

# Families, Pray for Our Nation

## Seven Centers of Influence

Do you want to make a difference in your family? Here is a simple family experience that will have great impact ... and YES, YOU CAN DO IT! It is that simple and easy, and it will bring your family closer together and closer to God. This is an eight-day family prayer guide leading up to and including the National Day of Prayer. Our prayers will focus on seven centers of influence that shape our culture and society for good or for evil.

Family leader, all you have to do is gather your family together, read the passage of Scripture, ask the questions, let people discuss, and then pray. This will be a fun time of generating discussions, sharing thoughts, and then praying. Your prayers do not have to be elaborate. They really need to be simple prayers, even sentence prayers. You may be hesitant because you have never done this before. Trust God to help you. You can do it, and your family will draw closer to one another and to God.

Here are some simple guidelines:

- Set a regular time of day that works best for your family.
- Ask God for help and to bless this time. You may also pray for thousands of others like yourself who are leading their families in this time of crisis and prayer.
- Gather your family.
- Smile and have a good time. Your family will follow your lead.
- Ask someone to begin with prayer. The first time, you may want to pray a short simple prayer to model to your family.
- Ask someone to read the Bible passage for the day. You can change who reads each time so that everyone feels included.
- Follow the guide. Remember, these questions are designed to include everyone, and everyone will have different answers. Thank and affirm people when they share.
- The first one or two may be a little awkward if you have never done something like this, but it will become easier and easier. It starts with Family as a center of influence in our culture. This will facilitate real discussion.
- If you miss a day, do not stress. You can catch up after the National Day of Prayer.

- You may want to let your older children lead some prayer times. This builds leadership and participation.
- Some in your family may not want to pray out loud. Give permission to pray silently. God still hears!
- When you finish, thank everyone. If you feel led, pray a simple prayer of thanksgiving for each of your family members. Ask God to bless them and your family.
- On the National Day of Prayer we invite your family to join Christians across the nation in the National Day of Prayer National Prayer Gathering Broadcast at 8 p.m. ET.

<https://www.facebook.com/natlprayer/>

# Day 1: Praying for Family

**Getting Started:** Someone pray. Ask God to reveal His truth through the Bible. Ask Him to guide you to pray according to His will.

**Bible Truths:** Listen as God's Word is read. What meaningful truths do you learn from this Scripture that can guide your prayers?

**Read:** Luke 11:1-13

Discuss what you heard that was meaningful. (You may want to read the Scripture a second time to catch things you may have missed.)

## **Center of Influence: Family**

1. This center of influence includes such people as fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and other extended family members. Name some of the people who are in your own family's circle of influence (like uncles, in-laws, or cousins).
2. Describe ways you have been helped or influenced by a family member or the ministry or example of another family.
3. What challenges and needs are families experiencing today? Name as many as you can think of in a couple of minutes. Include such things as lack of food, loss of a job, safety, stressful relationships, grief, and so forth.
4. How can families have an influence for good or bad in our world?

**Prayer Points for Family:** Take turns praying sentence prayers. Thank God for the ministry and influence of your own family members and other families. Pray for families in our country and for families you know. Use some of the following prayer points or pray your own.

- |              |               |                             |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| • Provision  | • Boldness    | • Conviction of sin         |
| • Protection | • Honesty     | • Comfort in sorrow or loss |
| • Wisdom     | • Holiness    | • Service to others         |
| • Creativity | • Humility    | • Encouragement             |
| • Peace      | • Forgiveness | • Healthy Relationships     |
| • Truth      | • Purity      | • Encounter with Jesus      |
| • Courage    | • Correction  | • Love for others           |

**Personal Prayer for Your Family:** Ask each member of your family (one at a time), "How may we pray for you?" Make this a personal request, not just for someone you know. Then someone pray for his or her request. Let the oldest person (or a volunteer) go first.

## Day 2: Praying for Church

**Getting Started:** Someone pray. Ask God to reveal His truth through the Bible. Ask Him to guide you to pray according to His will.

**Bible Truths:** Listen as God's Word is read. What meaningful truths do you learn from this Scripture that can guide your prayers?

**Read:** Colossians 1:9-14

Discuss what you heard that was meaningful. (You may want to read the Scripture a second time to catch things you may have missed.)

### Center of Influence: Church

1. This center of influence includes people from all Christian denominations and leaders such as pastors, priests, deacons, elders, Sunday School teachers, missionaries, and more. Name others who would be included in the Church center of influence.
2. Describe ways you have been helped or influenced for good by church members or leaders.
3. What challenges and needs are people in Church experiencing today? Name as many as you can think of in a couple of minutes. Include such things as telling others about Jesus, making mature disciples, limitations on meeting in large groups, decline in giving, broken relationships, and lack of love.
4. How can Church members have an influence for good or bad?

**Prayer Points for Church:** Take turns praying sentence prayers. Thank God for the ministry and influence of church members and leaders. Pray for churches in our country and for people and churches you know. Use some of the following prayer points or pray your own.

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**Personal Prayer for Your Church.** Pray some of these prayers for your church and her leaders. Ask God to help your church represent Him well and make a difference in the world that needs Him. Ask Him to shine His light through you in spiritually dark places.

## Day 3: Praying for Business

**Getting Started:** Someone pray. Ask God to reveal His truth through the Bible. Ask Him to guide you to pray according to His will.

**Bible Truths:** Listen as God's Word is read. What meaningful truths do you learn from this Scripture that can guide your prayers?

**Read:** Philippians 4:4-13,19

Discuss what you heard that was meaningful. (You may want to read the Scripture a second time to catch things you may have missed.)

### Center of Influence: Business

1. This center of influence includes self-employed people and those who work in restaurants, hospitals, factories, and multinational corporations. Name other kinds of businesses and workers who would be included in the Business sphere of influence.
2. Describe ways you have been helped or positively influenced by a person in business.
3. What challenges and needs are people in Business experiencing today? Name as many as you can think of in a couple of minutes. Include such things as dangerous work environments, loss of customers and users, and adjusting to work from home.
4. How can Business have an influence for good or bad?

**Prayer Points for Business:** Take turns praying sentence prayers. Thank God for the ministry and influence of a business person who has touched your life for good. Pray for businesses and industries in our country and in your community. Ask God to call, equip, and establish Christians in these places of influence. Use some of the following prayer points or pray your own.

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**Personal Prayer for Business:** Pray by name for workers and businesses you know that are facing significant challenges.

## Day 4: Praying for Education

**Getting Started:** Someone pray. Ask God to reveal His truth through the Bible. Ask Him to guide you to pray according to His will.

**Bible Truths:** Listen as God's Word is read. What meaningful truths do you learn from this Scripture that can guide your prayers?

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 14-19; 3:10-17

Discuss what you heard that was meaningful. (You may want to read the Scriptures a second time to catch things you may have missed.)

### Center of Influence: Education

1. This center of influence includes students, teachers, administrators, and other workers in preschools to universities. Name others who would be included in Education.
2. Describe ways a person in Education has impacted or influenced your life for good.
3. What challenges and needs are people in Education experiencing? Name as many as you can think of in a couple of minutes. Include such things as closed schools, discipline problems, violence, and lack of funding.
4. How can Education have an influence for good or bad?

**Prayer Points for Education:** Take turns praying sentence prayers.

Thank God for the ministry and influence of someone in Education. Pray for challenges faced by workers and students in Education. Ask God to call, equip, and establish Christians in these places of influence. Use some of the following prayer points or pray your own.

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**Personal Prayer for Education:** Invite volunteers to share about a teacher or someone else in education who has impacted them. Thank God for those who have given their lives to help others learn.

## Day 5: Praying for Arts, Entertainment, Media

**Getting Started:** Someone pray. Ask God to reveal His truth through the Bible. Ask Him to guide you to pray according to His will.

**Bible Truths:** Listen as God's Word is read. What meaningful truths do you learn from this Scripture that can guide your prayers?

**Read:** Acts 16:16-34

Discuss what you heard that was meaningful. (You may want to read the Scripture a second time to catch things you may have missed.)

### **Center of Influence: Arts, Entertainment, Media**

1. This center of influence includes such people as artists, actors, athletes, musicians, movie makers, workers in television and internet companies, publishers, sports organizations, and others. Name others who would be included in this center of influence.
2. Describe ways you have been helped or influenced for good by a person in Arts, Entertainment, or Media.
3. What challenges and needs are people in these industries experiencing? Name as many as you can think of in a couple of minutes. Include such things as lost work because of social distancing, immoral influences, sexual abuse, and addictions.
4. How can these groups have an influence for good or bad?

**Prayer Points for Art, Entertainment, and Media:** Take turns praying sentence prayers. Thank God for the ministry and influence of someone from this center of influence. Ask God to call, equip, and establish Christians in these places of influence. Use some of the following prayer points to pray for Arts, Entertainment, and Media.

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**Personal Prayer for Arts, Entertainment, Media:** Pray for Christians in these circles to have a powerful testimony for Christ. Ask God to protect you from any corrupting influences from these channels. Pray for influential people to be transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Day 6: Praying for Military

**Getting Started:** Someone pray. Ask God to reveal His truth through the Bible. Ask Him to guide you to pray according to His will.

**Bible Truths:** Listen as God's Word is read. What meaningful truths do you learn from this Scripture that can guide your prayers?

**Read:** Ephesians 6:10-20

Discuss what you heard that was meaningful. (You may want to read the Scripture a second time to catch things you may have missed.)

### Center of Influence: Military

1. This center of influence includes veterans and active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen, chaplains, and all sorts of administrators and support personnel. Name others who would be included in the Military.
2. List some of the freedoms you enjoy because of the service and sacrifice of people in the Military.
3. What challenges and needs are people in Military experiencing today? Name as many as you can think of in a couple of minutes. Include such things as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, separation from family, stress in hostile territory, and wounded warriors.
4. How can Military have an influence for good or bad in our world?

**Prayer Points for Military:** Take turns praying sentence prayers. Thank God for the ministry and influence of the Military. Pray for those who serve our country. Ask God to call, equip, and establish Christians in these places of influence. Use some of the following prayer points or pray your own.

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**Personal Prayer for Military:** List some of the benefits like the peace and liberties we enjoy because of the sacrifice of others. Thank God for their service and sacrifice. Pray for God's blessings on them and their families.



## Day 7: Praying for Government

**Getting Started:** Someone pray. Ask God to reveal His truth through the Bible. Ask Him to guide you to pray according to His will.

**Bible Truths:** Listen as God's Word is read. What meaningful truths do you learn from these Scriptures that can guide your prayers?

**Read:** 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Jeremiah 29:7

Discuss what you heard that was meaningful. (You may want to read the Scripture a second time to catch things you may have missed.)

### Center of Influence: Government

1. This center of influence includes such people as our president, judges, legislators, mayors, city council, school board members, and first responders like police and firefighters. Name others who would be included in Government.
2. Describe ways you have been helped or influenced for good by a person in Government.
3. What challenges and needs are people in Government experiencing? Name as many as you can in a couple of minutes. Include such things as decision making that could mean life or death for citizens, budget management, conflict over values and convictions, corruption, and need for wisdom and compassion.
4. How can Government have an influence for good or evil?

**Prayer Points for Government:** Take turns praying sentence prayers. Thank God for the ministry and influence of people serving in Government. Ask God to call, equip, and establish Christians in these places of influence. Pray for Government leaders and workers. Use some of the following prayer points or pray your own.

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|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
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**Personal Prayer for Your City and Country:** Read again Jeremiah 29:7 and pray specifically for your city and our country.

# Family Adventures in Discovery Bible Study

Now that you have experienced God in prayer, we want to invite your family to go on some family adventures in Discovery Bible Study (DBS). God is eager for you and your family to have regular encounters with Him. He wants to reveal to you Himself, His purposes, and His ways. When you read God's Word and the Holy Spirit helps you understand and apply the truths of His Word, you have experienced God.

To help you lead your family on these adventures in God's Word, we have prepared a video example. Join Erik and his family as they encounter God in His Word. Click or go to the following link to watch the video: <https://youtu.be/KyAaQuGRwd4>

## Discovery Bible Study Questions and Process

Here are the questions and process Erik used to lead his family in a DBS.

1. What is something you are thankful for? (You may want to pause and thank God for these things now.)
2. What is something you are facing that is a challenge, a stress, a problem, or a need?
  - Read the Scripture passage.
  - Re-read the Scripture passage.
  - Re-tell the passage in your own words.
  - Fill in more details and correct, if necessary.
3. What do we learn?
  - ...about God (including Jesus)?
  - ...about people?
4. What do we need to do?
  - What is your step of obedience? (Make an "I will..." statement.)
5. Who needs to hear this?
6. What can we do to help with a challenge, stress, problem, or need shared earlier?

Conclude by praying together. When God convicts you of sin, agree with Him and turn away from your sin. Then receive His forgiveness. Take time to worship Him, praise Him, and thank Him. Pray for one another and for others. Continue to pray for people in the Seven Centers of Influence you have prayed for this past week.

## Scriptures to Read

You can use this process with any Scripture, but we recommend you start with the Gospel of Mark—a fast-paced introduction to the life of Jesus. Use the story divisions in your Bible to experience God in His Word.