

PRAY 
for **ME**

PRAYER GUIDE

ADULTS PRAYING FOR STUDENTS

TONY SOUDER

Pray for Me

PRAYER GUIDE

ADULTS PRAYING FOR STUDENTS

Tony Souder

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Pray for Me: Prayer Guide: Adults Praying for Students
Tony Souder

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Contents

Acknowledgements

Preface

Introduction

Part One: An Overview

Strategic Prayer..... 15

Praying the Scriptures..... 15

The 7 Essentials 18

The SeeSavorShare Discipleship Process..... 24

Part Two: 4 Weeks of The 7 Essentials in 7 Days

Week One 30

Week Two 39

Week Three 49

Week Four 58

Part Three: A Week of Each Essential

Week Five: Favor 67

Week Six: Wisdom 76

Week Seven: Love..... 85

Week Eight: Faith 94

Week Nine: Purity 103

Week Ten: Speech..... 112

Week Eleven: Conduct 121

Part Four: Additional Ways to Pray Scripture

Week Twelve: Praying the Proverbs..... 130

Week Thirteen: Leverage Prayers 139

Appendix

Ten Tips for Engaging with Teens..... 148

What's Next..... 152

Additional Resources.....153

PRAY FOR ME CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW:

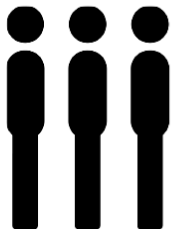
a simple way of investing in the next generation through prayer

ONE
STUDENT
INVITES



THREE
ADULT BELIEVERS

FROM
THREE
GENERATIONS



TO BE HIS OR HER
PRAYER
CHAMPIONS

WHO ALL COMMIT TO
PRAYING
THROUGH THE GUIDE



FOR ONE
ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR

THE VISION: THAT EVERY YOUNG PERSON IN
THE CHURCH WOULD HAVE A TEAM OF ADULT BELIEVERS
SERVING AS THEIR PRAYER CHAMPIONS.

You may have this Prayer Guide in your hands because your church is launching the Pray for Me Campaign. Or, you may have come across this book on your own, and you are using it for your own personal prayer life. Regardless, the Prayer Guide is created to help empower individuals, and entire churches to invest in the next generation through prayer. If your church hasn't launched the campaign, perhaps you are the person to bring Pray for Me to them and help strengthen the intergenerational relationships within your church. Interested in learning more?

Visit our website: prayformecampaign.com

Strategic Prayer

There are plenty of books out there about praying for others. What makes this one different? For starters, the prayers in this book are specifically geared towards the next generation. More importantly, this guide is designed to give your prayers focus, clarity, and consistency. There are three primary components whose combined uniqueness provide traction for this prayer guide:

- Praying the Scriptures
- The 7 Essentials
- SeeSavorShare (S3)

Praying the Scriptures

This prayer guide is rooted and established 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. Throughout this book you will learn how to turn Scripture into prayers for the next generation. Praying Scripture is one of the most powerful and authoritative ways to pray. 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:

- Gives life (Psalm 119:25, 107)
- 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 taste of 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 the next generation. 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 fodder for our prayers. We will take passages of Scripture that relate to each of The 7 Essentials and turn them into life-giving prayers for the next generation.

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. There is a grittiness and authenticity in the Psalms that promotes clarity, honesty, urgency, and directness. 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 we turn Scripture into prayer for the next generation, we 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 the next generation! May he cause us to be relentless in our prayers and our intentionality in bringing his greatness to the next generation. May God soften their hearts to his greatness and grant them faithful responsiveness to his Word and to us as Prayer Champions as we care for them.

The 7 Essentials

This prayer guide is structured around what I call The 7 Essentials. These seven aspects 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 and man 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 us. 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.

In this prayer guide The 7 Essentials have been arranged into three categories based on the role of each Essential:

- The Favor Foundation: Favor
- The Core Four: Wisdom, Love, Faith, and Purity
- The Public Relations (PR) Pair: Speech and Conduct

The Favor Foundation

As I write this, a 408-foot spire is being lifted to the top of the new One World Trade Center in New York City making it the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere at 1,776 feet. Its stunning structure graces the Manhattan skyline. As we marvel at the grandeur of such a structure, how often do we take time to consider its foundation? Foundations are easily forgotten and yet they are indispensable. Often times we forget that God’s favor is the foundation of our lives. It is a strong and secure foundation, but in this world that values self-reliance, it is easy to forget that we are completely dependent on him. Think of God’s favor as anything he does in, through, or for you. We can see the favor of God in his provision, protection, presence, and purposes.

He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation. For by Jesus all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Jesus and for Jesus. And Jesus is before all things, and in Jesus all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15-17)

Our entire existence results from God's creating and sustaining favor. This is the foundation for all the other Essentials. What does a teenager need to recognize God's favor in their lives? They need eyes to see, ears to hear, and humble hearts to understand and embrace the favor of God for all it is worth. We must be diligent in praying that the next generation develops a posture of humility so that they might see the favor of God in his provision, protection, presence, and purposes.

The Core Four

I call wisdom, love, faith, and purity the Core Four because they reflect the condition of our hearts. They represent the substance of who we are. It is in these areas that we need God to unleash his favor first and foremost. We need:

1. *Wisdom.* The young people we are praying for are making decisions every day that will affect the rest of their lives. It is our desire that God would use our prayers to enhance their wisdom in order to make good decisions—and to reduce their regrets when they don't. We should look to the book of Proverbs and the person of Jesus as we pray for wisdom to take root in the next generation. Proverbs specifically seeks to provide "knowledge and discretion to the youth" (Proverbs 1:4).

In Colossians 2:3, Paul says that “in [Jesus] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” As we pray for these teenagers’ relationship with Jesus to deepen, we are also addressing their need for greater and greater wisdom.

2. *Love.* God is love. Love for God and others is the crux on which all the law and prophets hang according to Matthew 22:37-40:

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Love is what transforms us. That is why the apostle Paul was so intentional in Ephesians 3:18-19, praying that believers “may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

3. *Faith.* Faith is the gift of God’s favor that makes salvation possible (Ephesians 2:8-9). Faith is absolutely necessary in pleasing God. Hebrews 11:6 says, “[W]ithout faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”
4. *Purity.* Blessing and favor of God follow the pure in heart. God gives us vision to see him as we pursue a life of purity. Matthew 5:8 says, “Blessed are the pure in

heart, for they shall see God.” As we pray for the next generation it is essential that we seek God’s favor to cause their wisdom, love, faith, and purity to flourish.

The PR Pair: Speech and Conduct

I love watching the award-winning specials produced by National Geographic. The clarity of nature that they are able to capture is stunning. I am specifically reminded of a photograph of an iceberg in Pleneau Bay off Pleneau Island, which is close to the Antarctic Circle. The photograph was a split shot view capturing a unique image of the iceberg both above and below the waterline. It brought the phrase “tip of the iceberg” to life. Scientists state that because of the density of ice, only ten percent of an iceberg is visible above water, while the bulk of its substance sits below the surface. When you think about it, we are actually a lot like icebergs. People around us get to see about ten percent of who we really are through our speech and conduct—yet there is so much more to us that is “under the waterline.” In some ways, our speech and conduct are like high-tech animated billboards above the surface sending messages to all who pass by saying, “This is who we are!” and “This is what we are made of!” Like all messages from billboards, our speech and conduct only serve as signs of who we are below the surface. They give clues, but they don’t share the whole story. They are just the tip of the iceberg.

It is in our speech and conduct that we “go public” with who we are, or at least who we want people to *think* we are, on the inside. Our wisdom, love, faith, and purity are forged on the inside and then expressed on the outside in what we say and do. This is where the rubber meets the road in our Christian lives. The importance of our speech and conduct cannot be overstated.

The goal is for what we say and do to accurately reflect who we are on the inside. It is through what we say and do that we offer the world a clear or hazy picture of God. We were created by God to magnify his greatness by our lips and by our lives.

I want to challenge you with two simple questions to help guide you in becoming an authentic follower of Christ in both your speech and conduct. These questions are designed to shine a light on the state of your hearts and to direct you toward an ever-increasing dependence on God.

1. *Am I playing the part without the heart?* God's greatest desire for us is that we would love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and that we would love others as ourselves. This question points to our propensity to pretend that he is our treasure when other things are our pleasure. Jesus saved some of his most scathing words for those who honored him with their lips while their hearts were far from him. Let this question do its good work and prompt us toward having a heart that is captured by God and his greatness.
2. *Am I allowing my speech and conduct to fulfill their purpose in my spiritual growth?* Our speech and conduct have several purposes—to communicate to the world who we are and what we stand for, and to communicate with ourselves. Are you listening to what your speech and conduct are telling you about the spiritual condition of your heart? As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit living in us and letting us know when we say or do something that is out of sync with either who we are or who God calls us to be. It is crucial that we listen to the Spirit's convictions and promptings. We must be

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 student. You'll notice, however, that each prayer is written in the plural tense so you can pray for more than one individual. It is our hope that you will pray for your student as well as anyone God may put on your heart.

The S3 life and ministry model 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 student. 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 our hope and expectation that you will *share* them with someone else!

Before you launch into the daily prayers portion, flip to the Appendix on page 146 and check out the "Ten Tips for Engaging with Teens." This section is filled with practical ways to begin forming a relationship with your student naturally and effectively.

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 for you and your student:

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 exuberant praise 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 for you and your student:

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 for you and your student:

Father, thank you for loving us so much that you gave up your only Son. Your love is overwhelmingly sacrificial! Words are inadequate to express the magnitude of your love. It staggers the mind to think that you loved us when we had nothing to offer. There was nothing attractive about us. We were sinners, rebelling against all of your goodness and majesty. Cause _____ to be captured by the depth and sweetness of your sacrificial love. Let it soak deep into their hearts. Cause it to 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 for you and your student:

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 for you and your student:

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?” A wholehearted pursuit of you and your Word is the answer. I pray that _____ would taste the sweetness of Scripture and desire it with their whole hearts. Help them to believe that your Word is the Sword of the Spirit that can lead, guide, and empower them to pursue purity in every decision. Give them the desire and will to hide your Word in their hearts that they might not sin against you. 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 to 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 for you and your student:

Father, I praise you today. You are great and glorious. Help _____ to use their words to give you thanks for all you are and all you do. Let their hearts sing songs of praise to your name. Give them understanding of your great love for them each morning. May 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 give thanks and praise your great name. 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)

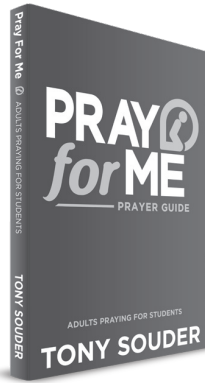
Savor these truths in prayer for you and your student:

Father, you have told us what is good and what you require of us. You have made it plain that you desire for us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you all of our days. I pray that _____ would take these three commands to heart and pursue them with reckless abandon. Make them alert to attend to the weak and less fortunate. Do not let them turn a blind eye to injustice when it is in their power to act. Awaken their hearts and minds to the needs for love and mercy all around them. Create in them the ability to meet those needs. As they seek to promote justice and to love kindness in this world, empower them to do it humbly before you and man. For your glory and their good, in Jesus' name, amen.

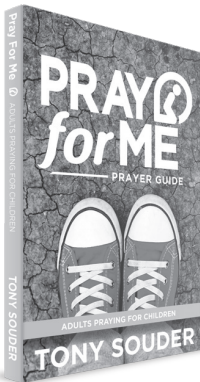
Write down any thoughts or ideas you may want to *Share*:

PRAY FOR ME

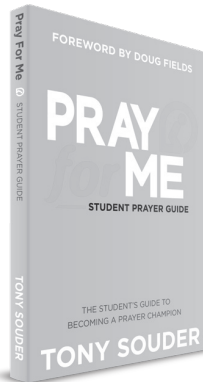
RESOURCES



ADULTS PRAYING FOR STUDENTS
Praying for middle and high school students



ADULTS PRAYING FOR CHILDREN
Praying for children fifth grade and below.



STUDENT PRAYER GUIDE
Students praying for their peers.

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