

A CHILD'S FIRST BIBLE

A CHILD'S FIRST BEDTIME PRAYERS

25

Heart-to-Heart
Talks with
JESUS



written by Dandi Daley Mackall | illustrated by Cee Biscoe

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A Child’s First Bedtime Prayers

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Designed by Julie Chen

Edited by Deborah King

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Introduction



I REMEMBER SAYING MY PRAYERS WHEN I WAS A CHILD. Usually, the prayers were ones my sister and I had memorized from simple repetition:

*Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you, God, for food so sweet.
Bless this food which we're about to eat
and the hands that prepared it.
Be present at our table, Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.*

At night, I'd thank God for that day (even if it was a crummy one) and ask him to bless everybody and every pet. I got to stay up later that way.



I never expected God to talk back. I suspect I said those prayers as much for my parents as for God.

Only years later, after I had become a Christian and understood the love and grace of our heavenly Father, did I realize God wanted me to talk to him—really talk, even if the words didn't rhyme, even if the thoughts swirled unformed from my cluttered head. And as I began reading, then studying, the Scriptures, I

understood that God, through Jesus, had opened a two-way passage of communication. I could actually have heart-to-hearts with Jesus. He offers such an unimaginable privilege to us every minute of every day.

I've written this book prayerfully. In each of these heartfelt, childlike talks, the child prays to Jesus, and Jesus answers. I've done my best to base every response on specific verses from the Word of God, where God really does speak to us. Please check out additional Bible verses for each prayer at firstbedtimeprayers.com.

My prayer is that your family will draw closer to Jesus as you talk . . . and listen . . . in bedtime prayers.

Dandi Daley Mackall



Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

JAMES 4:8

Because he bends down to listen,
I will pray as long as I have breath!

PSALM 116:2

Let's Talk



Dear Jesus,

I like saying prayers, but I'd love something more.

I want to go deeper than ever before.

I'm not great at praying, but you don't keep score.

I'm talking about bedtime prayers.

I always say thank you for Mom and for Dad,
For Grammy and Grandpa and friends that I've had.

But is it okay if I'm sad or I'm mad,

To say all I feel in my prayers?



Sometimes I pray, but my heart isn't there.
I say the right words in a not-thinking prayer.
I say the words fast, without being aware
That you're really hearing my prayers.

You're awfully big. You can see that I'm small.
So why should you bother to answer at all?
But I'd like to pray. Am I hearing your call
To know you in great bedtime prayers?





Dear child,

Before you were born, long before you could walk,
I knew you and loved you and wanted to talk.
I stand at your door. You are hearing me knock.
I'll join you in close bedtime prayers!

I'm soft as your blankie. I'm safe as your Gram.
You know I'm your Shepherd, and you are my lamb.
You wanted to talk, and, my love, here I am!
I'll lead you in great bedtime prayers.

I open my arms. Come and sit on my knee!
I welcome you, child, to be all you can be.
Just climb in my lap and keep talking with me.
We'll cuddle for great bedtime prayers!





Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

REVELATION 3:20



*Imagine you're sitting on Jesus' lap.
Is there anything you'd like to talk
over with him right now?*

