



Prayer Guide

MINISTRY FOCUS: CHILDREN AND STUDENTS

This May, First Baptist McAlester will focus on praying for our Children's and Student Ministries. During the summer months, our students will actively participate in equipping events and activities. As they prepare to Gather Grow, and Go in Jesus, consider how you can pray and be involved in what God is doing!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 12: Child Dedication

May 19: Senior Sunday + VBS KICKOFF

May 19-22: VBS

May 26: Promotion Sunday

June: King's Kids Happy Camp (Tuesdays)

June: 3: Super Summer

June 7: CrossTimbers

June 15: GoStudents Nebraska

July 1-6: Falls Creek Week #1

July 8-13: Falls Creek Week #2

July 17-25: GoStudents Germany

CHILDREN (Ages 0-12)

(modified from Lifeway Kids material)

1. PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN IN OUR CHURCH

The children at First Baptist come from a variety of backgrounds. Each child is unique, and only the Lord can show us how to love and disciple them where they are in their lives:

Pray for children as they develop spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Pray they come to know Christ and grow in their faith.

Pray they would boldly share Jesus with friends.

Pray for godly friendships. Pray relationships built during the children's ministry years will continue to build in future years, giving them Christian community and accountability through the teenage years.

Pray for authentic, lasting heart transformation in their lives.

2. PRAY FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN

Just as children come from various backgrounds, so do parents and guardians. Some parents have grown up in the church, while other parents have never been to church:

Pray that parents will grow in their relationship with Christ. For parents who have yet to accept Christ, pray they will understand their need for a Savior and become Christians.

Pray for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit as they seek to be spiritual leaders and provide a godly home for their family.

Pray for opportunities for spiritual conversations with their children during the week; intentionally recognize teachable moments and continue spiritual conversations.

Pray that in the busyness of life, they would make spiritual development a priority in their family's life.

Pray parents have the wisdom and discernment to parent each child in accordance with God's Word.

Pray for strong marriages, and also for single parents, blended families, and divorced parents who are working together to raise their children.

3. PRAY FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS

This group is vital to every children's ministry. These volunteers are Jesus' hands and feet as they teach and care for children.

Pray they would hear God's voice as they read His Word and prepare the lessons.

Pray for their spiritual growth and relationship with Christ.

Pray they will see ways God uses them to make a difference in children's lives.

Pray for renewed strength, energy, and health as they teach each week. Include their family members' strength, energy, and health in your prayers as well.

Children's Ministry teachers need adult fellowship and community with other believers. Pray God would encourage them through adult fellowship and godly friendships.

Pray for teachers as they seek to build relationships with the families of the children they teach and partner with parents in the child's spiritual development.

4. PRAY FOR BRET LALLI

Bret Lalli is our Interim Children's Minister and oversees and leads MAC Kids.

Pray for wisdom as he communicates his heart for ministry to children and families.

Pray his relationship with Christ grows and deepens. Pray for spiritual protection for his family from the enemy.

Pray for renewed strength, energy, and health as Bret leads the children's ministry. Also, pray for Bret's family, his wife, Rachel, and his daughters, Emerson and Channing, that they would also have strength, energy, and health.

Pray Bret will build relationships with other adults including church staff members, children's ministry volunteers, parents, and children's ministers from other churches.

Pray he is encouraged as God works in and through him in the lives of children and families in the church.

As you pray for the children's ministry, reach out to other kids' ministry leaders and parents for specific ways you can pray. Then, let them know you're praying for them by sending a handwritten note, email, or text message. Even better, let them hear you pray aloud for them. Hearing someone pray aloud for you is extremely impactful and meaningful.

5. PRAY FOR PURPOSE

Because God has a plan and purpose for every young person, pray for God to, no matter each person's circumstances, give them passion and a deep-seated purpose for living out God's plan for their life. (Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 139:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Jeremiah 1:5; John 14:13; Romans 8:28-29)

6. PRAY FOR FRIENDSHIPS

When praying for our children, it's vital to ask God to give kids wisdom in choosing their friends. Ask Him to bring people into their lives who will point them to Christ. Also, pray that God will use Christian peers to encourage and build up each other like never before. (1 Corinthians 15:33; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Samuel 16:7)

7. PRAY FOR CHARACTER

Kids today are bombarded with every temptation known to man, and the enemy is seeking to destroy their character. Pray that today's youth may experience an ongoing transformation by having their minds renewed. And pray they'll be examples to the world in their speech, lives, love, faith, and purity. Also ask for more great Christ-like role models for our students, particularly among their peers. (1 Timothy 4:12; Romans 12:1-2; Psalm 24:4)

8. PRAY FOR PASSION

May God grant today's youth an anointing of power by the Holy Spirit to be the greatest witnesses for Jesus we've ever known. Also, pray their zeal for obedience will supersede any other human desire they have. (Acts 1:8; Luke 4:18-19; 1 Peter 3:15; Matthew 28:19-20; Galatians 5:24)

9. PRAY FOR SUBMISSION AND HONOR

Pray that this generation submits to Christ and to those in authority over them. May God give them the grace to love, respect, and honor their parents, teachers, spiritual leaders, and governing officials. (Ephesians 6:2-3; Hebrews 13:17; Mark 12:17)

10. PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Pray that God nurtures the soil of young people's hearts and grants them a greater sensitivity to their spirit so they may grow in the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ. Also, pray for more passionate workers for the harvest of children's ministry. (Luke 2:52; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 3:16)

11. PRAY FOR DISCERNMENT

Ask God to give teenagers the knowledge of the truth of God and spiritual eyes to see so the enemy won't be able to deceive them. Pray they can discern between the teachings of the living God and those of false gods or prophets. (1 Timothy 3:9; 2 Corinthians 2:11; John 17:17; Ephesians 6:14)

12. PRAY FOR HOPE

May God help today's children take every thought captive for Christ. Ask God to fill every young person with the hope of Jesus's resurrection. Ask Him to protect their minds and hearts from hopelessness. May God also help them cling to Christ during discouragement and soak up His strength so they can offer this same hope to others. (Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 6:13; Philippians 4:8; 2 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 10:23; 1 Peter 5:8-9)

STUDENTS (13-24)

(modified from Oklahoma Baptists material)

PERSONAL BROKENNESS

1. Pray students would be broken of their pride and turn to Christ.
2. Pray students would be broken of their apathy and find purpose in the will of God.
3. Pray that when students are broken by their circumstances, they would reach out to find solace in Jesus.
4. Pray students would be broken of their rebellion and willingly submit to the authority of Christ.

SALVATION

1. Pray that the Gospel will move students to repent of their sins, gladly trust Jesus for salvation, and give their lives to Christ.
2. Pray for camp pastors to boldly proclaim the name of Jesus and faithfully share the Gospel.
3. Pray students would know that "salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

FAMILY LIFE

1. Pray for the lives of students and for the influences within their homes.
2. Pray for the parents of students, for their salvation and/or growth in the faith.
3. Pray for protection for students caught in abusive situations.
4. Pray that students may be a gospel witness in their home.

PERSEVERANCE

1. Pray students stay committed to what the Lord does in their lives at camp. The enemy desires to steal, kill, and destroy. Pray that God gives them courage and discernment to follow His will as they return home.
2. Pray for a heart of perseverance in students that would help them endure trials.
3. Pray that students would faithfully connect to First Baptist and grow in their faith.
4. Pray for protection upon the students and ask God to protect them from the evil one.

CALL TO MINISTRY

1. Pray that God would speak to the hearts of students and call many into the Gospel Ministry.
2. Pray for students to be mobilized for missions and to commit to short and long-term mission efforts.
3. Pray for students to clearly recognize God's call on their life and submit to His plan for them.

MISSION TRIPS

1. PRAY THAT THE MISSION TEAM WILL NOT LET THE PLATFORM TAKE THE PLACE OF THE MISSION

- In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commissioned us to make disciples. That's our mission. Oftentimes, compassion ministry, construction, or other need-based ministries are the "platforms" that give opportunities for mission trips. These opportunities open doors to share the name of Jesus.
- Our mission is disciple-making (evangelism, teaching, baptizing) connected to a local church. Pray that the mission teams will not forget the "mission" in lieu of meeting physical needs.

2. PRAY FOR THE SPIRITUAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MISSION TEAM

- There's a reason Paul's prayer for spiritual boldness in proclaiming the gospel (Ephesians 6:19) followed his treatment of Christian armor and spiritual warfare.
- Mission trips are not for the spiritually weak—they require recognition of the spiritual war we are facing.
- Pray that our mission teams will be spiritually prepared for the work and war they are sure to face.

3. PRAY FOR THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE MISSION TEAM

- Sometimes our mission plans require revision and flexibility. Acts 16:6-10 records Paul's prevention by the Holy Spirit of going into Asia and the Macedonian call.
- Mission teams must learn to trust God's plan, not their own, and be spiritually discerning.
- Pray that your teams will be flexible in their planning and discern what God wants to accomplish on the mission trip.

4. PRAY FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE MISSION TEAM

- When Jesus sent out his witnesses, he told them to trust the provision offered in the villages for their wages and sustenance (Matthew 10:9-10; Luke 10:4-8).
- International mission trips cost money. And we believe in a God who owns everything.
- Pray that God would meet the financial obligations of each team member and mission trip.

5. PRAY FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND TRAVEL OF THE MISSION

TEAM

- Traveling to mission destinations and encountering new bacteria (internationally) can drastically affect the health and strength of mission team participants.
- Getting sick is just a normal part of international travel. However, there is precedent for praying for the health and safety of mission teams in travel.
- Acts 27 records the storm at sea and the shipwreck of Paul and his captors. Yet Paul prayed, and God protected all on the ship (Acts 27:24).
- Pray that your teams experience safe travel and health protection while on the mission trip.

6. PRAY FOR THE SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND LOVING SERVICE OF THE MISSION TEAM

- One of Paul's prayers for the Ephesian church was that they would grow in spiritual wisdom and depth of love (Ephesians 3:14-20).
- Mission team members need abundant wisdom and love, and God desires to provide it.
- Pray that our team members will be abundantly wise, discerning, and filled with love for those whom they will serve and share with.

7. PRAY FOR THE SPIRIT TO OPEN BLINDED EYES AND THAT UNBELIEVERS WOULD SEE CHRIST IN ALL OF HIS GLORY

- Satan blinds the eyes of unbelievers to the truth of the gospel and the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4-6).
- It is the Holy Spirit's role to convict and bring to light the truth and power of the gospel (John 16:8-11).
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will go ahead of our mission teams, prepare the hearts of the lost to respond to Christ, and draw unbelievers to Christ through the preaching of the gospel.

8. PRAY FOR THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTH, AND GROWTH OF THE PARTNER CHURCHES AND MISSIONS WITH WHICH YOUR TEAMS WILL WORK

- Paul encouraged, commended, challenged, and prayed for the churches, elders, and leaders of the Ephesian church before he finally parted ways with them. (Acts 20:17-38).
- Mission teams are only a part of God's ongoing work in the world. Churches, organizations, pastors, and believers across the globe will continue God's work far longer than a mission team serves on a mission trip.
- Pray for the partner churches, pastors, and organizations to be strong, grow, and succeed in fulfilling God's disciple-making mission in their context.

