

Men to pray: How do you pray for your son?

There should be a special bond between father and son. Boys cannot develop into men and fathers, without a father's presence. A father's life, example and prayers determine to a great extent their sons' lives. I recently read this quote somewhere: "My child, you will need to climb over the mountains and valleys of my prayers and swim through the rivers of my tears if you want to end up in hell." I would also like to add: "... and to destroy your life."

- A father needs to spend time with his son to know what to pray for the child. He must learn how his son thinks, what his hopes and dreams are, what his strong and weak points are. He must understand his child's heart. A father must never force his will on his son. A boy should always feel that his father allows him freedom to be himself. It is of the utmost importance that the son will realise that his father thinks he is worthy. He must experience that his father approves of him and accepts him.
- When a father starts praying for his son, he must first of all start by blessing his son. Note how Jacob blessed his sons in Genesis 49. The father must call out the Name of the Lord over his child and ask the Lord to bless his child with the blessings we find in Numbers 6:24-26. Do it regularly. It is not something that is done once only. In Jewish culture a father blesses his children once a week on the Sabbath!
- Pray for your child's salvation. There is nothing more important than your son being reconciled with God. All the other things flow from this.
- A father must pray with grace and mercy. His child is not perfect. His son will be rebellious at times, make mistakes, be ignorant, sometimes shy away from challenges and sometimes behave irresponsibly. At such times a father must be compassionate and pray with grace. Don't be judgmental when you pray. Don't accuse your child before God. Remember that you were also a child.
- A father must live in such a way that he can pray. You cannot pray for your child if you do not live in such a way that you can pray – you must live a holy life, in love and patience, and set an example that is worth following. You cannot live with a sin-filled heart and then try to pray for your son.
- Pray the promises of God. Read the Word of God and ask the Holy Spirit to show you the promises in the Word that are applicable to your child and pray those promises for your child.
- Pray that your son will understand God's purpose for his life, the purpose he was created for, and that he will live toward it. Thus pray that he will understand why he is on earth, what contribution he must make, what influence he must have, what God's purpose is with his life.
- A father never stops praying for his son, regardless of whether the father is 25 years old or 60. Your son is and stays your responsibility up until your death.
- Learn to understand God's heart for the child and ask the Father to work the same attitude in your heart.
- Evil is a reality. Ask God to protect your son from evil and temptations and attacks from the Evil One.
- Pray that your son will not give in to peer pressure, but make his own choices and live his own values, irrespective of the situation. Pray that the Lord will give your son friends who will not keep him away or drive him away from God, but who will support him and be able to strengthen him in tough times.

- If God convicts you of something wrong you said or did to your child, ask forgiveness from God and your son.
- See your child's potential, no matter what it is, and encourage him to give expression to it. Don't force your will on your child, for example by expecting him to become a doctor because you are one.
- Ask the Lord to change your heart in such a way that you will love your son like He loves him.
- Pray for your son's future wife. Praying for your son's salvation is the most important thing, but praying for his future wife is probably the next most important matter in your son's life.