

365 POCKET[®] PRAYERS FOR MOTHERS



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AMIE CARLSON Karen Hodge Erin keeley Marshall



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365 Pocket Prayers for Mothers: Guidance and Wisdom for Each New Day

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Designed by Jennifer Phelps

Published in association with The Livingstone Corporation.

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ISBN 978-1-4143-9039-0

Printed in China

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

INTRODUCTION

Becoming a mother changes us. Whether our children are eighteen months or eighteen years old, they are often first in our thoughts when we wake up and the last thing on our minds at bedtime.

No matter how old our children are, the best source for parenting wisdom, comfort, and relief is prayer. Prayer is simply talking with God. It is turning over our concerns, our struggles, and our questions to him. As women of faith, we can come to him anytime, approach him anywhere, and pray about anything. God loves our honest, heartfelt prayers, and he cares deeply for the details of our lives.

Perhaps your faith is relatively new and you're not yet comfortable praying. This book is for you. The prayers we've developed can be claimed as your own conversations with God. As you pray through each topic and day, we hope you will become more comfortable talking with God and will even begin to form your own prayers to him.

Perhaps you've been a believer for years but need a little inspiration in your prayer life. This book is for you, too. If discouragement or fear for your children sometimes makes it difficult to find the right words, these prayers may allow you to express your concerns in a new way. By including a year's worth of unique prayers that cover a broad range of topics, this book will help rejuvenate your dialogue with God.

Thank God that we don't have to be spiritually mature or "on fire" to have a meaningful prayer life! Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, God is delighted when you draw near to him. We hope this little book will help you do so.

You will find 365 prayers, arranged by days and topics.

You can pray through each day of the year consecutively if you wish. Alternatively, look in the index for a topic that will help you pray through an urgent need or give words to something you may be experiencing. Every few days you will also find prayers called *Prayerful Moments*. These are shorter prayers for days when time is limited or for when you need a quick word with God.

As you enter into a new prayer, take it slow. Spend some time thinking about what you're saying to God, and try to personalize each prayer for your own life and child. Making each written prayer your own honest praise or petition will make it more meaningful.

In your conversations with God, take some time to listen. Reading God's Word as a part of your prayer time gives the Lord an opportunity to speak to you, too. We've included a Scripture verse at the end of each prayer to help you ponder what God might be communicating to you.

By the time you reach the end of this book, we hope you will be inspired in your conversations with God and most important—feel closer to him than ever before. It is often in these special times of prayer that God does his powerful work in our hearts. So don't give up; stick with it. As his Word says to us, "Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most" (Hebrews 4:16).

The privilege of prayer is that it ushers us straight into the presence of our loving God. And Scripture promises us that he won't disappoint! With that in mind, it's time to begin.

A prayer about HOPE When I need perspective

LORD,

Remembering the day I watched my child take her first wobbly steps into my arms reminds me of how you have promised to be there with me as I take steps of faith into the unknown future. Like her, I am not always steady on my feet. I am so thankful that you have not left me here to walk this journey alone. You are right here with me.

Thank you for never leaving me and for using the memory of my little child to show me a glimpse of the hope that comes from a future with you. Thank you for working everything I do together for your purpose. Help me to seek your will in my life.

We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you. PSALM 39:6-7

A prayer about CHILDREN When I realize how much they teach me

LORD,

I knew that children are blessings from you, but I really had no idea how often they'd gift me with lessons I've needed to learn for a long time. Their innocence inspires me to trust you more; their giggles prompt me to choose joy; their sense of adventure encourages me to live fully. Through them I'm learning to jump, to take the risks of wholehearted devotion to you and those I love. When I observe them, I'm reminded that I can help other little ones in need. They remind me to be thankful to you for providing for our needs and to live with a giving heart.

Father, how many children on this earth aren't appreciated? They all have so much promise, so much to learn, and even more to teach. Open my eyes ever wider to look for ways I can minister to the children you place in my life. Thank you for them, Lord. I would not be the same without them, and I'm not done growing through them.

The disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. MATTHEW 18:1-2



A prayer about TRUST When I am looking for an easier way

HEAVENLY FATHER,

As we sit around the coffee shop and chat, I am amazed by my friends' strategies and plans to produce successful children. I too have been lured by the tendency to follow a simple ten-step methodology. But I wonder if an easy prescriptive formula for raising healthy kids is even possible. Will I place my trust in the best academics for their future? Perhaps I will center my attention on developing their gifts, talents, and abilities. Even though I am tempted to use a worldly approach to parenting, I know deep down that those foundations are shaky at best.

I repent of my misplaced trust in the methods of this world. I have invested far too much time, energy, and resources and received far too little in return. I do not want what the world says is best for my children but rather what you have shown me is eternally the best. I want my children to live in a manner that pleases you. Give me grace to trust them and their futures to what you say in your Word.

Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God. PSALM 20:7



A prayer about DISTRACTIONS When I long to be fully attentive to you

FATHER,

I long to be distracted. By you, that is. I'm distracted more often than focused, it seems, but not often by what's most valuable. Instead of thinking of you off and on between the many other things vying for my attention, I'd like to flip those habits around and make you my great distraction.

Will you interrupt anything that threatens to draw me away from you? Interrupt any dream that is not from you and replace it with your best for me. And if I begin to believe any line of thinking that doesn't honor you, stop me in my tracks—whatever it takes. Fill me with the concerns that fill your heart. Flood me with the reality of yourself. Bathe me with your presence and glory. Be my number one priority, my favorite pastime, my most cherished relationship, my most passionate longing, my complete fulfillment, my only Lord, and my life's meaning. Today and forever, will you give "distraction" new meaning and be my greatest one?

Those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ROMANS 8:5



A prayer about JEALOUSY When my child envies others

LORD,

The teenage years can be challenging and hurtful. Watching my child struggle with envy and comparison as she navigates the awkward, painful years of puberty reminds me how important it is to root my identity in you.

You created each and every one of your children to have individual strengths and talents. No person is exactly like another by design, so that everyone can contribute to the world in a unique way. Remind me to point out that her abilities—the ones she so often claims are nothing special—are gifts from you designed to brighten her life and those of everyone around her. Help me to affirm my child so that she knows she is beautiful just the way she is and doesn't need to be like anyone else. Thank you for loving her and for walking with her through the challenges of these years.

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! I JOHN 3:1



DAY 6 Prayerful Moment

A prayer about REGRETS When I feel troubled about the past

GOD,

Tonight I feel nearly paralyzed by my past mistakes and sins. Consequences of my poor choices and decisions continue to ripple through my life today. I lay my sins at your feet, asking you to cleanse me and to cast them as far as the east is from the west, just as you promise in your Word. Then help me to rest, knowing that tomorrow will be a new opportunity to forsake the past and look forward to the future.

No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. PHILIPPIANS 3:13

DAY 7 Prayerful Moment

A prayer about the POWER OF GOD *When I stand in awe*

GOD,

I marvel at your majesty and creation. You are aware of the tiniest details, from the perfectly shaped fingernails on my tiny baby to the vivid colors of every sunset. I am so proud to call you my heavenly Father. Please give me the boldness to tell someone about your matchless power today.

O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you! JEREMIAH 32:17



