

Family Devotional

"Summer is for seeing and savoring Christ." ~ Piper HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR KIDS THIS SUMMER

Hello, Summer!

SHILOH TERRACE

Though we generally delight in summer, summer also presents challenges for parenting. Prolonged daylight hours with delayed bedtimes, more loosely structured schedules, ticks and mosquitoes . . . such things introduce struggles into the mix, and as they say, *What's a mother* to do?

It helps to ask, Why did God invent summer? He did it because summer has a unique way of bringing him glory and affording us (and our children) tailor-made opportunities to grow in Christlikeness. As my next-door neighbor (John Piper) says, "Summer is for seeing and savoring Christ."

What's unique about summer? For one thing, most kids are outdoors more. There they encounter bugs, scrapes, sunburn, and water. In normal circumstances, some children pack up and are sent off to summer church camp, with all of its relational dynamics (good and bad), risk of contagious germs, and a garden variety of difficulties ideal for growing up. Some children are packing for college or the military and saying their farewells.

So yes, summer is the time to pray for our children.

Specific Prayers to Pray

How shall we pray summer prayers?

Pray with thankfulness.

Thank God for what he has *already* done in the lives of your children. He knit them together. He gave them their parents (you). He gave them exposure to the gospel. He is giving them experiences to broaden and deepen them.

Ask with specificity.

In the lives of your children, what are you laboring toward? Christlikeness? Maturity? What you have been laboring toward is what you actually want for them. Ask God specifically for what you really want.

Ask Him to pour out his spirit on your sons and daughters. (Acts 2:17)

Ask God to enable them over the summer to learn to distinguish between being a son and being a daughter. Current culture winds will not take your children in the direction that God designed them.

Pray that God's word would abide in them. (John 15:7)

Ask God to draw you and your children to his life-giving word that bears witness about Jesus. Pray that when your children encounter Scripture, they would see Jesus there and be nourished.

Parents, let's invest some time each day to pray specific prayers for our children. Let's confidently walk in His spirit, knowing and believing that He has our kids!

Sam Crabtree: https://www.crossway.org/articles/how-to-pray-for-your-kids-this-summer