

PRAY *for* **ME**
PRAYER GUIDE
grandparent
LEGACY EDITION



AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR LEAVING A
LEGACY THROUGH SCRIPTURAL PRAYER

TONY SOUDER

Pray for Me

GRANDPARENT LEGACY EDITION

Tony Souder

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The Adventure of Prayer

Welcome to the adventure of praying for your grandchildren. Yes, it is an adventure! Life with God is always an adventure and prayer is at the very heart of it. The adventure of prayer is only accentuated by the deep love you have for your grandchildren. However, one of the primary pieces that makes prayer an adventure for me is that it is future focused. When we pray we are aiming into the future, whether it is the next second or the next decade. We are calling out to God, looking for him to show up with his sovereign goodness, mercy and power in some specific way to bring glory to his name and blessing to our world. As you pray scriptural prayers for your grandchildren, you are tapping into the economy of God. You are reaching into the future for God's glory and your grandchildren's good. Through your prayers you can provide layers of what I call time-released blessings on your grandchildren and great grandchildren. This is possible only because our prayers are rooted in God and all that he is. Our heavenly Father supersedes all time and oversees all eternity. He is able to answer your prayers for your grandchildren and great grandchildren aimed deep into the future, long after you have passed on to be face to face with King Jesus. Each of us can be an

instrument of good in the hand of God for generations to come through our prayers. Now that is an adventure worth pursuing.

As in most adventures, the element of the unknown is always present. As you launch into praying, in perhaps a new way for your grandchildren, do not be surprised by how God draws you into an expanded and more robust prayer life as you take this journey. It is not unusual for those who are using the Pray for Me Prayer Guides to find themselves expanding the scope of who they pray for as they are praying for those they care for most. Of course everyone you pray for matters and the truth is that we *all* need people asking the King of the universe to bring his goodness to bear on our lives. One of my hopes is that prayer itself and the sharing of prayer needs between you and your grandchildren will become a natural and regular rhythm in your relationship. That each of you will find yourselves mutually praying for each other. Enjoy this journey.

Three Primary Components

As you move through this prayer guide you will experience the goodness of three primary components. They are brought together to provide a unique combination of goodness to help you flourish as you pray for your grandchildren. They are designed to give your prayers focus, clarity and consistency as they are woven throughout the prayer guide. These components are:

- Praying the Scriptures
- Praying through the 7 Essentials
- Utilizing the See, Savor, Share Discipleship Process

Praying the Scriptures

We begin by establishing our roots in the truths of Scripture. The Bible is the Word of God and as such has the power to give life to us and our prayers. Praying Scripture is one of the most powerful and authoritative ways to pray. Throughout this book you will experience the benefits of turning Scripture into prayers for your grandchildren. As we begin let's take a moment to be reminded of some of the promises that await us as we soak in the Scriptures.

The Word of God:

- Points us to Jesus (Luke 24:27)
- Strengthens (Psalm 119:28)
- Guards from sin and keeps us pure (Psalm 119:9, 11)
- Creates and sustains the universe (Psalm 33:6, 2 Peter 3:5, Hebrews 1:3, 11:3)
- Creates spiritual life (1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18)
- Is able to save our souls (James 1:21)
- Is living and active and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12)
- Produces faith (Romans 10:17)
- Teaches, reproves, corrects, and trains in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16)

These passages offer a small taste of all the goodness that flows from the supremacy and power of the Word of God.

One of the compelling aspects about the Pray for Me Prayer Guide is that it takes the most powerful words in the world, the very words of God, and makes them the catalyst for our prayers for your grandchildren and anyone else you are inclined to pray for.

The apostle Paul refers to the Scriptures as the Sword of the Spirit, and we know from Hebrews 4:12 that “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” God uses his Word to transform our hearts whether it is written, spoken, or uttered silently in prayer to the Father. In this prayer guide I am committed to letting the very truths of Scripture be the kindling to set our prayers on fire with passion and purpose. Each day passages of Scripture that relate to the 7 Essentials have been turned into life-giving prayers for your grandchildren.

Praying like the Psalmist Prays

It would be hard to have a Scripture-centered prayer guide that didn't in some way point to the primary prayer and songbook in the Bible. Therefore, we will be taking cues from the Psalms in our efforts to turn Scriptures into prayers. They reveal a plethora of ways to plead with God. The beauty of the Psalms is that they portray the full spectrum of emotions and challenges that a human can experience. There is a grittiness and authenticity that we can relate to because it represents real life. Perusing the Psalms helps promote clarity, honesty, urgency, and directness in our prayers. Let's look at a few phrases from Psalm 119 that can give us a glimpse into the psalmist's directness and dependence on God in prayer:

- Do good to your servant (17)
- Open my eyes that I may see (18)
- Remove from me scorn... (22)
- Preserve my life according to your word (25)
- Teach me your decrees (26)

- Let me understand the teaching of your precepts (27)
- Strengthen me (28)
- Keep me from deceitful ways (29)
- Do not let me be put to shame (31)
- Give me... (34)
- Direct me... (35)
- Turn my heart... (36)
- Turn my eyes... (37)
- Fulfill your promise... (38)
- Take away... (39)
- May your unfailing love... (41)
- Do not snatch your word from my mouth (43)
- Remember... (49)
- Be gracious (58)
- Let your compassion... (77)

Each of these phrases is a clear call for God to act; a plea for the favor of God to act on the psalmists' behalf. As you turn Scripture into prayer for your grandchildren, you are ushering a clear call for God to act on their behalf. May God be ever so gracious to act and intervene for the good of each of your grandchildren for generations to come! May he cause you to be relentless in your prayers and your intentionality in bringing his greatness to them. May God soften their hearts to his greatness and grant them faithful responsiveness to his Word.

Praying Through The 7 Essentials

The second component of the prayer guide is structured around what I call The 7 Essentials. These seven biblical categories of life

are the minimum essentials that I believe need to be attended to for someone to flourish in living faithfully before God and man.

The 7 Essentials come directly from two passages of the Bible, but their importance saturates all of Scripture. The first two, wisdom and favor, come from Luke 2:52: “And Jesus increased in **wisdom** and in stature and in **favor** with God and man.” It is not surprising that Jesus grew in wisdom and favor because he was God in human form. What is surprising is that Luke makes sure that we know Jesus grew in wisdom and favor. Luke could have said anything he wanted about Jesus, but he made a point to let us know that wisdom and favor with God were essential, even for the Son of God. If it was essential for God’s Son to grow in wisdom and favor, then there is no question that these two are essential for you and your grandchildren. The other five Essentials are found in 1 Timothy 4:12: “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in **speech**, in **conduct**, in **love**, in **faith**, in **purity**.”

It is crucial to understand that Paul is not using throwaway words here. He is giving Timothy the essential categories that he needs to pay attention to in order to set an appropriate example for all believers. There was a lot at stake in this simple and precise directive from Paul to Timothy. These categories remain essential for us today.



A Prayer for Conduct

Father, thank you that we are your workmanship, that we are your masterpieces in the making. Help us to walk humbly with you as we seek to do justice and love kindness in this world. Cause us to be relentless in pursuing your Favor to grow deep in Wisdom, Love, Faith and Purity so that our Speech and Conduct would encourage others and exalt you. We pray this for your glory and our good, in Jesus' name, Amen.

The See•Savor•Share Discipleship Process

Life with God is an abundant adventure. It's how he designed it. John 10:10 says, "I came that you might have life and have it abundantly." As you launch into this prayer guide, I want to introduce you to a simple process that can infuse a new freshness into your relationship with God. It's not a panacea or cure all for the difficult days of our lives, but it can definitely strengthen your relationship with God to sustain you in the hard times. I call it the See, Savor, Share discipleship process. The See, Savor, Share discipleship process is the third component that makes this prayer guide unique. Over the last several decades See, Savor, Share has become the rhythm of my life with God, and I would like to encourage you to embrace it as your own as well. At this point it might be helpful to give a little background concerning the value and necessity of See, Savor, Share.

I have been a follower of Christ since 1978, but in March of 1995 the trajectory of my spiritual growth was forever altered. It was then that my wife began having severe, non-stop, relentless migraine-like headaches. Over the next twenty-five-plus years, with three major surgeries and fifty-plus doctors from all across the country in our rearview mirror, her chronic pain has expanded to

The 7 Essentials in 7 Days

Every day is designed to provide you with a clear and fresh opportunity for engaging God in Scripture through prayer for your grandchildren. It is my hope that you will pray for your grandchildren as well as anyone God may put on your heart.

The See, Savor, Share discipleship process guides you through each day, prompting you with ways to see, savor, and share the fullness of God. The *see* portion is a passage of Scripture where you can circle or underline words and phrases that stand out to you. Next, you will *savor* those truths in prayer for your grandchildren. Finally, you will have the opportunity to record any thoughts or ideas that were pressed into your heart during the see and savor portions. It is my hope and expectation that you will *share* them with your grandchildren in a winsome and natural way!

Day One: Favor

Father, open my eyes so that I might *see* you more clearly, *savor* you more fully, and *share* you more freely.

Circle or underline any key words or phrases you **See**:

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. (1 Chronicles 29:11-13)

Savor these truths in prayer:

Father, you are great and worthy to be praised. I pray that _____ would know and embrace your favor and never stop growing in wonder and amazement of your greatness. Awaken their hearts and minds to comprehend that all goodness flows from your hand. When they look at the heavens, cause them to know the heavens are yours! When they look in the mirror, cause them to know that they are yours. Create in them a relentless reliance on you and your provisions of favor in all of life. Enable them to be enthralled by you as the giver of all things. Give them deep enjoyment and thankfulness at the thought of your glorious name. For your glory and their good, in the sovereign name of Jesus, amen.

Write down any thoughts or ideas you may want to **Share**:

Day Two: Wisdom

Father, open my eyes so that I might *see* you more clearly, *savor* you more fully, and *share* you more freely.

Circle or underline any key words or phrases you **See**:

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)

O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! (Psalm 39:4)

Savor these truths in prayer:

Father, it is so easy for days and years to pass by before we realize they are gone. I pray for _____, that you would help them realize how precious each moment is. Teach them to savor every day as a gift from you and help them to live each day with purposeful intentionality. Cause them to understand that their lives are sustained by you. Help them to realize this life is also fleeting, so they should always seek to follow you faithfully. Give them a long-term view of life so they can make wise short-term decisions. Remind them that it is in living for you that their lives become the most fulfilling. For your glory and their good, in Jesus' name, amen.

Write down any thoughts or ideas you may want to **Share**:

Day Three: Love

Father, open my eyes so that I might *see* you more clearly, *savor* you more fully, and *share* you more freely.

Circle or underline any key words or phrases you **See**:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)

Savor these truths in prayer:

Father, thank you for showing us what perfect love looks like in Jesus. I pray that in your grace and mercy you would grant _____ eyes to see the scope and uniqueness of your love. It is not earned, but received by faith. Cause their hearts and minds to be captured by your relentless, sacrificial and personal love for them in Jesus. Create in each of them a tenacious trust and treasuring of Jesus alone for their salvation. Give them an unshakable confidence that eternal life is found in Jesus alone, through faith alone. By your grace, empower them to live sacrificial loving lives. For your glory and their good, in Jesus' name, amen.

Write down any thoughts or ideas you may want to **Share**:

Day Four: Faith

Father, open my eyes so that I might *see* you more clearly, *savor* you more fully, and *share* you more freely.

Circle or underline any key words or phrases you **See**:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Savor these truths in prayer:

Father, life is so often complex and confusing. I thank you for your promises that provide hope and clarity in the midst of life's complexity. Today I pray that _____ would place their trust in you, surrendering every aspect of their lives to you, believing that you love them. Empower them to fight the urge to trust in their own understanding more than they rely on you and your guidance. Cause them to look to you in all their ways, acknowledging their need for, dependence on, and hope in you. Help them to acknowledge all of your provisions as they see you make their paths straight. Give them eyes to see the wonders you perform as they surrender and yield to your purposes. You are their God! Help them treasure you today with every breath, and cause them to call others to treasure you with all of their hearts as well. For your glory and their good, in Jesus' name, amen!

Write down any thoughts or ideas you may want to **Share**:

Day Five: Purity

Father, open my eyes so that I might *see* you more clearly, *savor* you more fully, and *share* you more freely.

Circle or underline any key words or phrases you **See**:

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:9-11)

Savor these truths in prayer:

Father, in a world that disregards purity, the question of the psalmist is vital: “How can a young man [or woman] keep their way pure?” By listening, loving and living according to what you say is the answer. I pray that _____ would taste the sweetness of Scripture and that their hearts would overflow with enjoyment. Help them to feast on the wonders of your word daily like they feed on food. Use the power of your Word, the Sword of the Spirit, to lead, guide, and empower them to pursue purity and holiness in every decision. Give them a steadfast desire and will to treasure your Word in their hearts so that their lives bring you honor and glory. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Write down any thoughts or ideas you may want to **Share**:

Day Six: Speech

Father, open my eyes so that I might *see* you more clearly, *savor* you more fully, and *share* you more freely.

Circle or underline any key words or phrases you **See**:

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night... (Psalm 92:1-2)

Savor these truths in prayer:

Father, I praise you today. You are great and glorious. Help _____ to use their words to give you thanks and praise for all you are and all you do. Let their hearts overflow with songs of praise to your name. Give them understanding of your great love for them each morning and let their words declare your steadfast love. Help them to see and savor the truth that every day they are walking into the care and love of their heavenly Father. Grant them the ability to recognize your faithfulness throughout each day, using their speech to tell the world about your greatness. For your glory and their good, in Jesus' name, amen.

Write down any thoughts or ideas you may want to **Share**:

Day Seven: Conduct

Father, open my eyes so that I might *see* you more clearly, *savor* you more fully, and *share* you more freely.

Circle or underline any key words or phrases you **See**:

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

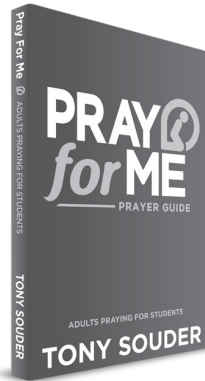
Savor these truths in prayer:

Father, thank you for telling us what is good in this life along with the things you require of us to honor your name. I pray that _____ would learn to love what you require of them. Make their hearts tender and responsive to all of your commands to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you all of their days. Awaken their hearts and minds to the needs for love and mercy all around them. Give them the wisdom, abilities, and tenacious desire required to meet those needs. Give them eyes to see the world the way you see it and grant them the courage to stand against injustice for your glory and the good of those being mistreated. As they seek to promote justice and to love kindness in this world, empower them to do it with humility before you and man. For your glory and their good, in Jesus' name, amen.

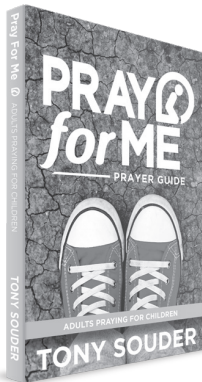
Write down any thoughts or ideas you may want to **Share**:

PRAY FOR ME

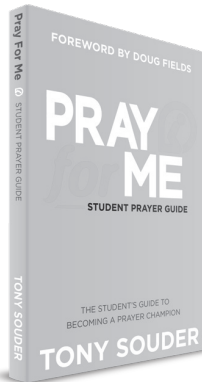
RESOURCES



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