

The Ascension - Family Activity

Big Idea: Jesus Always Prays for His Children

Time: 5 - 10 minutes

Background for Parents: *An intercessor is someone who prays for someone else. It could be a parent praying for a child or a friend praying for another friend. An intercessor talks to God and makes requests on behalf of someone else.*

As an intercessor (Hebrews 7:25), Jesus prays for believers. What does Jesus pray for? John 17:9 tells us that Jesus prays for all believers. Jesus prays that God would keep His children in the Father's name (John 17:11). So Jesus is praying, always, for believer's salvation and faith. That's what keeps God's people eternally saved! Jesus prays for His joy to be fulfilled in us (John 17:13). Jesus wants us to experience the same joy that He has in a perfect relationship with His Father. Jesus prays for believer's sanctification by the Truth (John 17:19). Jesus prays that believers would get rid of their sinful habits and form new habits through the power of the Holy Spirit to be like Him. Jesus is praying that believers would become more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. Jesus prays perfectly! Jesus always prays exactly according to the will of God.

Activity Parents, explain to your kids that you are going to demonstrate what Jesus does as an intercessor for His children.

- Choose which parent will be the pray-er (or intercessor) for this activity. Gather the family together.

Script: **"The Bible tells us in 1 John 2:1, " Therefore, he (Jesus) is able to save completely those who come to God through him (Jesus), since he (Jesus) always lives to intercede for them." "To intercede means to pray and talk to God. Jesus talks to God the Father for His children. Jesus is the perfect pray-er. I am going to show you what it looks like to have Jesus praying for you always."**

Move to location #1 - Dining room table (everyone is pretending to eat dinner)

Script: **"Father I ask that you have mercy on _____ (name your children). Father please show them their sin and bring them to repentance and into a relationship with you. Amen."** Based on Luke 18:13

Move to location #2 - Living Room Floor (everyone playing with a toy)

Script: **"Father I ask that you make _____ (name your children) heart's like the good soil in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-13). Let Your word be**

planted in their hearts and let them truly believe in You and trust you. Father please give them eyes and ears to see and hear the glorious truths about Jesus. Amen”

Move to location #3 - Bedroom (pretending to get ready for bed)

Script: **“Father I pray that you would show _____ (name your kids) Your kindness that leads to repentance (Romans 2:4). As they hear Your word, show them the riches of your love. Grow a love for You in their hearts. Amen.”**

Application: Script: **“Jesus is always praying for believers. As believers in Jesus eat, play, sleep, and walk from one place to another, Jesus is praying for them.”** (Ask your children these two questions)

- 1. How do you feel when you know someone is praying for you?**
- 2. How were these prayers different from asking for a specific toy or to have a good day?**

Pray: Take a moment to thank God for the gift of Jesus and His prayers!

Follow up for Parents: I encourage you to pray for your children’s hearts every day!

- Do you pray for their salvation? (Acts 3:19)
- Do you pray that your kids would love God with their whole heart, soul, mind, and strength? (Matthew 22:37)
- Do you pray that they would know the breadth, length, height, and depth of God’s love? (Ephesians 3:18)
- Do you pray that your kids would not be anxious but that they would go to God in prayer? (Philippians 4:6-7)
- Do you pray that your kids would not love the things of this world but that they would love God most of all?(1 John 2:15)
- Do you pray that your kids would have a heart that is united to fear God? (Psalm 86:11)
- Do you pray that your children would not be self-focused but that they would put others first? (Philippians 2:3-4)

Make interceding for your kids a daily part of your prayers.