray for children to have hope

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
- Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Watching the news or scrolling through social media, it's tempting to believe our children's future is bleak. But the writer of Hebrews reminds us that faith is believing for that which we don't yet see.

We can have hope — we can have dreams, aspirations, and desires — for our kids that go beyond what we see in front of us. We can have hope for their future because God does. Let's pray that our kids would be filled with faith. That they would know that God sees them, loves them and has hope for their future. And as we pray for their future, may our kids grow confident that God will do good things in their lives here on Earth and forever in heaven.

What to Pray

- Think about how you can be an example of faith for the children in your life. Ask God to fill you with hope that you can share with them.
- Thank God, in advance, for the good things you are sure He will do in and through His children — bringing salvation, healing, revival, restoration, and more to the world around them.
- Ask God to help children realize they can be full of hope as they pray and talk to Him. They can remember His promises and faithfulness. And, they can obey all He tells them to do.
- If you have kids, pray for them by name. If you aren't a parent, try praying by name for the kids in your life, whether that's nieces and nephews or kids you know from church
- What do you want to see God do in each child's life?
- As you pray, listen to what God says about each child. Write down what you hear God saying, and pray in agreement with Him.
- If the kids you're praying for are your own, consider sharing your prayers with them. What an encouragement it will be to them and to you as they get older and those prayers are answered!