

One of the best ways our children can learn how to pray is by listening to us as we speak to our heavenly Father.

Come spend some time in prayer to the Father and allow your child to listen in on the conversation.

For you will find, over time, they learn to speak to Him the same way you do.



Plan now to create a prayer journal with your children. Younger children love a blank journal they can draw pictures in. Older kids might like to write in a journal.

Watch their prayer development over the years as you keep a journal with them.

MEETING INFO

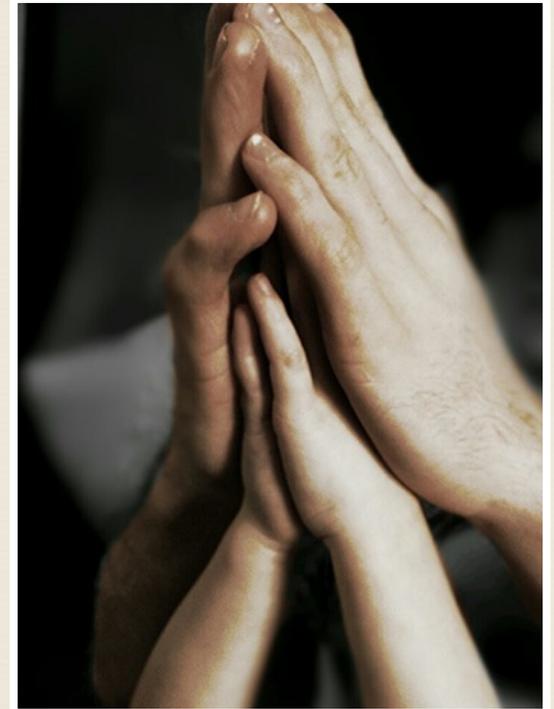


The times for Malachi 4:6 may change, depending on the season. For dates and times, please email Pastor Tammy Baldwin at tbaldwin@vinewc.org for more information. We try to offer a time during the day for moms with preschool children. We also try to offer a time in the evening or on the weekend for moms (and dads) to bring their school-age children.

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MALACHI 4:6

Parents and Children in Prayer Together



“He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents.”



HELPFUL HINTS

Because this is a new venture for us, we continue to learn better ways to help families and children pray together. These are some things we have learned so far:

Each family comes in at separate times. For this reason, a corporate time of worship can be a challenge. While we try to engage the kids in a short time of worship at the beginning, don't worry if you miss this time because you arrive later.

Please do not allow your child to eat during Malachi 4:6. Save snacks and drinks for later. Once one child sees another child eating, it can be difficult for moms to keep their kids on track - everyone wants to eat!

Children love to run! We enjoy them running too, but not in the sanctuary. Please make sure your children understand the holy place the sanctuary is. Remind them to use walking feet and make sure your children do not go on the stage area. There are a lot of delicate pieces of equipment that can be quickly damaged.

Your children will make noise! We keep the music a little loud to cover for the usual noises that children make, but please make sure your kids don't make excessively loud noises that might distract moms in prayer.



BIRTH THROUGH AGE TWO:

The preschool age is perhaps the most challenging age to engage in prayer. If you have a baby, you can easily walk and pray while you hold your baby. For children ages 1-2, expect the prayer time to be short and quick. Most of your prayer time may involve walking around with your child, reading a Bible story, and drawing. Make your prayers sentences. "Thank you for legs that walk. Please help Grandma to feel better. Jesus thank you for forgiveness." You may want to engage your child in drawing. Pick a Bible story or Scripture and as you draw with your child, talk about Jesus and pray with them. Don't focus too much on the stations; they are there only if your child seems interested. Please note that your frustration may be high at times. Children at this age are not aware of what prayer is. Do not become discouraged. Right now you are PLANTING SEEDS! Seeds need years to grow.

PRESCHOOL:

Ages 3-5 are the years when children will begin to grasp that prayer has something to do with God. Their understanding is still very basic at this point. Remember that attention spans are still short. Expect that if you do the stations, they need simple and short prayer times. Engage them in using their hands as much as possible. Have them write or draw at each station while you pray. Model prayer for them; you pray once sentence. Ask them to pray a sentence. Don't try to get to all the stations; go to the ones that most interest your child.

ELEMENTARY:

The elementary years are the most exciting times. Children now have an understanding of who God is and what prayer is about. They are very eager to learn and love to be with their parents to be taught. At this point the stations are fun for the children and they enjoy praying with you as much as you enjoy praying. Take time to bring your Bible to the stations and read Scripture as you pray. This teaches your child that the Bible and prayer go hand in hand. At the art station, give your child a verse and ask them to draw it. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to them through their art.

MORE THAN ONE CHILD:

Having more than one child can be a challenge, especially if both children are under the age of 5. While we are working to provide mentor moms at Malachi 4:6, at this time, we do not have that in place. Be patient and we will all try to work together. Planting seeds is not an easy job, but well worth the effort.