

A Prayer Guide for Parents

Mark 9:14-29 NLT

14 When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. 15 When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him. 16 "What is all this arguing about?" Jesus asked. 17 One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. 18 And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

QUESTION & PRAYER: What situation are you bringing to Jesus?

In prayer, lay your child (or whatever situation you are bringing to Him) before Jesus. Be honest, although He already knows, speak it out to Him

19 Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." 20 So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth.

QUESTION & PRAYER: How is your faith?

(Clarification: Jesus knows our faith is small, He isn't complaining here, it is a lament of things not being as they should. Even though we often doubt, He still chooses to act.)

In prayer, ask God to strengthen your faith so you can believe He wants your child to come to Him.

Pray against any Spiritual powers or principalities that are actively at work in the lives of our kids.

21 "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. 22 The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can."

QUESTION & PRAYER: Can He help?

Notice that Jesus sees what is happening and wants to interact with us. He doesn't just heal, he listens to the heart of a hurting father to understand.

Thank Him that He cares. He cares for our kids, He cares for us. He listens to us.

23 "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." 24 The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

QUESTION & PRAYER: Do you believe?

The security of our belief isn't in how strong we believe something, it's in the strength of the thing we believe in. So this father turns to Jesus to strengthen his faith. Let's pray along with this parent as we cry out to God for our kids.

25 When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" 26 Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead." 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.

QUESTION & PRAYER: What's going on?

There are many times when we don't understand what God is doing and it seems like things have gone off the rails. But Jesus brings the dead back to life.

Ask God to revive the hearts of our wayward children. To break their hearts over sin, to release them from the power of the enemy and bring them to the freedom and life that is only found in Him

28 Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" 29 Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

QUESTION & PRAYER: Can't we do something?

The disciples were unable to cast out this demon. They didn't have the power. So often with our kids things are out of our control.

Ask God to grow your desperation for Him. Not for an answer from Him, but for Him.