

When
Mothers
Pray

BIBLE STUDY

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FULLER

When Mothers Pray Bible Study

By Cheri Fuller

Welcome to the *When Mothers Pray* Bible study. We are delighted that you desire to learn more about prayer and our hearts are warmed by the fact that you have chosen to visit this site.

Because an overwhelming number of readers have requested more resources based on my book *When Mothers Pray*, I developed this easily accessible, downloadable, Bible study for use by individuals or small groups. While developing this study, my heartfelt prayer and desire was for the Lord to use it as a means of deepening your vision of the power of prayer.

I also pray that you are filled with hope and encouragement as you progress through each chapter study. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to read *When Mothers Pray*. The book may be ordered online by clicking on the link **here**, or you may purchase it through your local bookstore.

Using This Downloadable Bible Study to Create Your Own Journal

After downloading and printing out this Bible study, you may want to create your own prayer and study journal. To do this, insert the study pages into a three-ring binder and add several sheets of blank notebook paper between the study pages. If you create your own journal, you will have the flexibility of expanding your answers as much as you like, and your questions and answers will be conveniently stored together for later use.

How to Get the Most out of This Bible Study

I encourage you to take your time as you work through each segment of the study. Keep in mind that all of the content that relates to one chapter does not need to be completed in one sitting! For example, for the first chapter's study you may want to dedicate your time on the first day to prayerfully meditating on the Scriptures I have suggested. Then on another day you may want to complete the portion that requires writing or discussion. Then on yet another day you may want to complete the Expanded Study section.

Regardless of how you choose to proceed through the material, I encourage you to give yourself ample time to meditate on God’s Word and pore over the verses that God is especially speaking to you through. Let me also encourage you to look up the suggested verses in at least two different translations of the Bible (such as the Amplified, New Living, NIV, or The Message) to increase your understanding of what the passage is saying.

If you are doing the study individually, make journal entries of your responses to the discussion questions. In fact, I am sure those of you who are studying this material as a group will also greatly benefit from journaling your individual responses to the questions during or after your meetings. When considering whether or not to journal your responses, keep in mind that writing down our thoughts usually leads us to think more deeply and gives God more opportunity to speak to us. Writing is a form of thinking, and writing answers or writing out Scripture verses helps us clarify our thoughts.

You will find that each chapter study has a Prayer Focus which is an expansion of the prayer I have provided at the end of each chapter of *When Mothers Pray*. These prayers can be a springboard to your own petitions and interactions with God.

You will also notice that each study includes a Point to Ponder—a thought we hope you’ll take with you in your daily life. There are also Bible readings and questions to discuss (or journal). The Dig Deeper sections provide opportunities to do exactly that—go deeper in prayer and deeper in intimacy with God. Throughout the chapter study and the book, you will find secrets to effective prayer, treasures of wisdom from the great Christians of the past, and stories to inspire your heart.

God is inviting you to join Him in the greatest adventure of all—the adventure of prayer. I pray that God blesses you on this journey: “May He grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans. There will be shouts of joy when we hear the news of your victory, flags flying with praise to God for all that He has done for you. May He answer all your prayers!” (adapted from Psalm 20:4–5, NLT)

—*Cheri Fuller*

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Chapter One: A Mother's Heart

Getting Started: Read Chapter 1 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: Our prayers make a highway on which God can come with His grace and power.

Bible Reading

- God's counsel for anxiety or worry about our children: 1 Peter 5:7; Lamentations 2:19; Philippians 4:6–9
- Hannah's story: 1 Samuel 1–2

Prayer is one of the greatest invitations God offers us: to cast our burdens, worries, and cares upon Him. God tells us not to worry more than 366 times in the Bible! We can learn a lot by studying how Hannah responded to her circumstances. Instead of worrying, Hannah prayed and poured out her heart to God. Yes, God is calling us to do the same. When we do, we are spared the effects of staying burdened and upset about our children or other troubles. Rather than becoming overwhelmed by irritability as we are being drained of our joy, energy, patience, and peace, we are strengthened in Him. As we prayerfully pour out our burdens and worries into His care, God pours in His joy and energizes us to love others and handle the challenging circumstances. And when we pray, the way is paved for God to work in the situation. In fact, because prayer is so powerful, we must stay on guard against Satan's strategies to keep us so busy and harried that we don't devote any time to pray!

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Read the scriptures listed above regarding God's counsel for anxiety or worry about our children. What does God's Word counsel us to do when we are anxious or worried about our kids?
2. In studying the prayer life of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1 and 2, and seeing how she responded to heartache, what personal applications can be made to your life at this time?

3. What happens when the love a mom has for her child is connected through prayer with God's power and His love for the child?
4. What problems do you face that interfere with you praying as you would like? Which of the mothers' problems with prayer listed on page 21 of the book can you most relate to?
5. What changes would you like to see in your prayer life? How can you implement them?
6. "When mothers pray, mountains move" (see page 20, *When Mothers Pray*). List the names of your children. What "mountain" are you asking God to remove for each child?

Prayer Focus: Romans 15:13 is the center scripture of this study and *When Mothers Pray*. On a scale from 1–10 (with 10 being the highest), rate the level of hope you have that—because of your prayers—God will move in your child's life. Read the verse and consider: Where does hope come from? As you personalize the verse and ask the Lord to increase your hope in Him, pray each day: *God of all hope, fill me with all joy and peace in believing, so that I may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Dig Deeper

1. Think about this quote:

Worrying is carrying tomorrow's burden with today's strength. It's carrying two days at once. It's prematurely thinking of tomorrow. On the calendar, there is only one day for action, and that is today.

—Corrie ten Boom ([1](#))

What particular worries are draining you of energy and strength? Release these specific areas to God and let Him restore you.

2. Read Psalm 55:22; Psalm 62:8; John 14:27; and Psalm 94:19.
3. During times of heartache, we must remember that Jesus aches with us. Resting in the knowledge that your Father's unending compassion is new every morning, take a moment to thank Him for His love. Then, knowing that He fully understands your

situation and the depth of your concern, pour your heart out to Him (about your children, finances, health problems, or anything else that has been worrying you). “*Lay your requests before him and wait in expectation*” (adapted from Psalm 5:3, NLT) for His gracious provision and care.

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Chapter Two: Confessions of a Martha

Getting Started: Read Chapter 2 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: When God’s love is our anchor, our prayer life moves from duty to delight.

Bible Reading:

- Martha’s story: Luke 10:38–42
- God’s invitation: Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 27:8–10; Isaiah 30:18

Even though the King of kings and Lord of lords was in her home, Martha was jittery, distracted, and so consumed by the meal preparations that she was missing out on spending time with her Savior—and she resented the fact that her sister Mary wasn’t also scurrying about, doing the same! How often do we have the “Martha Syndrome,” putting tasks before people and *our* schedules before our relationship with God? Yet God offers us a different way to live. In the verses referenced above, He welcomes us into His presence and expresses His longing for us.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Can you share a time when you have struggled with “The Martha Syndrome”? How did you end up feeling? How does living the “Martha life” impact us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually?
2. Jesus told Martha that there is really only one thing worth being concerned about. What “one thing” is He referring to? Since God has given us direct access to the “throne of grace” to receive the mercy and grace we need (see Hebrews 4:16), what is keeping you from going there to talk to Him?
3. Sometimes the reason why we seem too busy to pray lies in our view of God and the experiences we’ve had—not in our full schedules. As you read the verses listed above and those in the Dig Deeper section of this study, you will see how these Scriptures describe God’s call to us and demonstrate how God loves us and cares about the details of our lives.

4. In Chapter 2 of *When Mothers Pray*, I share my story of coming back into a closer relationship with God. If you're in a group setting, ask for a few volunteers to take five minutes to share their stories of how they turned their lives over to God. If you are doing an individual study, write out your story and ask God to give you an opportunity to share it with someone this week.

5. On pages 32 and 33 of *When Mothers Pray* you will find several strategies for developing more of a "Mary's heart." The suggestions include taking a prayer walk, journaling your prayers, visualizing your audience (God), or focusing with a photo. Put into practice one of these prayer strategies and share (or journal) next week what you experienced.

6. Read aloud the Oswald Chambers quote on page 24 and discuss (or journal about) the following:

- Name some of the reasons why Satan would try to keep your mind and life so busy that you don't pray.
- Name a few of the ways he does this.

Prayer Focus: If we really knew (not just in our heads, but also in our hearts) how incredibly much God loves us, we'd run to prayer and treasure our time with Jesus—and we would not consider it to be a duty we are required to fulfill. Personalize this prayer from Ephesians 3:16–19: *Lord, from your glorious, unlimited resources, would you give me mighty inner strength through Your Holy Spirit so that Christ will be more and more at home in my heart as I trust in You. May my roots go down deep into the soil of Your marvelous love! Give me the power to understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep Your love really is and enable me to experience this love* (adapted from NLT).

Dig Deeper

1. Think about this quote:

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." —Saint Augustine (2)

2. Read these Scriptures on God's love: Ephesians 2:4–7; Isaiah 49:15–16; Jeremiah 31:3; 1 John 4:16–19.

3. As you meditate on these Scriptures, ask God to reveal more and more of His nature and character. If your experiences in life or the fact that your dad (or parents) were a poor reflection of the love of Father God, bring your faulty views of God to the Cross and ask Him to wipe off your windshield and renew your mind about Who He is. If you struggle with trusting God, pray daily: *Lord, show me how much You love me. Open my heart to receive Your love today.*

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Chapter Three: Pray Without Ceasing?

Getting Started: Read Chapter 3 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: You *can* pray without ceasing—as you carry on an ongoing conversation with God throughout the daily routine of life.

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 1–5; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:26; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2

Throughout the New Testament we are urged to pray and keep on praying. The first time I read Paul’s direction to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) I thought, “Paul doesn’t know about my life! How could I possibly do that?” But since then, I have learned that prayer is living in the Lord’s presence and being open to Him—weaving prayer into our daily activities—much like Nehemiah did as he directed the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem. In that short book we have a record of him praying eleven times even though he is very busy with his duties in the king’s court, leading his people back to Jerusalem, rebuilding the wall and defending it against enemies, and a host of other tasks.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Think about the definitions of prayer that are listed below and those in *When Mothers Pray*. How would they impact your prayer life if you applied them to your talks with God? In essence, how do you keep in touch with your best Friend?

- Prayer is the expression of the human heart in conversation with God. (Rosalind Rinker) (3)
- The vital thing about prayer is “to believe that God can reach us and bless us in the ordinary junctures of daily life.... You see, the only place God can bless us is right where we are.” (Richard Foster) (4)

2. When you’re folding laundry, cooking, or driving, how can you be “constant in prayer” as Romans 12:12 instructs?

3. Imagine Jesus is right here asking you what you most want Him to do for your children at this time in your life and theirs. How would you answer Him?

4. The Lord's ear is always open to our cry. We can say with the Psalmist: "I love the Lord because He hears my voice" (adapted from Psalm 116:1–2, KJV). Since He never slumbers or sleeps, we can come to Him day or night with our requests. If you are caring for your children's needs in the middle of the night, how can you use that as a prayer time? If you're stuck at a red light or in a traffic jam, how can you connect with God right there? If you're in a group study, share about instances when you have done this.

5. Romans 8:26 says that the Holy Spirit will help you when you don't know what to pray. What good news! Think about a situation in which you aren't sure about how to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to intercede for you.

Prayer Focus: As we study Nehemiah, we learn that heartfelt prayers can clarify any problem we may be facing and any job we have to do, no matter how tedious or huge it may seem. Nehemiah was able to pray his spontaneous, quick prayers—dart prayers—because he already had cultivated a deep and personal relationship with God. Here are some ways you could bring "dart prayers" into your interactions with your children:

- Before they leave for school in the morning, you could pray, *Father, please protect my children. Guide them and keep Your loving arms around them today.*
- When you drive up to or pass your child's school, pray for his teachers.
- As you pick up your little girl's tennis shoes, pray that her feet will stay on God's path.

Ordinary things around you can be visual aids and catalysts to prayer that will help you to pray without ceasing.

Dig Deeper

1. Think about this quote:

"Unceasing prayer has a way of speaking peace to the chaos. We begin experiencing something of the cosmic patience of God. Our fractured and fragmented activities begin

focusing around a new Center of Reference. We experience peace, stillness, serenity, firmness of life orientation.” —Richard Foster (5)

2. Hebrews 7:25 says that Jesus is interceding for us at the right hand of the Father and that He ever lives to make intercession for us. When we pray, we are joining with Jesus in what He is doing all the time. Prayer also brings an intimacy and closeness with the Lord, much like when you join your spouse in jogging or dancing. It’s not all about us and our efforts in prayer, but instead it is really God’s prayer through us from God and back to God. Take a deep breath of relief as you consider Jesus making petitions to God and interceding for you today.

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Chapter Four: The Toughest Prayer

Getting Started: Read Chapter 4 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: When we release to God our children and our concerns about them, we open the door wider to God's power.

Bible Reading: Proverbs 3:5–6; Psalm 55:22; 2 Timothy 1:12b; Exodus 14:13; Isaiah 55:8–9

“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today” (Exodus 14:13, NIV) was God's promise to His people when the Egyptians were bearing down upon them. Praying the prayer of release means knowing that God's ways are infinitely higher than our own (see Isaiah 55:8–9) and that He will orchestrate the outcome beyond our wildest imagination or capability. In fact, God will do “exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us” (Ephesians 3:20, NASB) as we yield to Him, lean on Him instead of on our own understanding, and commit our concerns to the Lord.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Why is “letting go” the hardest labor of motherhood? Why do we resist it?
2. Describe a few areas where you tend to “lean on your own understanding” instead of seeking God's direction and ways.
3. Read O. Hallesby's description of the power that comes from combining God's power with our helplessness on page 50 of *When Mothers Pray*. What are the significant and positive effects of releasing our kids to God when we pray “the hardest prayer,” the prayer of relinquishment?
4. Can you share or journal about a time when you prayed the prayer of release (yielding control of your children to God; in other words, letting go and letting Him take over) and what the outcome was?

5. How often do you purposely and deliberately step back and prayerfully allow the Holy Spirit to do His job in your child's (or another person's) life? When have your own efforts in a situation fallen short of truly bringing life and genuine change?

6. 2 Timothy 1:12b (NASB) says, "for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day." What do you need to entrust or release to God today? As hard as it may be to pray this prayer, just remember Jesus knows your pain and says to you, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13, NIV).

Prayer Focus: So often, a disabling feeling of hopelessness is coupled with feelings of helplessness, of not being able to "do" anything about a certain situation that has arisen in the lives of our children. It is difficult to envision victory when we are in a state of despair. What do you feel most helpless about in your life? With a prayer partner, acknowledge what is causing you to feel incapable, inadequate, helpless, powerless, or hopeless and give what you have acknowledged—and the corresponding "feeling"—to God in prayer.

A sense of helplessness and humility is *a secret to effective prayer*. (In fact, O. Hallesby said, "Prayer is *for the helpless*.") (6) Don't let your sense of helplessness keep you from prayer. Instead, let it draw you closer to Him.

Dig Deeper

1. Read Isaiah 43:1–2; 4–5; Isaiah 54:5–17; and Psalm 34.
2. "Releasing our children isn't easy and it isn't a quick fix; in fact, it may come with much struggle and after many tears. It may happen in a watershed moment and then progress as events require more releasing, but each time the releasing becomes more complete until one day our kids truly have their "wings" (see page 59, *When Mothers Pray*). Where are you in the process of releasing your children based on their individual stages of life? Ask the Lord to work within you the ability to begin releasing them to

Him, knowing that, “it is God who works in (them), to will and to act according to His good purpose” (Philippians 2:13, NASB).

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Chapter Five: Sending Your Child and Prayers to School

Getting Started: Read Chapter 5 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: God promises His presence and His answers when we pray with others.

Bible Reading: Matthew 18:19–20; Hebrews 10:24–25; Galatians 6:2; 2 Corinthians 10:4

In the Amplified Bible, Matthew 18:19–20 says, “ ‘Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever [anything and everything] they may ask, it will come to pass *and* be done for them by My Father in heaven. For wherever two or three are gathered (drawn together as My followers) in (into) My name, there I AM in the midst of them.’ ” It’s like God is saying, “I’ve got a secret for you! If you’ll gather with other believers, with other moms, and pray, My Holy Spirit will be there guiding you to bring your hearts into agreement with My will.” In Hebrews 10:24–25, He urges us not to neglect meeting together, praying and encouraging each other—even when we’re very busy! For God has special blessings for us as we pray together for our children.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Reread the section “The Power of United Prayer” on pages 66–67 of the book and the verses in Matthew 18:19–20. Then discuss (or list) some of the benefits of praying with other moms.
2. Galatians 6:2 says we are to bear each other’s burdens. There’s no greater joy than entering into another’s sorrows—bearing her burden in prayer, and then seeing those sorrows turned into joy through God’s answer. Share or journal about a time you’ve experienced carrying someone’s burden or need to God in prayer.
3. How does it feel when someone has shared *your* burden in prayer as Petro and Martha describe on pages 66–67 of the book?
4. The stories about “Moms In Touch” groups in this chapter of the book show that we can accomplish more on our knees than on our soapboxes—i.e., taking things into our

own hands to fix school issues and problems. When we wield the “weapons of our warfare” by praying for our children and their schools instead of complaining or striving, the Lord will undertake the situation in His own way. Is there a situation troubling you at your child’s school that you could pray about with others?

5. Review the “Four Steps of Prayer” that are explained on pages 74–75 of the book and begin to implement them when you pray alone, with your child, spouse or group.

Prayer Focus: If you are not praying with a group of moms for your child’s school, ask God to provide one other mom to join you in prayer each week. Once you find that other mom and begin meeting, pray for God to bring other mothers who want to support their kids and schools in prayer. You may also call 800-949-MOMS or visit the “Moms In Touch International” Web site at www.momsintouch.org to find out if a “Moms In Touch” group has already been formed at your child’s school that you could join.

Dig Deeper

1. Theodore Cuyler wrote, “Like the pull on a line from the bow of a boat, our prayer will draw us into closer fellowship with God, and fuller harmony with His wise and holy will.” (7) Such is delighting in the Lord. When He is our delight, not only are our spirits lifted, but we can rest in God’s promise that He will give us the desires of our heart.

2. Read Psalm 37: 3–5 and Exodus 14:14 (NIV).

3. Praise is a key to entering into God’s presence. As we worship and focus on who God is, we are elevated to a place where His Spirit can truly direct us in how to pray. As a way of praising Him and meditating on His attributes before you present your requests to Him, take time each day this week to read a Psalm aloud to God.

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Chapter Six: Developing Perseverance by Praying God's Word

Getting Started: Read Chapter 6 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: Armed with the inspiration and truth of Scripture, we can persevere in prayer.

Bible Reading: Isaiah 55:11; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 138:2–3, Hebrews 10:23

“True prayer is God’s Word in your mouth,” says Jennifer Dean (8) (see page 82, *When Mothers Pray*). Our prayers need to be centered on God’s Word because He promises that His Word will bear fruit. Praying God’s promises fills our prayers with faith instead of doubt so that we can develop perseverance in the long-range prayer projects in our lives.

Without His Word, our prayers become dry and vague. But with His Word, our prayer vocabulary increases and we find ourselves praying in God’s will.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. The New Living translation of Psalm 138:2–3 says, “Your promises are backed by all the honor of your name. When I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me the strength I need.” What promise from God’s Word are you standing on and asking Him to fulfill?
2. List (and discuss if you’re in a group) two circumstances you have prayed about and are still waiting for God’s answers. Find a verse to encourage you about those situations.
3. Rewrite in your own words one of the verses listed in the Bible Reading section of this study and then personalize those words as a prayer to God.
4. Why do you think that (as recorded in Matthew 26:39–43) Christ prayed three times “Lord, if it is Your will, may this cup be taken from me. Yet, not my will but your will be done,” and yet only minutes later He told Peter: “Put down your sword! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?” (John 18:10 NIV) This teaches us that, no matter how many times you repeat the same prayer, you are to continue to be confident that your prayers are effective. In fact, you are being strengthened as you pray. What prayer are

you praying over and over again, but even in the midst of your persistence you continue to feel your strength weakening? Surrender the outcome of that prayer to Him and watch His deliverance come to pass as you trust in His power. You will find strength in the knowledge that He will indeed be triumphant.

5. Jesus says no one comes to Him unless the Father draws him (see John 6:44). The Father's drawing is inexorably linked to and activated by someone who is interceding in prayer for someone else. Looking at the life of Augustine and J. Hudson Taylor described on pages 84 and 85 of the book reminds us of the power of their mothers' prayers. Who were the people who interceded for you or perhaps have prayed for your children? Take a moment to reflect on the people who persisted in prayer for you (or your children) and thank God for each of them. Consider writing them a note that expresses your gratefulness for their prayers.

Prayer Focus: From Galatians 5:22–23; Ephesians 1:17–19; 3:16–19; Colossians 1:9–10; or 1 Timothy 1:7, select the verse that seems to best relate to your child's needs at this time and make it your prayer. Write your child's initials next to that verse in your Bible, copy the verse on to a card as a reminder to pray, and then continue to pray that verse and wait for God's timing for Him to fulfill His promise.

Dig Deeper

1. Read Romans 5:18–21. What insight do you gain from this passage?
2. Richard Foster says that when Scripture becomes a central part of our prayer, and we meditate and ponder it in our hearts—instead of passing over the verses superficially, “the Bible ceases to be a quotation dictionary and becomes instead ‘wonderful words of life’ that lead us to *the Word of Life*.”⁽⁹⁾ As you consider this thought, discuss (or journal about) how meditating on Scripture could transform your prayer life and walk with God.
3. Ask the Lord to give you a renewed love and thankfulness for His Word.

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Chapter Seven: The Tug-of-War Years—Praying for Our Teenagers

Getting Started: Read Chapter 7 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: “The LORD is wonderfully good to those who wait for Him and seek Him” (Lamentations 3:25, NLT).

Bible Reading:

- Waiting for God: Isaiah 40:28–31; Psalm 27:14; Psalm 37:34
- Knowing God through His names: Genesis 22:14; Exodus 15:26; Exodus 17:15; Ezekiel 48:35

The teenage years are not a time to stop praying. There’s never a time when our children don’t need our prayers, but this seems to be especially true during our children’s adolescent years! Yet when our prayers don’t seem to be answered or our teen isn’t showing the spiritual growth or change we’d hoped for, we can become weary or discouraged and think our prayers aren’t making a difference. It helps to understand that during your child’s teen years, you’ve entered a season in which your prayers will need to pass through a period of incubation.

Would you wait on someone you didn’t think you could depend on and you weren’t sure if he would show up or not? Learning more about God’s character, names, and attributes can help us pray through the teen years and learn to wait on the Lord’s timing.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Have you thought, “Surely sometime early in high school, or at least by his junior year, my son’s life will be turned around and he’ll start serving God with all his heart”? Share (or write) about something you are waiting for the Lord to do in your teen’s life—such as a hoped-for change, an improvement in school, or a change in his choice of friends.
2. God’s fulfillment of His promises for our children’s lives may depend on our patient waiting on Him instead of giving up and grumbling (see page 96, *When Mothers Pray*). What do the verses above from Isaiah and the Psalms say about waiting on God?

3. As you read the verses above from Genesis, Exodus, and Ezekiel that list the names of God, write out how God has shown Himself to you as one of the following: Lord, the Provider, the Banner, Emmanuel, God with Us, or the Lord is There.

4. Why would a parent pray for discipline, or that her teen would get caught when guilty? What happens when a son or daughter continues to live in the darkness while disobeying God or parents?

5. List two ways to pray for God's protection for your teens. (See page 100, *When Mothers Pray*.)

6. Read Jeremiah 33:3. This verse reveals that God not only answers us when we call, but that He will show us great and mighty things, secrets that only He knows, when we pray and seek Him. Imagine picking up the phone and having God on the line right now. What would you ask Him about? What would you want to know?

Prayer Focus: When we pray for our teens, it's like a mother hen incubating her eggs, only usually we have to wait and sit on those prayers a lot longer than the chickens do! But this approach can help us during the tedious waiting when nothing seems to be hatching. Cut out the shape of an egg and write down your deepest hopes, longings, and prayers for your son or daughter. Beside each one, jot down any Scripture that comes to mind. Tuck these eggs in your Bible, giving the requests to God, asking Him to work the answers to the requests out in His time—without your interference. When you see these notes in your Bible, thank God that no matter what things look like on the outside, He is working on your child's behalf and will accomplish His purposes.

Dig Deeper

1. Think about this quote:

“Prayer finds its greatest inspiration in God Himself.” —Charles Cook ([10](#))

2. The psalmist prayed, “Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion...” (Psalm 51:1, NLT). The great old intercessors such as Charles Spurgeon and Andrew Murray call this “pleading God's attributes.” “Faith

will plead all the attributes of God,” said Spurgeon. (*Prayer Portions*, page 33 Chicago: Moody Press, 1978) What is pleading? Spurgeon explains that it sounds something like this: You are merciful, blot out my sins. You are good, reveal your goodness to your servant. You are faithful; can you break your promise, can you turn away from your covenant? Whatever your need, there is something in the goodness of God’s character to cover it.

3. Spend some time “pleading God’s attributes” for a situation you’re facing.

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Chapter Eight: A Great Spiritual Awakening...Led by Youth

Getting Started: Read Chapter 8 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: As we pray for the youth of today, we are interceding towards not only a rededication, but also a rejuvenation of lives for God throughout our schools, cities, and nation.

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:9; Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 65:24

“Great revivals always begin in the hearts of a few men and women whom God arouses by His Spirit to believe in Him as a living God,” said R.A. Torrey ([11](#)) (see page 104, *When Mothers Pray*). As we are seeking and praying for spiritual renewal in the lives of others, and especially for this generation of young people, God wants to begin that very work in our own lives. We are going to shift gears a bit: This chapter’s study is a searching of the soul through studying Scripture. Instead of suggesting five to six questions for you to ponder, we are asking you to *ask yourself* two questions as you look up each reference for the Seven R’s of Revival. Our hope is that as you open your heart to the Spirit of God and His Word, the study below will lead you to personal revival.

The Seven R’s of Revival: As you look up the references for each R of Revival, ask yourself, “*How have I*” and/or “*How am I experiencing this?*” Journal your thoughts.

- **Repent:** A person must first repent of his or her sins and turn to Christ before revival can ever be experienced. See Jeremiah 15:19; Ezekiel 18:30; Matthew 3:2; Luke 13:3, 15:7; 1 Corinthians 7:10; and 2 Peter 3:9.
- **Redeem:** God says, “I am with you to rescue and save you” (Jeremiah 15:20b, NIV). See Psalm 44:26; Hebrews 12:5–6; Ephesians 1:7; Hosea 13:14; Galatians 4:5; 1 Peter 1:18–19; and Isaiah 12:1–2.
- **Receive:** He immediately received us as His “chosen people, holy and dearly loved,” (Colossians 3:12, NIV) but we must receive His forgiveness and lordship before true revival can be manifested in our lives. See Matthew 7:8; John 1:12; Acts 10:43; Colossians 2:6; and 1 Timothy 1:16.

- **Renew:** God, in all His grace, renews us into fellowship with Him. See Psalm 51:10; Isaiah 40:31, 57:10; Romans 12:1–2; and Titus 3:5.
- **Restore:** He delights in restoring our trust and hope in Him. See Psalm 23:3, 51:12; Jeremiah 31:18; Lamentations 5:21; Nahum 2:2; and 1 Peter 5:10.
- **Return:** God’s greatest calling—return to your first Love! See 2 Chronicles 30:9; Hosea 12:6; 14:1; Joel 2:12; 1 Peter 2:25; and Psalm 126:6.
- **Revival:** He lives to revive! See Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 80:18, 85:6.

Prayer Focus: One of the strongest verses to pray for our youth today is 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV), “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” Revival begins in the hearts of teens as they become zealous in standing firm for Christ. When this complete yielding to His sovereignty begins, there is no stopping all that the Lord will be able to do through them. As we prayerfully intercede for them, the Holy Spirit begins fueling an enthusiasm and eagerness in their hearts, so that they are “never lacking in zeal, but keeping their spiritual fervor, serving the Lord” (adapted from Romans 12:1, NIV).

Dig Deeper

1. Read Ezekiel 37.
2. In Ezekiel 37, the valley of dry bones teaches us how the breath of His Spirit gives life to the spiritually dead and restores vitality to a dry son or daughter of His “who has been in a dry or inactive spiritual state” (see page 106, *When Mothers Pray*). Are you living ALIVE IN CHRIST, or just surviving from day to day, hoping Jesus will come back before things get even worse? God desires for us to experience the abundant life, so pray now for the breath of His Spirit to revive you.
3. What changes do you need to make in your life so you can fervently intercede for revival among the youth of today?

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Chapter Nine: Praying for Prodigals

Getting Started: Read Chapter 9 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: “Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me” (Psalm 23:4b, NLT).

As the Good Shepherd, God restores His wandering sheep.

Bible Reading: Isaiah 53:6; Hebrews 12:11; Hosea 6:1; Psalm 119:67, 40:1–2, 45:7; Matthew 7:7

When the prodigal we are praying for is one of our own, it is so easy to run to God’s throne of grace with a fix-it-plan, forgetting that he or she is first “one of *His* own” wandering sheep. As Psalm 23 tells us, God is in the ministry of chastising, correcting, comforting—and *bringing home*—a wayward child of His. Therefore, so often our prayers must be that His stubborn or straying sheep (our prodigal) will *receive* the restoration God wants to bring—that the stray’s spiritual eyes will open to see and understand the gospel.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Sheryl, whose story you read about on pages 121–123 of *When Mothers Pray*, realized that she was “going through the motions” during her quiet time and not truly connecting emotionally with the Lord. How can you describe your time with Him?
2. Psalm 119:58 says, “I have sought your face with all my heart.” In light of the fact that your focus is to be on God, what concerns about your wayward child do you need to prayerfully entrust to Him? Journal all the negatives of your child’s life choices and place each burden and concern at His feet. Then claim Psalm 27:8 as a spiritual marker in your life: “My heart has heard you say, ‘Come and talk with me.’ And my heart responds, ‘Lord, I am coming’” (NLT).
3. Ask the Lord to show you *how* and *when* in your prodigal child’s life you are trying to convict, persuade, and change them with your own methods? Journal everything that comes to mind when you think about how He is “waiting for you to lay down your way of doing this” (see Isaiah 55:8). This tendency to control may be a stronghold in your life

that will require many prayerful uprootings, so don't get discouraged if you have to daily *lay down your ways*.

4. Read the poem "Broken Dreams" on page 126 of *When Mothers Pray*. Is there a broken dream or something you have "snatched back" from the Lord that you had given to Him at one time?

5. "There are few converted in this world in any other way than in connection with someone's prayers," said R.A. Torrey. (12) Other prayer leaders agree that intercessory prayer is involved in *every soul* brought to a knowledge of Jesus Christ. Because of your prayers, there will be people in heaven. But Satan, who always opposes prayer, will try to convince you that your prayers aren't accomplishing a thing (especially when your prodigal's life hasn't turned around). Remember that Satan is the father of lies, and anything he says about the effectiveness of your prayers is a lie. Now think about this: What other prodigal(s) might God want you to pray for? Perhaps it is one of your wayward child's friends, or a niece or a neighbor who has strayed from God's path. Write the name (or names) down and include them in your daily prayer.

Prayer Focus:

Here are some effective ways of interceding for a lost sheep:

- Isaiah 42:7, "to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness" (NIV) is the will of God for your child. But Satan wants to keep prodigals blind to their ways and imprisoned in their sin. Pray that God will open the child's eyes so they will turn from darkness to light (see Acts 26:18) and see the glorious gospel of Christ.
- If your prodigal is being influenced by destructive relationships, pray a "hedge of thorns" (Hosea 2:6-7) that will hedge him in so he won't be able to contact those who are out of God's will and so that those who lure him into evil will lose interest and flee from him. (See page 130, *When Mothers Pray*.)

- Pray that all deception will be broken off, that any false thinking or wrong philosophies will be banished from his mind, and that his mind will be renewed in God’s truth (see Romans 12:2).

Dig Deeper

1. Andrew Murray said that, “Prayer must often be ‘heaped up’ until God sees that its measure is full. Then the answer comes. Just as each of ten thousand seeds is a part of the final harvest, frequently repeated, persevering prayer is necessary to acquire a desired blessing” (13). It may not seem like much is happening, but be assured that in adding daily your thimbleful of prayer, it will unquestionably reach its full measure and a breakthrough will come.

2. Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance defines the word *garment* as a “literal covering” and the word *praise* as “to be clear, to shine, and to give glory.” (14) When God says, “I will give you garment of praise,” (adapted from Isaiah 61:3, NKJV) He is saying, “I will cover your mind with clarity, which is clear thinking...scriptural thinking...My thinking—instead of a spirit of despair.” Why do I refer to despair here? Because when you are in a spirit of despair, your thinking is altered! And when we are dealing with a prodigal, we certainly need clear thinking. This garment of praise promises a mind of Christ that will be able to hear God and respond in peace—not panic.

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Chapter Ten: When Your Child Moves away from Home

Getting Started: Read Chapter 10 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: Even when your child moves away from home, your prayers can have a major impact in their lives.

Bible Reading: Isaiah 26:3–4; Psalm 25:4–5; 119:1–2, 10–11, 20, 33–37, 105, 109, 133
Bags are packed, goodbyes are shared, and arms that once cradled a precious baby are now embracing a grown child who is now turning to face the world! In our son or daughter’s departure, our heart breaks, but the Spirit says, “Trust in Me!” When the day comes for our child to leave home, “trust” has got to be the one word the Holy Spirit most deeply settles in the hearts of mothers. “Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal” (Isaiah 26:4 NIV). It is interesting how “the LORD” is emphasized in this verse. He does not want us to miss the fact that He, and only He, is the place of refuge—our immovable refuge—our anchor ground—our Rock!

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. In Isaiah 26:3 your Father promises peace and a steadfast mind as long as you do what?
2. Read Psalm 29. God’s voice is described here so majestically and powerfully. Pray that, although your child may not be able to hear your voice of comfort or counsel as often as before, he will hear the almighty and omniscient strengthening voice of God. There is power in the voice of God, and our prayer is for our children, who are leaving home, to hear it.
3. What regrets (if any) do you have concerning your child’s readiness to leave home? Journal these concerns and release them to the Lord.
4. Read the list of some of the decisions and issues college kids face when they leave home? What challenges and choices is *your* young adult in college or a career facing at this time? Write them down as a prayer.

5. Isaiah 54:13 says “all [our] sons [and daughters] will be taught of the LORD, and great will be [their] peace.” Recognizing that the Holy Spirit is a better teacher than you and I are, what does your young person need to be taught by Him right now?

Prayer Focus: Just as ingratitude paralyzes our prayer life, so thanksgiving nourishes it and opens the channels for richer blessings, said Charles Cook regarding prayer. (15)

Look at the psalms of David: Most of them are half petition and half thanksgiving.

Regardless of what’s going on in your child’s life, write down as many things as you can think of that God has done in her life so far. Do as the Scriptures say: Come to Him with a thankful heart (see Psalm 95:2)! Doing this will refresh your soul and fuel your prayers with faith for this leg of the journey.

Join with other moms of college youth by praying in a weekly Moms In Touch group. Visit www.momsintouch.org for more information.

Additionally, here are some verses to claim in trusting God with our children:
Psalm 31:14; 33:21; 32:10; 56:4; 84:12; 91:2; Isaiah 12:2.

Dig Deeper

1. Read Psalm 103; Psalm 104; Psalm 105; and Psalm 106.
2. Praise is a vital element of prayer. Prayer isn’t only a reciting of our requests to God on behalf of our children, families, and own personal needs; it is the opening of our hearts up to Him. “If we seem to be thinking only of what we want from Him, or only of what we have had from Him, we are lacking in that which pleases Him most of all—and that is our personal love for Him. We need never fear that we are lacking in the spirit of prayer if we pour out our hearts in loving praise of God” (Anonymous).
3. Use the psalms listed above to enter into praise and worship of our awesome God.

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Chapter Eleven: Praying for Your Child's Mate

Getting Started: Read Chapter 11 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: While the choice of our child's future mate is out of our control, it is not out of God's control!

Bible Reading: Psalm 62:8; Psalm 34:4; John 15:7

While praying for our child's life partner, we must remember that, although we don't get to pick that mate, we can have a great influence on seeing God's will come to pass. How? By praying for that young man or woman who will eventually marry our child. There is nothing that reaches beyond God's faithfulness! As we base our prayers on God's Word, and give Him our fears and expectations concerning this issue, we can then trust the Lord with the choice and all the details leading up to the marriage of our son or daughter—or His plan of singleness if that serves a greater good.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. God wants us to trust Him with all areas of life—our own lives and the lives of our children. Why is this area of who and when our child marries (or whether he or she marries at all) so hard to entrust to God?
2. Review the concerns and questions moms (including me) have voiced about the mate issue on pages 145–146. Which ones can you relate to? Read Psalm 34:4, list any fears you have concerning your child and marriage, and give these to God one by one.
3. Wanting God's will more than our own will is a secret of true prayer (see page 149, *When Mothers Pray*). Ponder or discuss Evelyn Christenson's wisdom on page 149 and write a prayer. This prayer should not be a form of telling God the answers, but it should ask Him to speak to you and guide your prayers on this issue. Get quiet and give the Lord a chance to speak to you, either through Scripture or through His quiet whisper to your heart.
4. When you pray God's will according to His Word and are remaining in Him and His words are remaining in you (see John 15:7), you are releasing the kingdom of God and

the will of God into your child's life. How can you immerse yourself more in God's Word?

5. What are your expectations and hopes concerning a life partner for your son or daughter? Do you hope your daughter will marry a doctor or a pastor? Do you long for the couple to live in the same city as you do? Do you want your son to wait until he's financially stable before he gets married? Give God these expectations and hopes concerning your child's future mate. Ask for His mind about your children and their future and for the Spirit to give you His hopes and purpose for them.

Prayer Focus: A secret of prayer is to want God's will more than our own. In this, our will is for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Let God's Spirit guide you as you pray in agreement with His revealed will in Scripture by praying the verses listed on page 152 of *When Mothers Pray* that concern being equally yoked, maintaining purity, being protected from the wrong mate, and persevering for the right one.

Dig Deeper

1. Read Acts 13:2; Isaiah 58:3–9; and Luke 5:34–35.

2. Terri, the mom in the story on page 148, was led to fast for twenty-one days because of “red flags” she saw in her daughter's relationship with her fiancée. While it is true that if we really want to see God's best in this or other areas of our lives, we must be prepared to fast when the Holy Spirit stirs us to do so. I encourage you to start small. The purpose of fasting isn't to twist God's arm to do something we want; instead, its purpose is to enter into deeper intimacy so we can better hear and respond to His Spirit. As fasting brings us to the place where the Cross can work in us, His desires become ours.

3. For a beginning place, choose three days in which you purpose to seek God concerning something specific. While carrying on your normal activities during those three days, fast one meal or more, one day or two, depending on how God leads you. During this time you will also be lifting this issue to God, committing this circumstance to Him, reading His Word, and seeking Him as He gives you direction.

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Chapter Twelve: The Fervent Prayers of a Grandmother

Getting Started: Read Chapter 12 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: Your prayers will outlive your life.

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 1:5; Psalm 127:3; Psalm 78:4–7; Proverbs 17:6; Galatians 5:22–23; John 5:14–15

I truly believe grandchildren are God's best surprise for us when our kids grow up, leave the nest, and marry! Oh, how we love them and want the best for them. As grandparents, we have the privilege of praying for the children and teens who will shape the future. Some of us get to see our grandchildren often because they live nearby, but for many others, visits are few and far between. Whichever your situation, know that your prayers can touch your grandchildren's hearts and connect them with God. Just as Eunice and Lois, Timothy's mother and grandmother, passed on their faith to Timothy (see 2 Timothy 1:5), you can influence your grandchildren through your prayers and example. In fact, your prayers will outlive your life!

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him," (Psalm 127:3, NLB) and "children's children are a crown to the aged" (Proverbs 17:6, NIV). Perhaps you aren't "aged" yet, but have been blessed with precious grandchildren. Write a prayer thanking God for the gift of your grandchildren and the specific ways they've blessed your life.
2. Psalm 78 speaks of sharing with the next generations about the glorious deeds of the Lord. In what ways are you passing on your faith in God to your grandchildren?
3. One of the most important ways we can impact our grandchildren for Christ is for us to be living demonstrations of His character and love so that they can see the fruit of the Spirit in us: Being a loving and kind grandma, a self-controlled grandma who is patient, gentle, peaceful, and joyful. Which fruits of the Spirit would you want your

grandchildren to see expressed in your life? Pray for God to develop those attributes in you.

4. E.M. Bounds said, “God shapes the world by prayer. Prayers are deathless. The lips that uttered them may be closed in death, the heart that felt them may have stopped beating, but the prayers live on before God and God’s heart is set on them, and prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them, outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world.” (16) As you keep on praying, you will see many answers in this life. But the impact continues even after your address has changed to heaven! In the true story on pages 158–159 of *When Mothers Pray*, the Lord led Dennis Jernigan’s grandmother to pray for Him to use Dennis’ musical talents for the kingdom of God. What has God laid on your heart to pray for your grandchildren?

5. As grandmothers (or “Mamaw” or “Nandy”—that’s what my three-year-old granddaughter Caitlin calls me), we are often painfully aware that we are *not in control*. Oh, how we’d like to be able to fix a troubling situation or help our grandchild in a crisis when we’re 1000 miles away. What is it you need to release to God concerning your grandchild? Remember, it’s an ongoing process. Ask Him to let you see the situation, your grandchild, and his parents through His eyes.

Prayer Focus: *Give them a tangible evidence of your prayers.* For a baby or younger child: Make a Prayer Blanket (see pages 160–161, *When Mothers Pray*). For an older child or teen, let them know you’re praying by making a prayer journal for him. In it, you can write your prayers and blessings for the child. You could include Scriptural prayers like Philippians 1:4; Psalm 20:1–5; or Numbers 6:24–26 (from an easy-to-read translation). Your prayer journal can also include a prayer written once a year on birthdays or at special milestones such as baptism and graduations. You can write weekly or monthly and include poems, quotes, and even photos.

Dig Deeper

There are probably grandmas in your neighborhood or church that you could encourage by praying with them for their grandchildren. Or you may want to find another grandma to regularly pray with you. Or you may want to begin a “Grandmas In Touch” group, praying for one hour a week using the “Moms In Touch” format. If you do this, you will be amazed at the impact you can have and the blessings you can bring into your grandchildren’s lives with that one sweet hour of prayer.

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Chapter Thirteen: A Network of Love—Praying in Unity

Getting Started: Read Chapter 13 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: In rallying together to pray, we are enlarging the funnel through which God’s power pours.

Bible Reading:

- James 5:15; 1 Peter 3:12; 1 Corinthians 7:5; Ephesians 6:18
- On unity: John 17:23; Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:14

In reading the above scriptures, you will find one common thread—God’s love. We are to pray in His love and be united in His love, for He promises to hear the prayers of the righteous (those in right standing with Him through Christ Jesus) and the faithful. The more prayer warriors there are in battle for the righteousness of God to prevail, the more of His glory will be revealed. As Wesley Duewel said, “when many people unite in prayer, spiritual power is multiplied” ([17](#)).

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Our country is more unified in prayer now than ever before due to the tragedies of September 11, 2001. How could *you* personally encourage this ongoing unity in praying for our families, our schools, our churches, our cities, our states, and our nation?
2. Have you ever experienced a time when you thought the outcome of a particular situation might have been different had you only requested prayer? Journal your answer.
3. Has there ever been a time when you *have* experienced the rallying of prayer, only to know for a fact that it was only the work of the Lord answering those prayers that made a difference?
4. In John 17:23, Christ emphasizes “I in them and you in Me.” Why do you think our unity (not only in the Spirit, but our unity in and among ourselves) is so critical in prayer? According to Ephesians 4:3, how do we keep that unity?
5. In any network of prayer, some people are “crisis pray-ers.” Others pray out of a gift of compassion or a gift of discernment. One person may pray specific and strategic prayers

that are like “smart bombs” that wreck the enemy’s plans. Another may have skill in actually gathering people and leading them in effective prayer. What do you see as how God has gifted and designed you as a “pray-er,” and how could He use that in an army of intercessors?

Prayer Focus: In James 5:15 (NIV), “the prayer offered in faith” does not refer to the faith of the sick person, but to the faith of the people praying. God heals; faith doesn’t, and all prayers are subject to God’s will. But our prayers are part of God’s healing process. That is why God often waits for our prayers of faith before intervening to heal a person. Who needs your prayers of healing? Someone with a wounded heart or spirit, someone ill physically, emotionally, or spiritually? Write down the names of people you know that are not, in every sense of the word, well. Then pray for the Lord to heal them of all their diseases, depression, doubts, or distresses. He may be waiting for *your* prayer to unify the prayerful efforts of others towards deliverance.

When we come together in prayer, there should always be the unifying presence of the Holy Spirit. Without welcoming His presence into fellowship with , we will not be able to know clearly the direction to pray in dependency on Him. It truly is a network of love that begins with “I in them and you in Me.” In your prayer groups and networks, begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to bring unity between those praying, even if it is across the miles.

Dig Deeper

Because God is Sovereign, He has arranged this entire network of praying His way which involves not moving (in some situations) until someone prays! Is He needy of our prayers? No! Has He designed it so that, until there is prayer, He will not move? Absolutely! He orchestrates our lives to pray so we will greater experience and know Him. How loving is that?!

“So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel...and the spirit of Joshua...and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house

of the Lord Almighty, their God” (Haggai 1:14 NIV). Complete unity is described here. When the Lord stirs up the spirit of His people, work *is* accomplished. People will come in unity to work in prayer when their hearts have been stirred by the Lord, their God!

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Chapter Fourteen: Prayers That Go around the World

Getting Started: Read Chapter 14 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: As we pray, God wants to widen our hearts to care about and intercede for others in our cities, nation, and even other countries.

Bible Reading: Philippians 2:9–11; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Romans 5:5

Isn't it wonderful to hear and learn about how God is working in another part of the world, and see Him as the God of all people as we did in the stories about the Middle-Eastern moms praying in spite of persecution and at their own peril? God loves the whole world and desires that the gospel be heard by everyone, everywhere. Our prayers can be a part of the fulfillment of His kingdom coming to all the earth.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Which of the stories of the moms praying in a Muslim country stirred your heart the most? Pause to give God thanks and ask Him to continue to glorify Himself in the lives of these praying mothers and their children.
2. As you read the chapter, and perhaps have a burden for moms in another country, know that God isn't asking you to tackle the weight of that country in your own strength. As you seek Him (and pray with another mom, perhaps) He will show you what is on His heart for the nation or group of people and how to pray.
3. "Once we were hopeless, but we are no longer," said the Moms In Touch leader in the Middle-Eastern country. Look up the word "hope" in a dictionary. Romans 5:5 says, "And hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Sometimes we are hoping in the doctors to make our child's health problem improve. We hope the school will get better or replace a teacher. But when we hope in God, trusting in His love rather than in a certain outcome, we will not be disappointed. That's His promise!
4. When I interviewed these Middle-Eastern moms and heard what God had done, I was strongly reminded that nothing is impossible with God. Is there anything in your life that

seems impossible? Maybe having a disciplined prayer life or getting your finances under control or an overwhelming burden that seems “unfixable” and unredeemable. Give this whole matter to God and ask Him to do the impossible.

Prayer Focus: Pray for God to raise up a group of faithful, praying mothers for every school in your city, in our nation, and throughout the world. Pray that moms everywhere will catch the vision and experience firsthand that being with one other mom before the Lord will free them from feeling hopeless. Pray that mothers who are interceding will be confident that they are making a difference in children’s lives!

Dig Deeper

1. Philippians 2:13 says that it is God who works within us to will and to do His good pleasure. It is all about God; not about us! It is Christ in us that is the hope of glory. His life within us is always living to intercede. This can help us avoid feeling overwhelmed about praying for the world or missions.
2. Have you ever experienced a real burden for a nation or group of people way beyond your own? How did God work through your prayers? If you’re doing this study as a group, share what happened as a way of encouraging the other moms in your circle.

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Chapter Fifteen: When God Asks Us to Put Feet to Our Prayers

Getting Started: Read Chapter 15 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: As you pray, be ready to move beyond your comfort zone and be part of the answer to your prayer.

Bible Reading: Isaiah 6:8; John 9:4; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Timothy 2:2; Esther 4:14

An intimate prayer life has many exciting results, one of which is God giving us the opportunity to be a part of the answer to our prayers. It is important to remember that when He uses us as part of the answer, He doesn't necessarily show us the whole blueprint or let us know how He may orchestrate answers. Instead, He shows us our part—our steps to take (or our personal assignment in relation to the matter). As we respond in obedience, God will supernaturally equip us to do what He asks. However, we can miss the opportunity if we have determined to remain comfortable in our doings for Him. That's just it—we do nothing *for Him*, but we are to serve *with Him, alongside Him*. When we begin to realize and experience the fact that the Christian life is *Christ living through us*, then great joy comes to us.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. Ask yourself, “What am I comfortable doing *for* the Lord?” Now ask yourself, “What am I comfortable doing *with* the Lord?” Just in rephrasing the question, do you sense a greater release of tension, fear, and apprehension as you voice being “with” Him in your service? In Hebrews 13:5 (NIV), He promises: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”
2. Where do you sense God sending or leading you right now? You may not be called overseas in the same way some of the moms in this chapter of the book were called, but consider this: What “comfort zone” is God leading you out of as He asks you for the response “Here am I, send me” (Isaiah 6:8)?

3. Moses hesitated when God called him because he thought he was poor in his speech. As you consider Isaiah 6:8, what might be preventing you from saying an enthusiastic “Yes!” to God?

4. 2 Timothy 2:2 says to take what you have and pass it on to others. Valerie (see page 191, *When Mothers Pray*) took what she’d learned in prayer, and passed it on to moms in Oregon prisons. I have enjoyed passing on what I know about prayer to children and other moms. How can you pass on to someone else the blessings you’ve received from God in prayer?

Prayer Focus: What need or concern do you feel passionate about? What breaks your heart? Write it down. Maybe kids with cancer is what breaks your heart, or inner city kids who can’t read. Maybe it’s injustice in working conditions for women and children in Third-World countries, or poverty in Afghanistan. Whatever that need or deep, passionate concern is, it may be the very key to how God is leading you “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14, NIV). As you pray about this, be willing to put feet to your prayers if God so directs you.

Dig Deeper

Matthew 6:1–7 tells us that God will reward you openly for your prayers and also your small, private responses to His Spirit. Keep in mind that you don’t need to know what He will do with your small responses of obedience. Remember, He doesn’t show us the whole blueprint. Instead, He shows us what step we are to take and what prayers we are to pray. As you respond with the “small obediences” Fern Nichols refers to on page 193, God will do the grand thing—and it will be more than you could ask or think according to His power that works within you (see Ephesians 3:20–21).

For more information and inspiration on prayer and building families, please visit www.cherifuller.com

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Chapter Sixteen: The Footprints of Prayer

Getting Started: Read chapter sixteen of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: A mother's prayers for her child can have far-reaching effects, even impacting a whole nation or generations of people.

Bible Reading: James 5:16; 2 Corinthians 3:5

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. How does the story of John Newton and his mother Mary's prayers for him show the far-reaching effects of one little mom's prayers (see page 197, *When Mothers Pray*)?
2. Each of the mothers in this chapter left footprints of prayer—not only in their child's life, but in countless other lives as well. What can we learn from them?
3. Looking at the prayer lives of these persevering, faithful moms can leave us feeling intimidated or inadequate. Just as surely as those women learned in their lives in days past, we must also come to grips with the fact that our only adequacy is from God. What does 2 Corinthians 3:5 tell us about where our adequacy or sufficiency comes from?
4. What is God's prayer assignment for you at this time?
5. In this chapter, I share about how Charles Stanley's mom prayed *with him* each night, and how this impacted his life. What apprehensions or obstacles do you have concerning praying with your child? Share your answers with your group (or a partner) and ask them to pray for you. If you already pray regularly with your child, share with the group the joys and struggles you have faced when you have done this.
6. How does praying for your children change your outlook toward them, their problems, and the situations they face?

Prayer Focus: There is a wonderful prayer in the Bible found in Colossians 1:9–12. It is ideal to pray no matter what age or stage your child is in. It covers every aspect of living a joyful, fruitful Christian life. Memorize the passage and personalize it, replacing the word “you” with your child's name as you pray each verse. As you remain constant in prayer, all along the way you will leave footprints of God's marvelous working.

Dig Deeper

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19, NIV). The Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance defines *pondered* as “to union in speaking, to converse.” (18) If Mary was pondering things about her precious child in her heart, with whom do you think she was conversing? With whom was she in union in speaking? Her God! Through examining this verse, we learn that, as we watch our children grow, as we see and hear their ways, and as we store up (treasure) their daily lives, we must constantly be pondering (conversing with God) about them in our hearts.

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Chapter Seventeen: The Prayer That Changes the Pray-er

Getting Started: Read Chapter 17 of *When Mothers Pray*.

Point to Ponder: When we pray, *we* are the ones most changed, or as Hannah Hurnard so aptly said, “Prayer changes us and therein lies its glory and its purpose” (see page 209, *When Mothers Pray*).

Bible Reading: Psalm 66:18; Psalm 51; 1 John 1:9; Proverbs 13:12; Habakkuk 3:17–19

It is quite amazing that when we are praying for someone else’s need, God begins to change *us*. As we come to God confessing our sins (because He has told us that if we harbor sins in our hearts and won’t confess them, He doesn’t hear us. And oh, how we want Him to hear our prayers for our children!), He gives us a clean heart. As we pray for our kids and entrust them to God (instead of trying to control the situation ourselves), a grace fills the releasing process. And most of all, when like Habakkuk, we focus our eyes on God and rejoice in Who He is instead of what He hasn’t done, we find an unfailing source of strength and confidence. Habakkuk 3:19 says that our strength will be like the power of a deer who can walk on the highest heights of mountains. That strength will enable us to walk through difficult circumstances and wait, with joy in our hearts, for the answers to our prayers.

Questions to Discuss or Journal:

1. List two to three specific change-points ushered in by prayer that the stories in this chapter demonstrate.
2. Why is a clean heart so important for prayer? Psalm 51:10 and Psalm 139:23–24 are excellent verses to bring us into repentance and confession. As you pray either of these verses, wait for a few moments. Confess what the Holy Spirit convicts you of, and then stand on (and thank God for) His promise of forgiveness in 1 John 1:9.
3. What is a situation you are weary of praying about or a “hope deferred” (see Proverbs 13:12) that has made your heart sick? If you are doing the study alone at this time, ask a

friend to pray with you and support you. (If you are in a group, pray about it with a partner.)

4. In Habakkuk 3:17–19, Habakkuk praises God in the midst of physical ruin—failed crops, famine, and loss of livestock and livelihood. Write out the verses in your own words, inserting whatever your own “even if’s” are.

5. What area of your life would you like to see change the most?

Prayer Focus: There are times when we can’t readily rejoice in God. Instead of striving or forcing it in those times, realize God loves us during those times too. He is faithful and He is the One who will lift us up. Read Psalm 42 aloud as your expression to God, and ask the Holy Spirit to encourage you so that you “shall yet praise Him” (v. 5b, KJV). Even if you can’t experience joy in God today, thank Him for the fact that His unfailing love for you doesn’t waver.

Dig Deeper

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:23–24; and Colossians 3:10.

2. The New Living translation of 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, “As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him and reflect His glory even more.” Becoming more and more Christ-like is the goal of the Christian life. In which part of your character or life do you want to be more like Jesus? Give that request to God and ask for His transforming power to be at work within you.

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Notes

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