

*A Gift of Faith Book*

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**Part 1**

**PRAYER  
AND  
PRAISE**



A Gift of Faith Book

5

# Prayer and Praise

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Photo by Naomi

# Fun Times

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You, for all the fun things I get to do. When it's sunny, I can play outside or go on an outing with my mummy and daddy. Sometimes it's rainy and I can't go outside, but Mummy always helps me find something fun to do.

Sometimes we do art, or make a snack or play dress-up. I also like to play with my friends. Thank You for all the many ways I can have fun.

Help me to always play safely and to do what those caring for me tell me to do, and follow their good ideas.

Please help me to be obedient and always stay close to You so I don't get hurt or have an accident. Thank You for always keeping me safe when I play and have fun.

*Amen*

Photo by Naomi



# Trust

*Dear Jesus,*

I know You are always with me and will take good care of me no matter where I am. I love You and I am so glad that You love me too! Sometimes there are things that make me feel worried and I wonder if things will be okay. Please help me to have faith, and to trust in Your loving care.

I want to remember to talk with You about anything that is bothering me. Thank You for always listening to me when I tell You things. I'm so glad that You know how to take care of everything that I need Your help with. I know You will protect me when I ask You, and You will be near me no matter what.

You understand me, and love me, and that gives me peace. When I remember that You are close to me and I pray for You to make things better, I can trust You to take good care of me.

*Amen*



Photo by Jon Berg



# Playtime

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You that we can have fun playing today! I'm so glad that I can see, and hear, and talk. I can use my hands and feet to get around and to do things. I enjoy the times of play and I learn many things also.

I have discovered that I am happier, if each one that I am playing with is happy and also enjoying the time. Please help me to know how to make our times of play together pleasant.

Jesus, please teach me how to play kindly and to share the toys joyfully. I know that if I am concerned that others are having a nice time, then we'll have more fun.

Help us to play safely and not to do things that might cause an accident. Thank You for Your angels that are helping to keep us safe as we play.

*Amen*



# Parents and Caretakers

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for my mummy and daddy. Thank You for my teacher and for all those who take care of me. Thank You that they love me and take care of me, and thank You for the fun things we get to do together. Jesus, please bless my daddy when he's driving and when he's working. Keep him safe and protect him from accidents. Please help him in his work and give him the strength to do things well.

Please also bless my mummy in everything she has to do. Please keep her strong and healthy. And please bless my teacher, too. Thank You for all the things she teaches me and how she's always so nice and kind. Thank You for blessing me with all the loving people who take care of me. Help me to always appreciate them and be thankful for them!

*Amen*



Photo by Naomi

# Bible Stories

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for all the stories in the Bible! I like them all so much. I especially like it when Mummy or Daddy read me stories from the Bible. It's so nice to cuddle up and listen as they read. It's like being with You, Jesus!

Please bless our story time together, dear Jesus. Please help me to listen really well and learn from the stories. And please help me remember the good lessons from them too.

Your Word is so important and I always want to follow it and obey it. Thank You, Jesus, for these fun Bible stories we get to read!

*Amen*



Photos by Naomi (l) & Jon Berg (r)

# Food

*Dear Jesus,*

I'm so glad for all the delicious types of food that there are. Thank You for sweet and juicy fruit, tasty vegetables, and all the other nourishing foods that You help farmers to grow.

Please supply what I need to help me grow healthy and strong, and teach me to enjoy the foods that are best for me.

I pray that children all around the world will have enough good food to eat as well. I know You always take care of those that trust in You.

*Amen*





Photo by Naomi

# Encouragement

*Dear Jesus,*

I really like it when somebody says something nice about me. I guess it's called encouragement, right? Thank You for encouragement, Lord! It's like sunshine after a rainy day.

Thank You for my mummy who encourages me when I do my best to tidy up my room or pick up my toys. Thank You for my teacher who encourages me when I work hard to learn something. And thank You for Daddy who always makes me laugh.

Please help me to think of nice things to say to people, too, and encourage them. Even if it's only giving someone a smile and a wave, I know that will make them happy. Please help me to remember to do that, Jesus. Thank You!

*Amen*



Photo by S.d.B.

# Patience

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for Your beautiful creation! I love to sit outside and watch the sunset or look all around at the beautiful world You made. I can see that lots of things in Your creation need time to grow, like flowers and baby birds that grow and learn to fly.

Sometimes it's hard for me to wait for something and be patient. But You're never in a hurry, and neither is Your creation. Please teach me how to go slow and be patient, Jesus.

You are never impatient with anyone. You are always loving and kind, and You showed us that You were this way when You came to Earth. Please help me to be patient and kind, like You!

*Amen*



Photo by Naomi

# Bonks

*Dear Jesus,*

Even though I get bonks, thank You that they always heal up. You made my body so amazing in that way. I'm so thankful that everything in my body works so well.

And I'm especially thankful that even though it hurts to get a bonk, You always make it feel better and heal it.

Dear Jesus, I need Your healing touch right now for this bonk that I just got. I know nothing is too small for You to notice, so please heal it and make it feel much better real soon.

Thank You, Jesus! You're the best!

*Amen*



Photo by Naomi

# Seeds

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for seeds. Every time I eat a pear or another kind of fruit, there are always seeds inside. I'm glad the world is never going to run out of pears because of all the little seeds that we can just plant again and again.

Thank You for Your amazing plan for Your Creation. We're never going to run out of anything because of all the little seeds inside. And that makes me think of what kind of seeds I can plant.

I can plant seeds in a vegetable garden, but I think I know the kind of seeds You like best, Jesus. They are special seeds of love and kindness. Please help me to plant those kinds of seeds, too, Jesus.





I know that makes Mummy and Daddy and all my family happy. When I speak kind words and give love and encouragement it's like planting a seed in someone's heart, because then good thoughts and feelings begin to grow in their heart and mind.

Soon they too begin to do deeds of kindness as a result. Just like we get good things to eat from the seeds we plant in the dirt, we get good things in return from the good thoughts and kindness that we plant in people's hearts and minds.

Thank You, Jesus, for helping me to plant the best kind of seeds of all!

*Amen*



Photo by Naomi

# Clothes

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You, for my clothes! I'm so glad for all the clothes I have. I like my pyjamas and my swimsuit and even my school clothes. But most of all, I'm thankful for my favourite outfits, the ones that I like wearing best of all. How did You know what my favourite colour was? It seems like You knew, because You gave me nice outfits in that colour. Thank You, Jesus!

I want to make You happy, too, Jesus, by putting on what You like me to wear. People don't always notice the clothes I wear, but they for sure notice the way I act, and what I do and say. Having good manners can be like wearing a fancy outfit. So please help me to remember that no matter what else I wear, I can always put on love and humility, and a smile too!

*Amen*



# Forgiveness

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You that You always love me and forgive me. You make it so easy to say, "I'm sorry!" Thank You for that. Whenever I ask Mummy (or Daddy, or my teacher, or my friends) to forgive me, I know they do. And I know You forgive me, too.

I wouldn't know what to do if my friends or my mummy and daddy stayed mad and didn't forgive me. I would feel so bad and so sad. That's why I'm thankful they always forgive me and love me.

Help me to also love others and forgive them in the same way. Thank You for loving me, and for loving everybody in the whole world! Help me to share Your love with others by being forgiving and understanding.

*Amen*



# Music

*Dear Jesus,*

I love music! Just hearing my favourite songs makes me happy. Thank You for all the happy, cheery music there is. I like music to sing along with and to listen to. Sometimes I like to dance to music, too. I know that You like music, too, because You inspired so many people to write songs.

You also gave lots of people musical talents so they can sing, and play instruments, and make people happy. Help me to also learn how to play and make nice music. I know it's a gift from You when you help me to use an instrument well, or I get a nice new tune. I want to do my best to work on my musical skill so I can use it to make You and others happy.

I like to make You happy, Jesus. And when I'm being happy and praiseful, that is like beautiful music to You. So please help me to always be praiseful and show You my thanks. I love making You happy, Jesus!

*Amen*





Photo by Chariane Quille (t) & S.d.B. (b)

# Sweet and Sour

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for all the things that taste sweet, like delicious fruits. And thank You, too, for things that taste sour, because they sure make me appreciate the things that taste sweet.

No matter what happens, Jesus, I know I can still be happy and thankful. Even if something sour comes my way, I can still remember all the sweet things and the sweet times You bless me with.

Please help me, Jesus, to always be sweet and not get sour if things don't go my way. You bless me with so much, Jesus! Please help me to remember that and always be thankful, through the sour things as well as the sweet!

*Amen*



Photo by Chariane Quille

# Warm Blanket

*Dear Jesus,*

I like to cuddle up with my nice warm blanket, Jesus, especially when it's chilly at night. I feel so warm and secure when I'm all wrapped up like that. It's just like all the nice warm love I get when I'm hugging Mummy or Daddy. It makes me feel so loved.

Thank You for my warm blanket, Jesus! Please bless all the people around the world who are cold and hungry and don't have a blanket like I do.

Please supply lots of food and warm things for them to wear. And especially help them feel Your love around them, just like the nice warm blanket that covers me.

*Amen*



Photo by Chariane Quille

# Pillow

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for my pillow! It is so soft and fluffy and I love to snuggle up with it! I love it when Mummy lets me bring my pillow for comfy-cosy story time. Thank You for all the things You made that are soft and so nice to touch. Jesus, that makes me think of how nice it is when I'm soft and kind to others. Who likes to brush against thorns? I sure don't want to be like that, all prickly and poky. Instead, help me to be soft and kind and gentle with others, just like my pillow is for me.

When someone is feeling grumpy, please help me to know what soft words to say that will help them to relax and feel loved. When I feel like saying something unkind back to someone that has done something I don't like, please comfort my heart, and give me Your gentle Spirit instead. Help my words and the things I do to be like a soft pillow for others. Thank You Jesus, for Your soft and comfy love that You can make me feel inside.

*Amen*



Photo by Chariane Quille

# Bed

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for my bed! When I'm tired, there's nothing like curling up in my nice bed and going to sleep. I have my bedtime toys and my blanket that goes right up to my nose and I feel so warm and secure when I'm all tucked in. Thank You for my bed and for making my sleep time so nice and comfy.

My bed is strong and it's going to keep me safe and secure all night long. That's just the way You keep me safe and secure, Jesus. You and Your angels are always around me, keeping me safe. I never have to worry about a thing! I can just trust You and know that I'm safe in Your care.

*Amen*





Photo by Jon Berg

# Animals

*Dear Jesus,*

Jesus, I'm so thankful for all the animals You made. And thank You so much for my pet. He's so cute and does such funny things.

I like to watch all the interesting things he does and I like to play with him. Thank You for all the fun times I have with my pet.

Thank You, Jesus, for all the people who love animals and help to take care of them. Please bless the vet who knows all about what pets need.

Bless all the zoo keepers too, who work so hard to take care of the animals in the zoo.

Please bless the forest rangers that take care of the wild animals. Please protect them and help them.



Photo by Jon Berg

I'm so thankful for all the animals You've made and the people who love to care for them!

The Bible says a lot about animals, and reminds us how You care for them, and make sure that they have food to eat.

I'm looking forward to the day when all the creatures will be at peace and gentle again. I can hardly wait for a chance to play with some of the amazing animals that will be friendly at that time.

*Amen*



Photo by Jon Berg

# House

*Dear Jesus,*

I'm so thankful for this house, and that You provided it for us. Thank You, too, for the garden and all the fun play times we have there. Please keep our house safe, dear Jesus, all through the night and the day. Protect us from storms, and keep it nice and dry in rainy weather. And please send Your angels to keep our house safe. Thank you for that promise in Your Word that says,

"Your children will have a place of safety."

I'm eagerly looking forward to the day when I get to see the Heavenly home that You have prepared for us. That will be the best and most beautiful place to live, ever! It's like that song that says, "My home is in Heaven just waiting for me, and when I get there, how happy I'll be!"

*Amen*



Photos by Jon Berg (t) & Curtis Peter van Gorder (b-l & r)

# Exercise

*Dear Jesus,*

I sure enjoy it when I can play outside and have fun exercise time. Sometimes I like to just run around the yard or kick a ball. I'm so thankful for my feet, and legs, and arms.

Thank You for every part of my body that moves and works so well. Thank You that I can have so much fun playing outside.

Please help me to be careful when I play and to always play safely. Please help me to care about others, and make sure they are having fun too.

Help me not to only want to be the winner all the time, but to be happy when others win too. That way we can all play safely and have fun together.

*Amen*





# Toys

*Dear Jesus,*

I'm so thankful for my toys! I have so many kinds of toys! There are my bed toys and my stuffed animals. I also have lots of books, puzzles, and games. Best of all are my outside toys, like my ball and tricycle. Thank You for all of them, Jesus!

Please help me take good care of my toys and try to keep them nice. Help me not to be rough with them, or leave them out in the yard where they could get wrecked.

Help me to always tidy up and put them away, where they will be safe and ready for the next playtime.

Please help me to have fun play times, and give me good ideas of what to play or make. I know there is a lot that I can learn, even when I'm playing.



I can learn patience, and how to be a cheerful giver. I can practice using creativity. I can make things that are interesting and fun to look at and play with.

I want You to enjoy watching me play. I want You to be glad that You shared these toys with me when You see the nice way I play, and how I chose to say things that make You happy.

I know You are right with me, even when I'm playing. You love to be with me. I want to please You in all that I do, as my way of saying, "Thank You" for giving to me all that I have.

*Amen*

**Continued in Part 2**