



Trusting through prayer day 1

Take a few minutes to reflect on the following quote:

"Cultivating a lifestyle of prayer is the most important legacy we can leave our children. We can tell them that they have instant access to an almighty God. However, if we don't model those daily conversations, our children will consider prayer a side note in life, or a default in hard times."

Susie Larson

READ Deuteronomy 6:5-9. *In what ways do you cultivate a lifestyle of prayer with your children and loved ones around you? Once we're convinced that prayer actually changes things, it becomes a necessary and normal part of our day. Do you consider prayer to be a daily necessity? If so, how does your prayer life reflect that belief?*

PRAY: Father, I confess that prayer isn't always a necessary and normal part of my day. There are days when I rush and days when I'm neglectful. Forgive me when I doubt the power of prayer. Create in me a passion for and a dependence on You through prayer.

day 2

READ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Philippians 4:6-7. God desires a thankful spirit as we present our requests to Him. Often our default is to approach God begging, pleading, and hoping. *How would it look instead to pray above our circumstances and thank Him for already knowing, caring, and loving?*

Approach your prayer requests today with a spirit of thankfulness.

Trusting through struggles & when things don't make sense

DAY 3

READ Deuteronomy 6:20-25.

This is an account of God's continued faithfulness to His people – even in the *desert* times. **DESCRIBE** a time/season you were in the *desert*.

Did you question God's trustworthiness or faithfulness?

DESCRIBE a time when things didn't work out as you'd planned or even prayed for. *What did you learn about God's faithfulness during that time?*

PRAY: Father, help me trust that through the struggles, You're with me. Help me believe that even when I can't see how Your promises are being fulfilled in me, they are.

day 4

READ Job 23:8-12 and Isaiah 43:1-2. For Job, nothing made sense – least of all God. Although Job felt as if God was nowhere to be found and couldn't see God at work, *what did Job know to be true of God (v. 10).*

READ Isaiah 43:1-2 again.

LIST everything God has promised us in these verses.

Even when we're unable to *find* God in our circumstances, He knows exactly where we are and He is with us.

As parents, one of the most difficult things to do is see your child struggle and to let the struggle do its work in his/her life. The promises in the books of Job and Isaiah are not just for us as adults, they're for our kids. God knows exactly where your child is, the struggles he/she has, and the fires he/she will walk through. Trust Him to use your children's struggles to shape and equip them for His purposes and His plans for them.

Trusting God's plan for the lives of our children day 5

READ Deuteronomy 6:1-5 and Matthew 27:37.

The children of Israel didn't know God's plan for them specifically. They didn't know the struggles they'd encounter nor where this road would take them. What they did know was... if they'd follow God, love Him with the core of their being and love others, God would fulfill His plans for them.

The same is true for us today. Trusting God's plan [centering our lives around knowing/loving God and living it out in our daily choices] will prepare us for what He has planned for us and the lives of our children.

*As a family, do you have a purpose which guides the choices and decisions you make? If so, **DESCRIBE** that purpose. What must you build into the lives of your kids, so no matter what God's plan for them, they'll be on the path to success? Do these things line up with your family's purpose? Are your daily choices in sync with these things? When the choices available to you aren't what you might want or expect, will you continue to trust in God's plan?*

PRAY: Father, Your plans are perfect and Your ways are good.

Help me trust Your plan for my life and for the lives of my children.

Guide me daily to make choices which reflect our family's purpose – *knowing and loving You.*