

Prayers for Parents

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Introduction

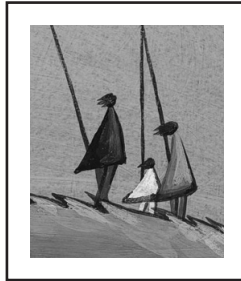
One of the most difficult—and most important—jobs on this earth is that of bringing up a child. And yet, it is a job for which many of us are not well trained.

Most of us usually step into parenthood relying on our own intuition—and perhaps on what our parents have taught us. However, our intuition is sometimes flawed and our emotions often interfere with our good judgment. As a result, we often end up making mistakes.

This prayer book can serve as a mini-course in parenting by bringing to mind concepts that we should all be teaching our children. The prayers, which may be used by either single or married parents, present suggestions not only on how to handle specific situations that we encounter as parents but also on how to build strong, trusting, and amiable relationships with our children.

These prayers can also help us to connect with the wisest parent of all—our Father in heaven—who is always ready and willing to give us the strength, the patience, and the wisdom we need to be able to mold our children into good, responsible, and loving adults.

ONE



BEING A PARENT



Appreciating My Most Important Job

Lord, I spend my days rushing busily from my job
to chores at home
to obligations in my community—
always anxiously struggling to do all the things
I feel I ought to be doing.
And when it's time to be with my children
I'm often totally drained
and exhausted.

Sometimes I feel as if I'm giving them
only leftover pieces of my time and energy.

Don't let me ever forget, Lord,
that out of all the jobs I have to do,
right now—at this time in my life—
parenting is the most important.

Being a success at work or in my community
will mean little if I'm not a success as a parent.

Remind me, Lord,
to refocus my attention and conserve my energy
for this most important job of mine.

Let me be constantly aware
of how great a privilege it is
to be entrusted with bringing up these children.

How blessed I am to have you think
that I am worthy of this responsibility.

Don't let me make a mess of it, Lord.
Help me to do a good job with these fragile souls
whom you have entrusted to my care.



Being a Pal

There are times when—

in my desire to be liked by my children—

I act like a pal instead of a parent.

Remind me, Lord, that my children need a parent—

not just another pal.

They need a parent

who will take the lead and guide them—

who will never hesitate to say “no” to them

when the need arises—

who will make rules and set boundaries

to keep them from doing wrong.

I want my children to feel the security of knowing

that someone who is deeply concerned about them

is always in charge.

I want to provide them with a stable and safe harbor

from which they can venture out and deal with

the stresses and challenges of life.

Remind me, Lord, that—

although I can and should listen

to their views and opinions—

it is I who must ultimately guide their actions

and keep them on course—

even when they rebel against me,

even when they get upset with me

and say they don't like me.



Being a Vigilant Parent

Lord, help me to be a parent
who is always vigilant and aware.

There's so much in this world
that can harm my children.

There's so much for me to keep up with—
the programs they're watching on television,
the books they're reading,
the music they're listening to,
the friends they're associating with.
It's so hard to monitor everything.

Sometimes it just seems easier
to let them do what they want
as long as they stay busy and contented
and out of my hair.

Oh, Lord, don't let me ever be tempted to develop
such a hands-off, don't-care attitude.

Let me remember that my children are not
mature enough yet to decide for themselves
just what's good and what's bad.

Help me to be constantly aware of their interests.
Alert me when they become involved
in things that are wrong for them.

Keep me on my toes, Lord, and make me
a good, responsible, and vigilant parent.