

Avalanche 2022
Family Prayer Guide
Friday, January 14

Note: We recognize that not everyone has an immediate family with which you can pray. If your family members are not believers, commit this time on Friday evening to praying for their salvation. If you don't have immediate family, we encourage you to pray for the families of Bethany.

Devotion

"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged." **Colossians 3:18–21, NLT**

Family is foundational. This is true whether you're a Christian or not, but as believers, we recognize that family is God's creation. He intends families to provide safety, security, love, and growth. But family is more than just a place of comfort and safety, it's a place to grow in holiness. In our families, we reflect God's love to one another and we learn how to better imitate God's love as well as how to receive God's love.

When wives submit to their husbands, they demonstrate how the church should respond to Jesus and how Christians should humbly respond to one another because God has made us equals in Christ. When husbands love their wives and do not treat them as objects to be used or servants to be commanded but rather, as equals in Christ, they demonstrate the kind of love that God has shown to all of us in giving up His Son, Jesus. When children obey their parents, they learn how to respond to the Holy Spirit with obedience and how to have a relationship of trust with their heavenly Father. When fathers deal gently with their children, they show the character of God and how He is patient with us, teaching us and shaping us toward growth. We show our kids that they are not an inconvenience but a joy and we instill in them the value that they need to understand who they are in Christ. Of course, moms do this as well!

Prayer

During this time of prayer, each family member will pray for another...out loud! I know that can be intimidating, but it's important. It will be a blessing to your family. Begin by asking each member of the family how they feel they need to grow in the Lord and what they hope God will do in their lives in the coming year. Then, pray for those things, as well as the following:

Wives

Pray for your husband. Ask the Lord to fill him with the Holy Spirit and confidence. Ask God to give him gifts of the Holy Spirit that will help them advance His Kingdom. Pray that He will be a man of God and a man of integrity. Ask that your husband would grow in love for you and for your children (where applicable). Ask that God would show Him how to encourage others to be devoted in their walks with Christ. Also, pray that God would help you know how to submit to your husband in a God-honoring way. Also, pray for the ways your husband said he wants to grow in the Lord in the coming year.

Husbands

Pray for your wife. Ask the Lord to fill her with the Holy Spirit and courage. Ask that the Lord would use her in unexpected ways and make her a blessing to many. Pray that God would speak clearly to her. Ask the Lord to help you love her well and understand how to better demonstrate His love to her. Where applicable, pray that she will be disciplined and godly in how she raises and disciplines your children. Also, pray for the ways that she said she wants to grow in the Lord in the coming year.

Children

Pray for your parents. Ask God to give them wisdom in training you and in raising you. Pray that God would help you have a humble heart that listens to your parents, trusts them, and obeys them. Pray that your parents would be patient and gentle and that God would give them rest. And pray that God would use your parents to prepare you for the life God has planned!

Parents

Pray over your children. You know them and their personalities. Pray that God will hone their strengths and give them victory in their weaknesses. Pray that they would know the Lord and His presence and that you would model a godly life for them. Ask God to preserve their faith and make them serious about Him. Finally, pray for the ways they said they wanted to grow in the Lord this year.