Dear God,
Are you actually invisible or is that just a magic trick?

Love, Jay, age 7
Dear God,
I went to this wedding and they kissed right there in church. Ewwww. Is that OK?

Love, Jaden, age 7
Dear God,
Thank you for my baby brother. . . I guess. But what I really wanted was a cat.

Love, Hailey, age 7
Dear God,
Help my mom not get laid off?

Love, Linn, age 9
Dear God,
Please help me with the bullies at school.

Love, Linn, age 10
Dear God,
Please help me my parents stop fighting so they won’t get a divorced.

Love, Linn, age 9
Dear God,
Please be with my dad in the war.

Love, Linn, age 6
Empowering families in growing children to be life long passionate pray-ers.
6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.
8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
5 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.
How Kids Grow Spiritually
Theories that impact spiritual development

Jean Piaget

• Cognitive growth
• Mind grow and change in stages
Theories that impact spiritual development

Erik Erikson

- Personality development
- Identity
Theories that impact spiritual development

Lawrence Kohlberg

• Moral development
Theories that impact spiritual development

James Fowler

• Faith stages based on cognitive and personality development
The ABC’s of Spiritual Growth
A is for ATTITUDES

Babies and Toddler
(Birth – 3)

Faith: Feeling
God: Felt
Morality Influence: Parent
Prayer: Primitive
Teaching: Sensory
The Bible: Comforts
Service/Mission: n/a
Key Spiritual Need: Security
The **prayer experience** for babies and toddlers

Creating a positive and powerful prayer foundation that will last.
Birth – 3 years

- Thank yous
- Saying grace
- Echo time
- Singing
- Rhyming
- Silliness
B is for BONDS

Preschoolers (Ages 3-6)

Faith: Fantasy
God: Father
Morality Influence: Parent
Prayer: Positive
Teaching: Stories
The Bible: Connects
Service/Mission: Self-Centered
Key Spiritual Need: Inclusion
The **prayer exploration** for preschoolers

*Creating an environment where prayer is modeled*
Ages 3-6, Preschoolers

- Cut, color, paste
- Songs and motions
  (The Five Finger Prayer)
- Prayer postures
- Modeling
C is for COMMITMENTS

Grades 1-3 (Ages 7-9)

- Faith: Fact or Fiction
- God: Family
- Morality Influence: Parent/Peer
- Prayer: Proclamation
- Teaching: Symbols/Signs
- The Bible: Commands
- Service/Mission: Self-choice
- Key Spiritual Need: Approval
The **prayer expression** for children grades 1-3

Encouraging creative prayer expression and confidence about prayer
Ages 7-9, Grades 1-3

- How do I use this thing? (Bible reading and prayer)
- What will my friends think?
- What do I really believe?
- Group prayers
- One-one-one prayers
D is for DECISIONS

Grades 4-6 (Ages 10-12)

Faith: Foundation
God: Friend
Morality Influence: Peer/Parent
Prayer: Personal
Teaching: Service-Learning
The Bible: Changes
Service/Mission: Self-Sacrifice
Key Spiritual Need: Belonging
Ages 10-12, Grades 4-6

• Experiential prayers
• Little things, big things, all things
• Scripture prayers
• When prayers are not answered
14 But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.

15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.
Resources

Rainbow Publishers
Resources

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52 Ways to Teach Children to Pray

JELLY BEAN PRAYER & ACTIVITY BOOK

Red is for the blood Jesus shed.
Green is for new life ahead.
Black is for the sins we’ve made.
White is for perfect grace He gave.
Yellow is for the beautiful sunlight.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow.
Resources

Books

Prayer Promises for Kids!

More than 100 Prayer Promises to pray, claim, and believe

Kay Kuzma & Brenda Walsh

Children, Can You Hear Me?

by Brad Jersak
Resources

Rainbow Publishers

Teaching Children to Pray
Reproducible!
crafts games & more!

Teaching Children to Pray
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Resources
On-Line

www.nadprayerministries.org
www.navpress.com (click Prayer Cards)
www.globalprn.com (Global Prayer Resource Network)
http://wnop.org/ (World Network of Prayer)
http://24-7prayer.us/ (24-7 Prayer USA)