



If your Grandchildren are going
Back to School

This eBook will give you
Effective Ways to Pray for them.

Grandchildren going Back to School

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Dedication

I want to dedicate this eBook to my six grandchildren, grades six thru college, going back to school this fall. My prayer is God will protect them physically, emotionally and spiritually, doing their best academically, as they go back to school. Praying for their parents to have God's wisdom to guide them in these insecure, unstable times we live in today.

Invitation

If you read this eBook you will be challenged and given tools to help you pray intentionally for your grandchildren as they go back to school. God has given us a sacred trust, an opportunity to imprint a child's life with God's faithfulness in these broken and confusing times.

May God bless you as you grandparent with a purpose,

Lillian Penner

Grandchildren Going Back To School

The school bells ring every fall for many of our grandchildren. The beginning of the school year can be a stressful experience for grandchildren with new teachers, new classmates, especially if they are going to a new school setting. They may have to adjust to new teachers, coaches, bus drivers, car pools, and other new situations.

Our grandchildren are growing up and being educated in a time of uncertainty. They are subject to pressures and temptations many of us did not experience in our youth. However, we can pray for protection from the deception the world offers and that their eyes will be blinded to the temptations they face in school.

Satan is trying to steal our children away from walking with God. Jesus says, "The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness." (John 10:10 NLT) However, we have the opportunity to pray for their protection from Satan and his demons and for them to experience the fullness of the Lord in their lives. When we long for those hugs and kisses, and when we think of how much we miss our grandchildren, it is a good time to say a prayer for them.

Prayer

Dear Lord, I pray my grandchildren will:

Desire to do their very best.

Respect their teachers.

Choose friends, who will have a positive influence.

Recognize the deception of worldly thinking.

Eyes blinded to the temptations they face.

Have a balanced view of their beauty,
charm, and strength.

Learn to be responsible for their
actions and behavior.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Send a Back to School Note

For the last few of years, I have sent my grandchildren in school a **Back to school** note telling them that Grandpa and Grandma will be praying for them as they start a new school year. They may be facing frightening or uncomfortable situations, as they attend new schools, have new teachers, and make new friends. A note of encouragement from their grandparents may give them the confidence they need as they go back to school.

Grandma Sets her Alarm

I heard of a grandmother in Texas who sets the alarm on her cell phone each day at the time each of her grandchildren are going to school to remind her to pray for them.

But the child (Jesus) grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man” Luke 2: 52

Pray for the Adult Influences on your Grandchildren

Have you thought about praying for the many adults who influence your grandchildren? Are the adults involved in your grandchildren's lives good role models?

Adults who have influence on your grandchildren may be their other grandparents, teachers, principals, coaches, carpool or bus drivers, Sunday school teacher, children's director, pastor, youth leaders, neighbors, scout leaders, extra-curricular activity teachers, doctors, etc.

Many other adult influences indirectly affect our grandchildren, such as their elected and appointed officials, (local, state and federal), TV programs, electronic games, musicians, textbook authors, media, fashion designers, etc.

Ask your grandchild for their teacher's name, if possible, meet their teacher and others involved in their lives so you know for whom you are praying. It makes praying more personable if you have an opportunity to tell them you are praying for them.

Prayer

Dear Father, I pray the adult influences of my grandchild
will always speak the truth,
model lives of integrity to the children.

Transport the children safely and looking out
for the child's best interest.

I pray they will make the children feel safe,
protecting them from verbal, emotional and physical abuse.

I pray they will be an encourager to the children.

Live blameless lives and do what is right.

Speak the truth with a sincere heart.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Suggestions to Pray for Grandchildren to be Known by their Actions in School

*“Even a child is known by his actions,
by whether his conduct is pure and right.” (Proverbs 20:11)*

1. Pray your grandchildren will learn to follow instructions and conduct themselves with right behavior.
2. Encourage your grandchildren to be obedient to their parents
3. Help them to understand that being well behaved is pleasing to God, their parents, teachers, and others. Appropriate behavior will be beneficial.

4. Pray they will have gentle, kind and honest words.
5. Pray that your grandchildren will recognize when they are tempted to sin, think about it and choose to resist the enemy.
6. Pray also they will learn to think before they speak and choose their words wisely.

“The Lord . . . hears the prayer of the righteous”
(Proverbs 15:29).

Pray for Your Grandchildren to Have Success

*“People who despise advice are asking for trouble;
those who respect a command will succeed.*

*If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace;
if you accept criticism, you will be honored.” (Proverbs 13:13, 18 NLT)*

*“If you listen to constructive criticism,
you will be at home among the wise.*

*If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself;
but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.”
(Proverbs 15:31, 32 NLT)*

Grandchildren need to learn to accept advice and constructive criticism. Those who accept guidance and correction will be successful in life. They only hurt themselves when they do not accept correction.

Pray your grandchildren will accept and respect advice from their parents, teachers, and those in authority over them so they will be prepared for life's experiences.

Pray for Your Grandchildren to Control their Tongue

The way our grandchildren respond to others is important. Getting along with others is a big part of having success in school, relationships, and their work experience. Learning to get along with ones siblings is a good place to learn to get along with others. Learning to control their anger will keep them from making some big mistakes.

- **Pray** your grandchildren will:
- Learn to control their tongues at an early age for success in their relationships with their families, in school, and employment. (Proverbs 13:3 NLT)
- Learn to speak gently with understanding and not stir up anger with harsh words, which they will regret, especially in confrontations. (Proverbs 15:1)
- Learn to control their tongue when angry. Anger can cause mistakes. (Proverbs 14:29)
- Learn that the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Proverbs 12:18)

Pray for God's Armor of Protection in School

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the whole armor of God so that you may take your stand against the devils schemes.” (Ephesians 6:10, 11)

As grandparents, we need to pray our grandchildren grow strong in their walk with the Lord. Learn to put on the armor of God because our culture is challenging their faith. Our younger grandchildren have their challenges with lying, cheating, disobedience to their parents, etc.

Our older grandchildren who are teenagers and our young adult grandchildren need protection, as they tend to push the boundaries of godly lifestyles. The devil is deceptive, seeking whom he may distract from walking with the Lord.

Pray your grandchildren will:

1. Recognize the deception of the world.
2. Put on the whole armor of God so they are ready to fight their daily temptations.
3. Arm themselves with Christ's righteousness by repenting of their sins.
4. Stand firm with the belt of truth (God's Word).
5. Hold the shield of faith to recognize and extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
6. Memorize the Word of God so the Holy Sprit can use it when needed to withstand the enemy.
7. Be alert, self-controlled, and stand firm in their faith.

Pray for Grandchildren to Make Wise Choices

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best. . . “ (Philippians 1:9, 10)

The lives of our grandchildren are full of choices and decisions. Peer pressure from friends can make it hard for our grandchildren to make the right choices even though they know what is right and best. Our grandchildren need to learn at an early age that Jesus is waiting for them to ask him to help them make the right choices. Encouraging the children to learn and memorize God's Word will help them to stand firm, to know what is right, and to refuse the wrong.

It is never too early for us to pray for our grandchildren regarding crucial choices and turning points in their lives, especially as they become teenagers. From our experience, we know how early decisions shape a person's life in important ways: choice of friends, educational choices, career moves, marriage partners, which church to attend.

Encourage your grandchildren to make wise choices by reflecting godly qualities in their life that differentiate one from the world in today's godless society.

Pray your grandchildren will choose:

- To have a personal relationship with God.
- To live in such a way to find favor with God and man.
- To be careful how they live and make godly choices.
- What is right and reject what is wrong.

Helpful Scriptures

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these, he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you can participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. II Peter 1:3-4

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity. Ephesians 5:15

Pray for Grandchildren to Choose Friends Wisely

*“The righteous man is cautious in friendship,
for the way of the wicked leads them astray”*

(Proverbs 12:26)

The friends of our grandchildren can have a great impact on their lives especially when they get to school and in their teenage years. Their peers and education influence their lives more than any other, except for their home and family.

The quality of friends is more important than the quantity. As grandparents, we can pray they will develop godly, courteous, trustworthy, honest, and helpful friends, not based on how attractive, smart, clever or popular they are.

Encourage your grandkids to guard their hearts and recognize the characteristics that make for a good friendship. Ask God to place an umbrella of protection (emotionally, academically, physically, sexually and spiritually) over them in choosing their friends.

Be a Friend Observer

When you are with your grandchildren and their friends, be a good listener and observe them, then compliment your grandchildren on their friend's good qualities when you see them.

If your grandchild has a godly friend who is a good influence and enriches your grandchild, ask God to protect that relationship. However, it is also important that our grandchild be a positive influence on their friends to encourage character development in each other's lives.

Our grandchildren have many influences in their lives, especially as they enter the preteen, teen, and young adult years. These influences often have a greater influence than their parents or their grandparents.

- **Pray** specifically and by name for their peers during this school year.
- **Ask** your grandchildren for the names of their friends and pray for them.
- **Pray** for discerning minds and hearts and for God's protection as your grandkids develop their friendships.
- **Pray** your grandkids will see others through the eyes of Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, You know how easily my
grandchildren can be influenced
by their friends----the fashions, music,
their passions and problems.

I ask You to protect _____ and draw
each of his/hers friends unto Yourself.

May Your Presence in the lives of
my grandchildren be a clear
and consistent witness of your redeeming power
to their friends. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pray to Guard Their Hearts—God's Treasure

If we really believe God values our hearts enough to give His son to die for us, we must guard our heart. By guarding our hearts, we protect our relationship with Him. We must choose to abide in Him on a consistent daily basis; it does not happen automatically. He desires for us to handle our hearts as His treasure, holding it tight and not being careless. We can encourage our grandchildren to allow their hearts to be tender and teachable to God's Word, and not to be careless with His treasure.

Our grandchildren are living in the midst of a battle, a brutal and vicious war against a subtle and friendly enemy (Satan) who knows his time is short. We have a responsibility to pray for them and encourage them to guard their hearts. Proverbs 4:23 NLT says, “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” If we as grandparents guard our own hearts, we will have a part in nourishing the hearts of our dear grandchildren so they will recognize the deception of the world and guard their hearts.

How Do We Guard Our Hearts?

We can protect, defend, and shield our hearts from Satan by developing an intimate relationship with God. Paul tells us “Set your hearts on things above . . . not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:1, 2)

The enemy wants to rob our hearts; he tries to get us overwhelmed, defeated, tired and so busy that when God wants to get our attention to communicate with us, His call goes to “*voice mail*.” As grandparents, we can set an example by demonstrating that our relationship with God is a high priority for us.

Vulnerable to Temptation

A weak or empty heart is vulnerable to temptations by the devil. Jesus told his disciples, “Watch and pray so you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41) When we are tired, discouraged or our hearts are cluttered or divided, we become weak and vulnerable to temptations. If we yield to temptation, God has made a way for us to receive forgiveness. We just need to confess our sin, and then He will forgive our sin, and cleanse our hearts because we are His treasure.

By choosing to spend time in God's Word, and to communicate with Him in prayer, we can strengthen our heart to live victoriously. Encourage your grandchildren to grow strong in their faith so they will be able to guard their hearts - Gods treasure.

Pray your grandchildren will:

- Invite Jesus into their hearts.
- Guard their hearts by reading God's Word and learn about Him.
- Grow strong in their faith so they will recognize the temptations they face each day.

Suggestions to Pray for Preschooler Students

Pray they will:

1. Develop a well-balanced personality.
2. Learn problem resolution skills.
3. Play well with others.
4. Learn to obey quickly, and to respect authority.
5. Explore and create without fear of failure.
6. Develop a soft heart towards Jesus.
7. Develop confidence and independence.
8. Learn to control their emotions and anger.
9. Develop an awareness of God's love for them.
10. Build positive friendships.

Suggestions to Pray for Elementary Students

Pray they will:

1. Discover their God-given gifts and talents.
2. Have a safe, healthy classroom environment.
3. Be motivated, disciplined, and challenged in their learning experiences.
4. Treat others with respect.
5. Stand firm for what is right and refuse the wrong with a positive attitude.
6. Choose friendships wisely.
7. Obey their parents.
8. Understand their need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
9. Develop a strong and healthy self-esteem and self-confidence.

Suggestions to Pray for High School Students

Pray they will:

1. Be motivated, disciplined and challenged to apply themselves and excel in their academic studies.
2. Experience the reality of Jesus Christ in their lives, as they grow strong in their faith.
3. Recognize the deception of the world.
4. Be covered with God's safe keeping physically, spiritually, and emotionally.
5. Date wisely (which leads to a spouse for a lifetime).
6. Have a balanced view of their beauty, charm, and strength.
7. Have open communication with their parents.
8. Choose friends who will have a positive influence.
9. Grow spiritually with a hunger for God's Word.

Suggestions to pray for College students

Pray they will:

1. Experience the reality of a relationship with Jesus.
and live the adventure of following Jesus.
2. Grow spiritually with a hunger for God' Word.
3. Be motivated, disciplined, and challenged to apply themselves in their studies to excel academically.
4. Seek God's wisdom and direction in their management of time, money, and talents.
5. Recognize their gifts so they can find their God-given assignment.
6. Date wisely (which leads to a spouse for a lifetime).
7. Find a spouse with a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
8. Remain sexually pure for marriage.
9. Be willing to accept responsibility and make wise financial decisions.

In Conclusion

I hope and pray this eBook has challenged you and given you tools to pray intentionally for your grandchildren as they are going back to school.

(The eBook is adapted from *Grandparenting with a Purpose: Effective Ways to Pray for your Grandchildren*).

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