

PATIENCE

□ DAY 21

TALK: What does the word patience mean? When's the last time you had to show patience?

PRAY: *God, it's not easy to wait until later for what we want right now. But that's what patience is—it's waiting without complaining. Teach us how to be patient like You are. Teach us that being patient shows others that we have self-control.*

□ DAY 22

TALK: What are some things that are worth waiting for? Think about food, holidays, vacations, etc.

PRAY: *God, sometimes we need to remind ourselves that waiting is not always a bad thing. God, teach us how to stay calm even when we don't want to wait. Teach us that some things are worth the wait!*

□ DAY 23

TALK: When is it the hardest to show patience? When your sister wants to play with your toys? When you're waiting on the school day to end?

PRAY: *God, please forgive us for the times when we don't show patience. Forgive us for slamming doors, whining, arguing, or complaining. Teach us to pause, take a deep breath, and calm down before we lose our tempers. Remind us to say we're sorry when we don't.*

□ DAY 24

TALK: Have you ever waited patiently for something that never happened?

PRAY: *God, we pray that You would help us to be patient all the time—even when it's hard. Sometimes, we pray and pray for something to happen, but no matter how much we pray and how patient we are, our prayers aren't answered in the way we had hoped. Remind us that we can't see everything that's happening—only You can. Teach us to trust You no matter what.*

□ DAY 25

TALK: The Bible says in Proverbs 15:18, "A person with a bad temper stirs up conflict. But a person who is patient calms things down." What do you think this verse means? Which are you—a person with a bad temper? Or a person who is patient?

PRAY: *God, help us to be people who are known as patient. Help us to be the ones who calm things down—not stir up trouble. When we are around others who are impatient, teach us how to be good examples of people who have self-control.*

GRATITUDE

□ DAY 26

TALK: What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word gratitude?

PRAY: *God, we pray that You would help us to be people who show gratitude. There's always something to be thankful for, and we ask that You would teach us how to look for those things.*

□ DAY 27

TALK: When is the last time you said "thank you" without being asked?

PRAY: *God, when we forget to say thank you, we do not show gratitude. Remind us how powerful our words are, and how much it means to others when we simply say, 'Thanks.' Thank you for listening to us when we pray.*

□ DAY 28

TALK: What are three things that you're thankful for today?

PRAY: *God, there will always be people who have more than us. More toys, more clothes, more friends, more talent—more everything. But God, there are also people WE have more than, too. Remind us that we can be thankful every day for what we have right now. You give us everything we need—thank You.*

□ DAY 29

TALK: What's one thing you've learned lately? What's another thing you'd like to learn about?

PRAY: *God, thank You for helping us learn new things. Without learning new things, we'd never grow. Remind us that sometimes learning new things is hard. Sometimes, it can even be boring. But it's still important. We pray that we would never grow tired of learning new things, and that we would forever be grateful that You love us enough to teach us.*

□ DAY 30

TALK: What is something that you are good at doing?

PRAY: *God, You have given each of us different talents and skills. Help us not to compare ourselves to others, but to focus on the things we can do well. You made each of us differently on purpose. Our unique qualities are needed to make the world a better place to live. Thank You for the things we are good at. Thank You for the things we are not good at, too, because they teach us how much we need others.*

30 day FAMILY PRAYER CALENDAR

This Family Prayer Calendar was created as a tool you can use to practice daily prayer and conversations about faith.

Each day has two parts: **TALK**, which is a conversation starter to narrow the focus of your time together, and **PRAY**, which contains words to pray out loud with your family. The supplied prayer is just a starting point to guide you as you begin to make praying a normal part of your everyday life. Or if prayer is already a part of your life, this guide can provide some variety and focus. You're encouraged to come up with your own prayer, add or amend the one provided, or invite other family members to pray aloud when you're finished.

While there are "weekly" themes, if you miss days in between, that's okay! Just pick up where you left off.



LOVE

□ DAY 1

TALK: Who are the people in your life who love you?

PRAY: God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for giving us family members and friends who love us. Thank You for [specific names of friends and family]. You have put many people in our lives who love us so, so much. Thank You!

□ DAY 2

TALK: How do we know God loves us?

PRAY: God, You showed us how much You love us when You sent Your one and only Son, Jesus, for us. You love us so much that You want us to be in your family forever. Thank You that Jesus was born, that He died, and that He came back to life. What Jesus did proves that He is Your Son, and that You love us more than we could ever understand.

□ DAY 3

TALK: How can we show others that we love them?

PRAY: God, we pray that You would help us to love others well. Help us to be generous, help us to be forgiving, and help us to be kind. We pray that we would love others like You did—putting them first and thinking of their needs before ours.

□ DAY 4

TALK: What does it mean to “love your enemy” and how do we do that?

PRAY: God, help us to love ALL people—not just the people who are easy to love. Help us to show love to those who love us back, and to those who do not love us back. Help us to forgive others as You have forgiven us. Help us to look for the good in everyone we meet. Help us to love those who believe differently than we do. Help us to love like You love.

□ DAY 5

TALK: Does God love us more when we obey? Does He love us less when we disobey?

PRAY: God, thank You for loving us all the time—when we obey and when we disobey. Thank You for loving us even before we knew You, and long before we loved You back. Help us to respond to Your love with obedience and joy. And help us to know You love us, even when we feel unlovable.

FORGIVENESS

□ DAY 6

TALK: What does it mean to forgive someone?

PRAY: God, forgiveness isn't easy to understand. It's also not easy to show others forgiveness all the time. Help us to learn from Your example. Help us to give forgiveness just as quickly as we want forgiveness.

□ DAY 7

TALK: Is there anyone you need to forgive right now?

PRAY: God, we pray You would remind us of anyone we have anger towards. Help us to forgive them, even if we have to forgive them over and over again. Give us the strength to let go of whatever happened, and to put our faith and hope in You alone.

□ DAY 8

TALK: Is there anyone you need to ask for forgiveness?

PRAY: God, we pray You would forgive us for our sins—for all the ways we mess up. We know that we aren't perfect, and we ask You for your grace. We also pray that You would give us the courage it takes to ask others for forgiveness, and that they would show us the same mercy You do. Thank You that Your forgiveness is complete and perfect.

□ DAY 9

TALK: What should we do when we don't want to forgive someone?

PRAY: God, when we don't forgive others, it makes our hearts feel sick. We carry unforgiveness around like heavy suitcases that make us cranky and tired. We pray You would always remind us we can bring all of our hurt and pain and disappointment to You. You help us to forgive, and forgiveness makes everyone feel better.

□ DAY 10

TALK: How do we get forgiveness?

PRAY: God, the Bible tells us when we need forgiveness, all we have to do is ASK and REPENT. When we repent of something, we change our actions. We try not to repeat that mistake. And when we do that—when we ask You to forgive us AND we repent—You forgive us over and over again. Thank you, God! Thank You that You are such a good and forgiving Father!

OBEDIENCE

□ DAY 11

TALK: What are some reasons it can be hard to obey?

PRAY: God, obeying is not always easy. In fact, sometimes it can be really hard to obey. Please forgive us for the times we haven't obeyed You or anyone who is in charge of us. Help us to be obedient, even when we don't want to be.

□ DAY 12

TALK: Who do we have to obey? Was there anyone you had a hard time obeying today?

PRAY: God, thank You for the people You put in charge of us. We need people to help us and keep us safe. Help us to obey our parents, teachers, bus drivers, and coaches. Help us to show them respect and help us to listen when they talk to us.

□ DAY 13

TALK: What does it mean to obey right away? When we obey slowly, is that still obedience?

PRAY: God, help us to remember that slow obedience is the same as no obedience at all. Help us to be good listeners who show respect by obeying the first time we're asked.

□ DAY 14

TALK: What would happen if there were no rules or laws? Think about driving in a car, playing a soccer match, or your school day.

PRAY: God, thank You for rules and laws. Even though they may not feel very fun sometimes, we have rules and laws to keep us, and everyone we love, safe. Help us to obey the rules and laws of every place we go.

□ DAY 15

TALK: What is a consequence? Talk about an example of a good consequence and a bad consequence that you have experienced.

PRAY: God, when we choose to disobey, there may be bad or hard consequences that we experience. But when we choose to obey, we choose what is right, good, and what pleases You. Help us to be obedient always, knowing that being obedient helps us and keeps us safe. Even when obeying You means making a hard choice, we know that eventually things will work out.

FRIENDSHIP

□ DAY 16

TALK: What is the most important thing to look for in a good friend?

PRAY: God, thank You for being a good Friend to us. You keep your promises, You are always there for us, and You protect us. You are the best Friend we could ever have, and we pray that we can be a friend like You.

□ DAY 17

TALK: What's the biggest argument you've ever had with a friend? What happened? What did you do?

PRAY: God, we aren't perfect. Our friends aren't perfect, either. Teach us how to communicate with our friends in a helpful way. Teach us to use kind words, even when we're angry. Teach us to forgive as You have forgiven us. Teach us to be a friend like You.

□ DAY 18

TALK: Proverbs 13:22 says: “Walk with wise people and become wise. A companion of foolish people suffers harm” (NIRV). What does that mean?

PRAY: God, when we are friends with people who are smart, caring, and obedient, we become more smart, caring, and obedient. Help us to choose good friends who love You and love others well. Help us to be good leaders to our friends, too. Teach us how to be wise and not foolish.

□ DAY 19

TALK: Have you ever seen someone be bullied? Have you ever been bullied?

PRAY: God, teach us how to be brave in the face of bullies. We know that we can love people and still disagree with how they treat others. Help us to forgive bullies and to know how to stand up for what is right. But also help us find good friends to spend time with who will treat us right.

□ DAY 20

TALK: What does the word lonely mean? Is there someone in your school, on your team, or in your neighborhood who doesn't have many or any friends?

PRAY: God, we pray for anyone who feels lonely. We pray that You would comfort them, and that You would help us to comfort them, too. Help us to be kind to those who have few or no friends. Help us to be like You—Someone who loves everyone the same, no matter where they come from, what color their skin is, or how good they are at math or kickball.