

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #1

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Opening Prayer**
- 3. Share the vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.**
- 4. Prayer of Confession & Repentance**
- 5. Reading & Discussion:**

- a. Read Chapter 1 pages 8-11 to the end of Bad News, Good News and Great News from the book Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson.

Observations & Q&A:

- Do you pray for your child(ren), wife, child(ren's) mother daily? Why or why not?
- Do you apologize to your children, wife, child(ren's) mother during times when you may have been offensive or violating? Please explain?
- Is it too late to apologize about things that happened in the distant past?
- Do you believe your prayers shape the destinies of your children and future generations?

6. Pray

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children then pray for one another.

7. Commitments

- a. Pray for one another throughout the week?
- b. What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today's meeting?

8. Announcements

9. Closing Prayer

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #2

10. Welcome

11. Opening Prayer

12. Share the vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

13. Prayer of Confession & Repentance

14. Reading & Discussion: Reading from chapter 1 of Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson. Begin at the section entitled 'Prayer Genealogy' to the end of chapter 1 on page 18.

Observations & Q&A:

- Do your children hear you praying for them?
- Are you taking consistent time to communicate important family matters with your wife or the mother of your child(ren)?
- What are you doing to intentionally disciple your child(ren)? What would you like to do better?

15. Pray

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children then pray for one another.

16. Commitments

- a. Pray for one another throughout the week?
- b. What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today's meeting?

17. Announcements

18. Closing Prayer

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #3

1. **Welcome.**
2. **Prayer of Invitation.**
3. **Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.**
4. **Prayer of confession and repentance: Psalm 32**
5. **Reading:**
 - Read from the book *Praying Circles Around Your Children* by Mark Batterson from the beginning of chapter 2 and stop at the section entitled 'Drawing Circles' on page 28.

Observations & Q&A

Q1: *Are you confident that you are praying according to the LORD's will when you pray for your children? What helps your confidence, or would you like to be more confident?*

Q2: *Do you agree with the statement by Mark Batterson that "God honors bold prayers because bold prayers honor God"? Why or Why not?*

Q3: *Have you persisted in prayer over a specific issue for an extended time?*

Q4: *How has persisting in prayer impacted your faith and your relationship with the LORD? How has it impacted your relationship with your child(ren)?*

6. **Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.**
 - Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.
7. **Commitments:**
 - Pray for one another throughout the week?
 - What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today's meeting?
8. **Announcements. – encourage to register for the retreat; like and share apparel fund raiser on Facebook.**
9. **Closing Prayer.**

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #4

10. Welcome.

11. Prayer of Invitation.

12. Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

13. Prayer of confession and repentance: Psalm 32

14. Reading:

- Read from the book Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson from the beginning of the section entitled Drawing Circles in chapter 2 on page 28 to the end of the chapter on page 34.

Observations & Q&A

Q1: *How do you feel about the waiting process of unanswered prayers? Why does the LORD sometimes delay answering our prayers?*

Q2: *Please share comments on your opinion regarding the following quote from today's reading: "And parents aren't just praying that God will keep their kids safe; they are also praying that He will make them dangerous for His purposes so they can make a difference in their generation."*

Q3: *What promises from the Bible will you begin praying over the life/lives of your child(ren)?*

15. Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.

16. Commitments:

- Pray for one another throughout the week?
- What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today's meeting?

17. Announcements.

18. Closing Prayer.

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #5

19. Welcome.

20. Prayer of Invitation.

21. Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

22. Prayer of confession and repentance: Psalm 32

23. Reading:

- Read chapter 3 from the book Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson.

Observations & Q&A

Q1: *Do you agree that no parent loves their children equally?*

Q2: *Share a time when someone spoke words of affirmation into your life. How did that experience impact you?*

Q3: *How often do you communicate words of affirmation to your child(ren)? What opportunities are there for you to improve your communications with your child(ren)?*

24. Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.

25. Commitments:

- Pray for one another throughout the week?
- What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today's meeting?

26. Announcements.

27. Closing Prayer.

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #6

28. Welcome.

29. Prayer of Invitation.

30. Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

31. Prayer of confession and repentance: Psalm 32

32. Reading: Read chapter 4 from Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson.

Observations & Q&A

"Part of your role as prophet-historian is to know your children and know scripture so you can train them in the way they should go." (page 45)

"But you cannot reason with irrational fears. Irrational fears only submit to prayer." (page 49)

Q1: Would your children agree that you know them well?

Q2: What does agonizing in prayer for your children look like for you? Is it necessary for you to agonize in prayer?

Q3: Share an experience when you interceded on behalf of your child regarding a concern related to their confidence? What was your prayer?

Q4: Does it matter or not, if we pray the Word of God over our children when we pray? Is praying from our heart good enough?

33. Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.

34. Commitments:

- Pray for one another throughout the week?
- What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today's meeting?

35. Announcements.

36. Closing Prayer.

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #7

37. Welcome.

38. Prayer of Invitation.

39. Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

40. Prayer of confession and repentance: Psalm 32

41. **Reading:** Read chapter 5 from Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson.

Observations & Q&A

- “it’s very difficult to pray with specificity, intentionality and consistency without a prayer list” (page 57).
- “I want my children to find their voice, and the key is hearing the voice of God. If they don’t hear the voice of God, they will echo our culture. But if they listen to God, people will listen to them and they’ll become a voice to their generation” (page 58).

Q1: In one word, what theme would you give chapter 5 of ‘Praying Circles Around Your Children’?

Q2: How do you feel about the concept of maintaining a prayer list and a prayer journal?

Q3: Do you have a consistent set time for meeting with your wife to pray and plan for your family?

Q3: Which of the following disciplines will you implement as a result of your learning experience from today’s devotion: 1) prayer list; 2) prayer poster; 3) book of prayers; 4) lunch box notes; 5) something else?

42. Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.

43. Commitments:

- Pray for one another throughout the week?
- What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today’s meeting?

44. Announcements.

45. Closing Prayer.

Dads in Prayer

Praying Circles Around Your Children

Devotion #8

46. Welcome.

47. Prayer of Invitation.

48. Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

49. Prayer of confession and repentance:

50. **Reading:** Read chapter 6 from *Praying Circles Around Your Children* by Mark Batterson.

Observations & Q&A

- “The purpose of prayer is not to outline our agenda for God; the purpose is to get into the presence of God and get God’s agenda for us.” (page 68).
- “You need a vision for your children. With your physical eyes you see who a person is. With your spiritual eyes you see what that person can be.” (pages 69-70)
- “One of our primary responsibilities as parents is helping our children identify their life themes. We need to help them find the sweet spot where their God given gifts and God-ordained passions overlap.” (page 71)

Q1: What should you be forgetting? What should you be remembering? What is a good prayer Mantra to help you?

Q2: *Are you bringing your agenda to God or is God bringing His agenda to you?*

Q3: What is the vision you have for each of your children when you open your spiritual eyes? Take your time before answering.

51. Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.

52. Commitments:

- Pray for one another throughout the week?
- What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today’s meeting?

53. Announcements.

Closing Prayer. Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #9

54. Welcome.

55. Prayer of Invitation.

56. Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

57. Prayer of confession and repentance: Psalm 32

58. **Reading:** Read chapter 7 from Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson.

Observations & Q&A

- “One of the greatest responsibilities of parenthood is praying for your kids, but an even greater responsibility is teaching your kids to pray.” (page 82)
- “We need people who are strong when we are weak. We need people who are full of faith when we are running on empty. We need people who will fight for us on their knees. We all need a prayer circle!” (page 85)

Q1: What are you boldly declaring into the lives of your children?

Q2: *On a scale of 1-10, 1 being weak, 10 being strong, how would you rank your prayer bond with your children?*

Q3: Share one spiritual gift each of your children have?

Q4: Do you provide your wife and children opportunity to pray for you?

Q5: Who is in your prayer circle? Who is praying for you?

59. Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.

60. Commitments:

- Pray for one another throughout the week?
- What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today’s meeting?

61. Announcements.

62. Closing Prayer.

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #10

63. Welcome.

64. Prayer of Invitation.

65. Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

66. Prayer of confession and repentance:

67. Reading: Read chapter 8 from *Praying Circles Around Your Children* by Mark Batterson.

Observations & Q&A

- “So don’t be disappointed if you feel your prayer circles aren’t making a difference. They are. They will.” (page 90)
- “So what do you do when you feel like God is answering everyone’s prayers but yours? In the words of my friends, who have experienced their fair share of unanswered prayers, “We try to live our lives unoffended by God. Jesus promises blessing if we are not offended when He does things for others. And if He does it for them, He might do it for us. We don’t know why God does what He does. We do know that 100% of the prayers we don’t pray won’t get answered.” (pages 92-93).

Q1: What spiritual legacy are you establishing for your children?

Q2: *What are you circling in prayer for your children?* Do you believe your prayers are making a difference?

68. Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.

69. Commitments:

- Pray for one another throughout the week?
- What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today’s meeting?

70. Announcements.

71. Closing Prayer.

Dads in Prayer
Praying Circles Around Your Children
Devotion #11

72. Welcome.

73. Prayer of Invitation.

74. Share vision, mission, and meeting guidelines.

75. Prayer of confession and repentance:

76. **Reading:** Read chapter 9 from Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson.

Observations & Q&A

Q1: Do you agree with the author that “the will of God doesn’t get easier? Explain? (page 98)

Q2: How do you manage your emotions and actions when your child is in crisis?

Q3: Since reading this book, what have you done to make prayer a higher priority in your daily life? What is the primary lesson from this book that stimulated the change?

77. Breakout into groups of 2 or 3.

- Share prayer requests for yourself, your children, your wife, or the mother of your children and pray for one another.

78. Commitments:

- Pray for one another throughout the week?
- What is one commitment you plan to keep based on your learning from today’s meeting?

79. Announcements.

80. Closing Prayer.