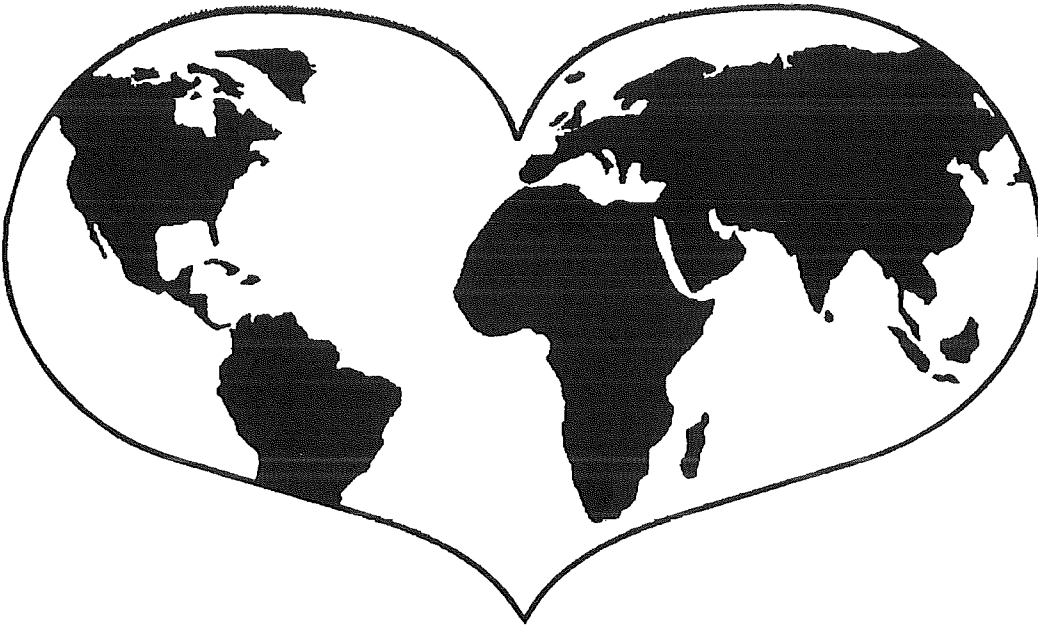


SECTION IV:

DAILY LESSON PLANS





Chapter 12

THE GOSPEL WE PREACH AND PERSONAL PRAYER

Foundations Week 1

CATCHING THE VISION!

This is a different way to start out a school year...but then this is a very different kind of curriculum! A true heart for world missions is not something that can be taught (although we will certainly try!). It is revelation that must be caught from the Lord Himself through His Word and through prayer.

As I began to organize this material, I struggled with how to incorporate the subject of “prayer” into the study. At first, I was going to have a chapter on prayer but it did not seem right to isolate prayer by itself—to “study about prayer” and then “go on to the next topic.” Next, I considered putting in ideas for a daily prayer focus, or weekly prayer project ideas (which *have* both been included). But these were not enough to really establish the desired foundation.

I decided to visit with my good friends who originated the concept for this guide, along with the prayer coordinators for their ministry. Together we prayed for God’s direction and wisdom. The Lord suddenly gave us the idea to designate one week for prayer at the start of each semester. Once we had the idea, everything began to flow together!

Before, I had been trying to fit prayer into our schedule...but God wanted us to fit our schedule around prayer!

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

The subject of prayer and our family’s personal relationship with Jesus Christ is foundational to everything else we will learn and study this year. By taking this first week and giving it to the Lord, you will not only learn about prayer, but you will begin to establish the disciplines of an effective quiet time with the Lord.

Recently, I was talking with a fellow minister who has traveled across the United States ministering in hundreds of churches of all denominations. When I mentioned this guide and my desire to focus on prayer, he told me that in nearly every church, he asked the congregation how many people spent at least thirty minutes in prayer each day. Unfortunately, only about five percent of the people could honestly say yes. Because of this, he really encouraged me not to assume that everyone already has the discipline of prayer in their life...although I *will* assume that this is something you and your family desire.

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO START!

Because your first week of homeschool is already a time of new beginnings, it is also a perfect time to establish (or renew) your family's personal commitments to the Lord.

Without the distraction of necessary academic studies, this week concentrates on drawing close to the Lord, (and closer together as a family) and surrendering this entire year to Him. What a perfect way to start a new year! May this week be a very special and memorable time, and may the Lord use it as a strong foundation to build upon throughout the weeks and months ahead!

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

Although the first week will not be a typical school week, it is important to begin following a regular school schedule. You will need an overall goal and a daily plan in order for this week to be effective and productive. For example:

OVERALL FAMILY GOAL:

"We will have a daily time of worship, teaching and prayer as a family. We will encourage one another in the discipline of personal quiet time, and will take one day in particular to 'get away from it all' to seek God's will for our lives."

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

SCRIPTURE READING

Begin your daily schedule with a reading from the Bible. Suggested readings are included in each daily lesson plan.

WORSHIP

After opening with the Word of God, your thoughts will already be focused on the Lord. Take time to worship the Lord together.

If someone in your family is musical have them pick out a group of songs (perhaps five or six selections) that "flow" together. If you want, have someone accompany the singing on the piano or guitar (but only if it is not distracting to the worship time).

Begin with uplifting and encouraging songs, then flow into a time of praise and surrender, and lastly, a time of intimate worship.

You may want to include some songs about world missions (see chapter on Music and Missionary Songs), but try to keep your selections to very familiar choruses. This is a time to focus on the Lord and to magnify Him. Don't feel rushed—relax and enjoy this family time with the Lord.

(Note: If it is too hard for anyone in your family to lead a time of worship, you may want to begin by singing along with a praise and worship tape. It would still be good to sing some worship songs "from your heart." Remember, God loves a joyful noise unto Him!)



PRAYER PROJECT

Look for the "praying hands" for daily prayer projects throughout the remainder of the curriculum. These prayer projects are ideas that will help you establish prayer habits throughout the year.



FAMILY PRAYER:

DON'T TALK...PRAY!

The most important thing you can do this week is to spend time in prayer. Do not use your prayer time to talk about your prayer needs or to teach how to pray. The best way to teach and train your children to pray is through your personal example and through family prayer.

BEGIN WITH THANKS AND PRAISE

You may want to begin by having Mom or Dad open up in prayer, then encouraging the rest of the family to take turns praising the Lord for things they are thankful for.

PRAY SPECIFICALLY

Next, you can begin to pray for needs in your family, homeschool, church and neighborhood. Pray for unsaved friends or relatives, or for people you know who are sick or in need. Pray for your government and nation, and for people in other parts of the world.

Encourage your family to be specific in their prayers, and to pray according to God's will as revealed in the Bible. Agree together as a family for answered prayer. Many people pray such vague prayers, that they would never know if God *ever* answered them.

For example, instead of just praying, "God, please bless the missionaries..." you can pray:

"Lord, we ask you to provide the finances needed for the Smith family in Peru to be able to buy the sound system they need. Speak to people's hearts to give to their ministry, and help Mr. Smith and the mission organization to make the best choices in the use of those finances..."

It is exciting when you agree together for a specific request, and then see the Lord answer it! It encourages your family's faith in the Lord and motivates you to keep on praying.

PRAY GOD'S WORD

Sometimes, you may be afraid to pray specifically because it might look bad if the prayer doesn't get answered...but don't be afraid. Let *God* take care of His own reputation...and realize that *our* job is to pray.

One thing that will probably help you to pray in faith is to find Bible verses that deal with the particular circumstance you are praying for.

For example, if you are praying for your Uncle Al to receive the Lord, it would be good to have some verses you are "standing on", such as:

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord...is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

or

Acts 16:31, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

With these verses, your faith can be strengthened in God, and you can believe what you are praying when you say:

"Lord, we know that you aren't willing for Uncle Al to perish. We know that you love him, and that you died for him, and you want him to be saved. We ask you to open his eyes to see the truth of the Gospel, and to see his need to repent and turn to you. You've saved us Lord, and we ask that all of our household would be saved, especially Uncle Al."

PERSONAL QUIET TIME

Along with a time of praying as a family, one of the major goals for this week is to encourage you in personal quiet time with the Lord.

This time should be when everyone in the family is quiet and a time when everyone (including you!) takes time with the Lord, one-on-one.

During this time, family members should find a place where they can be alone to pray, read the Bible, think about the Lord, or write in their prayer journal and/or prayer diary.



WEEK 1

Foundations Week

Emphasis: The Gospel We Preach and Personal Prayer

Introduction: The purpose for this week is to begin our school year with a “back to basics” study of what Christianity is all about, which is: having a personal, living, and vital relationship with Jesus Christ. This is a week to renew our personal and family commitment to Christ, and a time to establish the discipline of daily prayer. Before we can see the importance of sharing the Gospel with others, we must understand what the Gospel is really all about, and take time to develop our own relationship with Him. Always remember that God is more interested in YOU, than anything you can DO for Him. Any ministry or outreach we may do (no matter how important or necessary) MUST be birthed from this relationship with Him. This first week is an important time to lay this foundation in personal prayer and in the Word of God so that this year can be all that God intends it to be.

DAILY PLAN FOUNDATIONS WEEK SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:00	A.M.	<i>Scripture reading and worship</i>
9:00 - 9:30	A.M.	<i>Bible study/Teaching (take notes)</i>
9:30 - 10:00	A.M.	<i>Family prayer</i>
10:00 - 10:30	A.M.	<i>Prayer project</i>
10:30 - 11:00	A.M.	<i>Individual quiet time/Prayer journals</i>
11:00 - 11:30	A.M.	<i>Family meeting/Closing songs/Prayer</i>

BOOK SEARCH

The Holy Bible
Any Children's Bible Storybook

PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE HELPS

Operation World by Patrick Johnstone (Zondervan)
You Can Change the World by Jill Johnstone (Zondervan)
Personal Prayer Diary and Daily Planner (YWAM)
Tracking Your Walk (YWAM)
Personal Prayer Journal (any bound book or spiral notebook)
Before You Hit the Wall by Danny Lehmann (YWAM)

Daily Prayer Diary

Day of week: _____ Date: _____
Bible reading today: _____
Bible memory verse: _____
Specific thanks: _____
One area in my life I need to work on: _____
Family needs or praise: _____
Friends and relatives: _____
Church, School, Nation: _____
World Missions need: _____
What does God want me to do today? _____

Personal Prayer Diary

Thanksgiving "Our Father who art in heaven...
Praise Hallowed be Thy Name...
Surrender Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will
be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

My life _____ family _____ church _____
My relatives _____ friends _____ school _____
My nation _____ around the world _____

Prayer Requests "Give us this day our daily bread...
Forgiveness and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors..."

Protection and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil...

Praise! For Thine is the Kingdom and the
Power and the Glory forever, Amen.

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DAY 1

WEEK 1 - MONDAY

Foundations Week

Emphasis: The Gospel We Preach and Personal Prayer

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

BIBLE READING: PSALM 100-101

• FAMILY WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY/TEACHING (take notes)

BIBLE STUDY

What is the Gospel Message?

- I. Sin separates us from God
 - A. First sin: Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:6)
 - B. All have sinned (Romans 3:23)
 - C. Family examples of sin
- II. Penalty for sin is death
 - A. Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:21-23)
 - B. Wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 - C. Family discipline/punishment is to help teach there is a punishment for sin. As parents, we discipline our children out of love and concern for their eternal soul. (Proverbs 19:18)
- III. God gave the law to show our need for a Savior
 - A. The Old Testament pointed the way to the coming Messiah, and the Law revealed to us we all need a Savior.
 - B. Religious rituals are never enough. All around the world, there are so many earn favor with some kind of god. Christianity is different!
- IV. Jesus came to destroy the barrier of sin
 - A. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice: born of a virgin, sinless life, Son of God.
 - B. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the penalty for sin that we each deserved. (1 Peter 2:24)
 - C. When He rose from the dead, Jesus conquered death, and made a way for each of us to come to God.
- V. We need to receive salvation through faith
 - A. Whosoever believes in Him...(John 3:1)
 - B. You must be born-again...(John 3:3)
 - C. Confess...and believe...(Romans 10:9-10)

D. If Jesus is Lord of All you will repent and turn from your sins. If He is now the Master and Leader of your life, ask yourself: "What would Jesus do?"

E. Personal evaluation: Are YOU saved?

VI. We can be sure of our Salvation!

A. Assurance (1 John 5:11-13)

B. Heaven is ahead! (Phillipians 3:20)

FAMILY PRAYER

• PRAYER FOCUS

Pray God would be glorified in your life and the lives of your family.



Pray for relatives and family members who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

PRAYER PROJECT

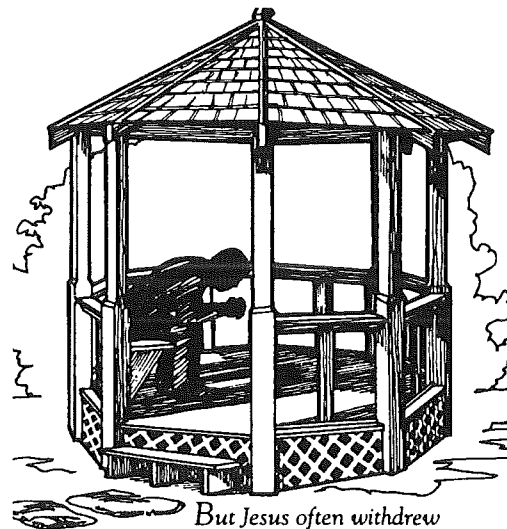
• PRAYER MAP/CURRENT NEWS

Clear a spot on one of your school-room walls and put up a new map of the world. Look at a current newspaper and find an international need you can pray for. Locate the spot on a map and then pray together.

• QUIET TIME/PRAYER DIARY

Give each family member a notebook or a prayer diary to use throughout the year. During quiet time, encourage each person to read a section of the Bible and then write in their prayer diary.

FAMILY MEETING/WORSHIP CLOSING PRAYER



But Jesus often withdrew to lonely Places and Prayed.
Luke 5:16

DAY 2

WEEK 1 - TUESDAY

Foundations Week

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

BIBLE READING: ISAIAH 61

• FAMILY WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY/TEACHING (take notes)

BIBLE STUDY

Growing Up Spiritually

- I. The Bible is our food
 - A. 1 Peter 2:2 (...desire the milk of the Word that you may grow...)
 - B. How to get God's Word in our heart
 1. Read it daily!
 2. Study what it means!
 3. Apply it to your life!
 4. Meditate on it!
 5. Memorize it!
 6. Just do it! Obey! (Romans 2:13)
- II. Prayer is our communication with God
 - A. God wants a personal relationship not a religious obligation or ritual. God wants to be your best friend!
 - B. Make time for prayer
 1. Discuss when would be the best time
 2. Fit your schedule around prayer
- III. Church is fellowship with the Body of Christ
 - A. We need the church
 1. Fellowship (Hebrews 10:25)
 2. Teaching/insight
 3. There is strength when we pray and worship with others.
 - B. The church needs us
 1. We all have a part (1 Corinthians 12)
 2. How can we be a blessing?

Prayer, time, talents, finances
- IV. Water baptism is an outward testimony
 - A. Jesus was baptized
 - B. We are to be baptized (Mark 16:16)
 - C. Share family testimonies of baptism
- V. Holy Communion is our reminder

(1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

 - A. Bread represents Body of Christ
 - B. Cup represents the Blood of Christ

VI. The Great Commission is our job!

- A. Do not be afraid to confess Christ before men (Matthew 10:32)

FAMILY PRAYER

• PRAYER FOCUS

Pray the Lord will help you grow spiritually in your Christian walk.

Pray for help in establishing daily disciplines of prayer and time in the Word of God.

Pray for your neighbors.

PRAYER PROJECT

• NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER OUTING

Walk through your neighborhood praying quietly for your neighbors as you pass their homes.



After doing this, select one family and take them a small gift such as some flowers from your yard, a plate of homemade cookies or bread, or a card that says something like, "I'm glad you're my neighbor." Pray before you go, asking that the Lord will soften their hearts.

Let them know you have been praying for them and ask if they or their family have any special needs you can be praying for. If they would like, you can pray with them while you are there.

• QUIET TIME/PRAYER DIARY

During quiet time, write in your prayer diary, pray and read the Bible by themselves.

FAMILY MEETING/WORSHIP CLOSING PRAYER



DAY 3

WEEK 1 - WEDNESDAY

Foundations Week

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

BIBLE READING: PROVERBS 4

• FAMILY WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY/TEACHING (take notes)

BIBLE STUDY

Steps to Personal Prayer

I. Thanksgiving

Our Father who art in heaven...

- Thank God that we can call Him "Father"
- Thank God for our salvation!

II. Praise

...Hallowed be Thy name...

- Praise God for Who He is.
- Think about the many names of God that reveal His character.
- Discussion: What can you praise God for?

III. Surrender

...Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done...

- Pray for God's will to be done in your own life
- in your family
- in your church
- in your relatives and friends
- in your school
- in your nation
- around the world

IV. Prayer Requests

...Give us this day our daily bread...

- Ask God for the things you need
- Believe in faith (2 Corinthians 5:7)

V. Forgiveness

...and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us...

- Take time to be quiet with God
- Allow God to show you things in your life that need to be changed.
- Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you have done, and you want to change. Ask Him to forgive you. (1 John 1:9)
- Forgive others
 - Do not let others offend you (Psalm 119:165)
 - Do not take on the offenses of others

3. Decide to walk in forgiveness

VI. Prayer for Protection

...and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

- Allow God to show you evil things (music, books, magazines, TV, videos, toys, places, etc.) you should avoid.
- Ask the Lord to help you be a good influence on your friends.
- Put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)

VII. Praise

...for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, AMEN.

Praise God for who He is and what He will do!

FAMILY PRAYER

Pray through the Lord's Prayer outline as a family. Write down prayer requests you are agreeing for.

• PRAYER FOCUS

Under "Give us this day our daily bread," talk about specific needs (possibly financial or material) your family is praying for and allow your children to pray and believe God with you.

PRAYER PROJECT

• MAKE A PRAYER GUIDE POSTER

As you learn about the "Steps to Personal Prayer" during your Bible teaching time, make a family prayer guide on a large posterboard.



Draw a large staircase with seven steps and then write each step to prayer on a separate level, along with the verses from the Lord's Prayer, and some prayer requests. You may want to have your children make separate prayer posters to put on the back of their bedroom doors or near their bed.

• QUIET TIME/PRAYER DIARY

Focus on praying for the Lord's will to be done in your personal lives (*thy kingdom come, thy will be done...*). Take time to think about if you need to forgive anyone or if you need to go to anyone to ask for forgiveness (*Forgive us our debts...*).

FAMILY MEETING/WORSHIP

CLOSING PRAYER

Read Isaiah 56:7, then pray that your house would become a house of prayer for all nations.

Sing *The Lord's Prayer*.

DAY 4

WEEK 1 - THURSDAY

Foundations Week

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

BIBLE READING: PSALM 119:97-112

• FAMILY WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY/TEACHING (take notes)

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible is Our Foundation!

- I. The Bible is a divine library with one theme
 - A. 66 books of all kinds and sizes (39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament)
 - B. All point to Jesus Christ and His message of salvation for the entire world (John 3:16)
- II. Proof that the Bible is God's inspired Word
 - A. Unity of the Bible (Over 40 men from all social classes, many lands, and over a period of 1,800 years—all written in perfect unity with no contradictions!)
 - B. Accuracy of the Bible (It is scientifically and historically correct.)
 - C. Fulfilled Prophecy (over 5,000 prophecies, most already—or soon to be fulfilled!)
 - D. The Bible is alive! (Hebrews 4:12)
It is always up-to-date and appropriate to all people everywhere!
 - E. The Bible claims to be inspired by God
Over 3,800 times the Bible claims that it is the Inspired Word of God unlike any other holy book in the world!
 - F. Tremendous world influence
The Bible is the most translated, most distributed book of all times—despite many attempts to destroy it!
- III. Basic Bible teachings
 - A. There is only one true and living God.
(2 Samuel 7:22; Isaiah 43:10 44:6;
1 Corinthians 8:4)
 - B. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
(1 Corinthians 13:14; Genesis 1:26;
John 14:26; Matthew 28:19)
 - C. God created this world
(Genesis 1:1; Psalm 102:25; Acts 14:15;
Hebrews 11:3)
 - D. The fall of man
(Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 5:12)

- E. The virgin birth
(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 25)
- F. The deity and humanity of Christ
(John 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17, 2:9;
Phillipians 2:8; Romans 9:5)
- G. The bodily resurrection of Christ
(Luke 24:39; Acts 1:3)
- H. Man is saved by grace through faith
(Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:24)
- I. The reality of Heaven and hell
(Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 6:20, 10:28,
Phillipians 3:20; Luke 16:23)
- J. The second coming of Christ
(Acts 1:11; Luke 12:40, 21:27; Matthew 24:36)

FAMILY PRAYER

Pray the Lord would give you a renewed hunger for His Word: that you would “love God’s law”, “meditate on it day and night”, and that it would “become sweeter to you than honey” (or your family’s favorite food).

• PRAYER FOCUS

Find verses that you can stand on for prayer requests you have. (See introduction section for this week.)

PRAYER PROJECT



• PRAYER AND PRAISE WALL/ PRAYER CARDS

Designate two wall areas (or two sides of a bulletin board) for prayer requests. Label one side “prayer wall” and the other side “praise wall.”

Have a stack of 3x5 cards to write prayer requests and then pin them up on the “prayer wall” with push pins.

When the prayer is answered, write a big red “ANSWERED!” across the need (or you may want to get a special rubber stamp made for this purpose) and then move the card to the “praise wall.” This is a great idea to use throughout the year and is something very simple that can really encourage your faith.

• QUIET TIME/PRAYER DIARY

Along with quiet Bible reading, prayer and writing in your prayer diary, give each family member several “prayer cards”, and have them write prayer requests they are praying for.

FAMILY MEETING/WORSHIP CLOSING PRAYER

DAY 5

WEEK 1 - FRIDAY

Foundations Week

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

BIBLE READING: ISAIAH 58 (see Bible Study)

• FAMILY WORSHIP

Bible study/teaching (take notes)

BIBLE STUDY

I. What is fasting?

Fasting is a spiritual discipline: giving up food for a specific period of time—especially for prayer and seeking God's direction or power.

II. Why should Christians fast? (Isaiah 58:3-12)

A. Reasons NOT to fast

1. To look holy for others
2. To lose weight
3. To make others feel sorry for you

B. Reasons to Fast

1. Jesus said we should (Matthew 9:14-15)
2. Fasting humbles us (Psalm 35:13)
3. For healing, answers to prayer, guidance, direction (Isaiah 58)
4. For power to fight the enemy (Luke 4:1-14)
5. To help us pray (Psalm 35:13, 69:10)
6. To hear from God (1 Samuel 1:7-8)
7. To demonstrate to our body that our spirit is in charge

III. Who fasted?

- A. Old Testament examples: Moses, Joshua, David, Esther, Hannah, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel, Elijah, the people of Ninevah, Jonathan, and Uriah.
- B. New Testament examples: Jesus, Paul, Barnabas, Anna, leaders in the Antioch church.
- C. Famous church leaders: Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, John Wesley, Charles Finney and many others.

IV. Practical helps for fasting

- A. Begin with something small—such as a partial fast: eating only fruits and vegetables, or missing one meal.
- B. Drink a lot of water.
- C. Try a 24-hour fast from breakfast to breakfast—skipping lunch and dinner.
- D. Avoid other distractions during this time such

as TV, news, videos, or secular music to concentrate on the Lord.

- E. Pray often, especially at your normal meal times.
- F. Take time to be quiet before the Lord during your fast and seek Him.
- G. Keep your fasting a secret—don't make a show of it (Matthew 6:16).

FAMILY PRAYER

Pray for God's direction for your family.

"Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He (Jesus) went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." (Mark 1:35)



PRAYER PROJECT

• GET AWAY FOR A DAY!

If Jesus needed to get away from His everyday surroundings to take time for prayer, how much more do we! After a full week of Bible foundations and learning about prayer, this would be a good time for a one-day family "Prayer Retreat."

• FIND A PLACE WITH NO DISTRACTIONS

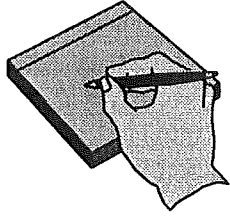
You do not need to go very far from home as long as you are somewhere where you will not be distracted. Find a place away from the TV, radio, telephone, and toys, and a place where others will not interrupt you. If you live near a quiet river or lake, or within a short distance from a secluded mountain or forest area, you may want to go there. You could go to a cabin, to a friend's vacant home, or—if you know another homeschool family who would like to do the same—you could trade homes for the day.

• BRING YOUR "PRAYER TOOLS"

Everyone should bring their prayer journals and Bibles, along with the personal prayer guide poster and 3x5 cards for new requests. You may want to bring some books or teaching tapes on prayer (perhaps *Operation World*).

• TAKE TIME FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Let the Lord guide you, but primarily let this be a time for reflection and seeking direction. This would be a good day to fast together—at least for lunch. Without the hassle of preparing meals, you can pray and be undistracted all day. Ideas: Take individual prayer walks. Have family worship/prayer/teaching. Listen to teaching tapes on prayer or read a book on prayer together. Write in your journals. Read the Bible. Evaluate your past year and have a family conference about the year ahead. This is a special time to just relax before the Lord, surrender yourselves to Him, and take time to hear His voice. May you be blessed!



NOTES: