

A Back-to-School & Everyday Prayer

WALT MUELLER, CPYU President



YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

“First of all, I’d tell them that I’m sorry that their child’s using the product. It’s not intended for them. I hope there was nothing that we did that made it appealing to them. As a parent of a 16-year-old, I’m sorry for them, and I have empathy for them, in terms of what the challenges they’re going through.”

Kevin Burns, CEO of Juul Labs - the maker of the bestselling e-cigarette in the U.S., when asked what he would say to a parent with a child who was addicted to Juul, in the documentary “Vaporized: America’s E-cigarette Addiction.”



One of the great misconceptions about worship is that it’s something that only takes place when a group of people gather for a few minutes or so to sing together. While corporate worship is an important part of the Christian life, the kind of worship God calls us and our children to is a 24/7 endeavor that never ends.

In Romans 6:13 the Apostle Paul reminds us that we are to “use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.” Besides teaching this to our kids through our words and example, we must pray diligently for God’s Spirit to move our kids to give their bodies over to God through worship.

In her book *Praying Through The Bible For Your Kids*, Nancy Guthrie offers a prayer we can not only pray for our kids, but one we should adapt to pray for ourselves. Take some time to write this prayer, laminate it, and keep it handy so that you can silently pray it each day as they head off to school.

Lord, from head to toe, inside and out, from beginning to end may no part of ___’s body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, may ___’s whole body be an instrument to do what is right for your glory!

Don’t let ___’s feet take him to places where darkness will envelop him and seduce him. Instead, let his feet take him to places where he can push back the darkness and radiate your light.

Don’t let ___’s appetite for sex or food or drink make him a slave to them. Instead, sanctify his appetites for sex and food and drink so that all of them cause him to look to you for the sanctification he craves.

Don’t let ___’s heart go after passions that will take the place that should be reserved for you alone. Instead, break ___’s heart with the things that break your heart. Capture ___’s heart with a passion for your gospel and your glory.

Don’t let ___’s mouth be used to speak what is false or filthy or futile. Instead, fill ___’s mouth with words of truth, words of purity, words of meaning and purpose. May ___’s mouth be full of blessing, encouragement, and peace.

Don’t let ___’s hands grasp the things of this world too tightly. Instead, give him hands that are willing to work and hands that touch others in great compassion.

Don’t let ___’s eyes seek out what is corrupting or contaminating. Give ___ a love for what is beautiful and pure.

Don’t let ___’s ears tune in to voices that doubt or mock the things of God. Instead, give him ears that are open to your Word and your ways.

Don’t let ___’s intellect be captured by the thought patterns of this world. Instead, fill his mind with the depths of your knowledge and wisdom.

Amen.*

Apps Downloaded Worldwide

In the 1st Quarter of 2019
(Google Play and App Store combined)
Source:
SensorTower.com



1. WhatsApp
2. Messenger
3. TikTok
4. Facebook
5. Instagram
6. SHAREit
7. YouTube
8. LIKE Video
9. Netflix
10. Snapchat



QUICK STATS

46.2% of American 16-year-olds obtained their driver's license in 1983. In 2014, that number had dropped to 24.5%.

(University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute)

31% of U.S. households do not have a broadband connection.

(NPD Group)

FROM THE NEWS:

EXPOSURE TO MEDIA VIOLENCE LINKED TO VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

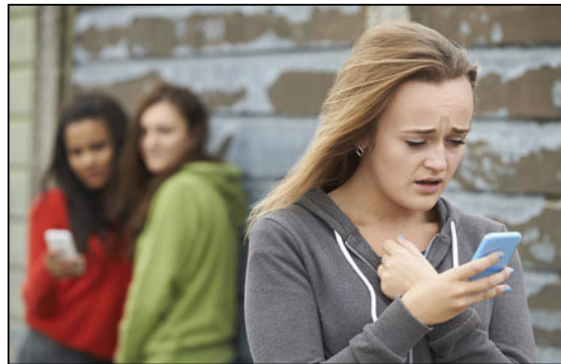
It seems that every day we encounter numerous news reports of violent outbursts by children and teens. While fallen and sinful humanity has always struggled to deal with violence, we find ourselves living in a culture that depicts and even glorifies violence through the entertainment media. The folks at Common Sense Media remind us that although no one single factor can cause a nonviolent person to act aggressively, heavy exposure to media violence is in fact a risk factor for violent behavior. And children who are exposed to media violence along with seeing aggression and violence in their homes, are even more prone to violent and aggressive behavior themselves. Parents, we must point our kids to Christ-like behavior, including non-violence and love for neighbor. Expose your kids to positive media. Say no to violent media. Wean your kids off of violent video games and replace that time with family fun. Nurture your kids into loving and pursuing the peace of Christ.

TRENDS: SEEKING CELEBRITY STATUS

Jesus told his followers in all times and all places that the foundational command that should drive every endeavor of life is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. Everything we have, do, and are should be directed towards loving and glorifying God. One of the great cultural realities that pushes kids away from this Godward trajectory is fueled

by social media. Our kids are now surrounded by celebrities who are rich and famous and who encourage our kids to pursue the same end. Recently, 21 year-old reality tv star and social media icon Kylie Jenner, was named by *Forbes* magazine as the youngest self-made billionaire ever. With 128 million Instagram followers, Kylie Jenner is truly a leader

so many have gotten in line behind to follow. This reality makes it all the more important for us to be nurturing our kids in the faith from the earliest age, praying that they would choose first to follow Jesus.



LATEST RESEARCH: GIRLS AND BULLYING

Bullying used to happen primarily on the playground or in the local neighborhood after school. And with boys doing most of the bullying, it was rare to see a female pushing someone else around. But in today's social media driven world of childhood and adolescence, the

tables have turned. New research from Rutgers University reports that girls are more often bullied than boys, and that females are more negatively affected by bullying. The researchers are concerned because bullying is associated with depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation, suicide planning, and suicide attempts. While bullying behavior is wrong in all cases, parents should be aware of this

new research on bullying and our girls. Teach your girls to conduct themselves online and offline in a Christlike manner. And, be sure to talk to your girls about the kinds of interactions they are encountering online. We must build each other up rather than tear each other down.

CPYU'S DIGITAL KIDS INITIATIVE



www.DigitalKidsInitiative.com

“11 and Under with Smartphones”

by Walt Mueller



The folks at eMarketer have released their annual report on kids in the United States and their use of digital devices and social media. The report looks at the trends among digital natives who have been born into and are being raised in our smartphone, screen, and technology saturated world.

There is one bit of information coming out of the 2018 report that I want to pass on to you as it can serve as encouragement for those parents whose pre-adolescent children are begging them for phones. Perhaps you've had one of your younger children beg for a smartphone. And when they've begged, they've informed you that they're the only kids among all their friends who doesn't have their own phone. The reality is that among kids ages eleven and younger, just over ten percent have their own smartphone.

It seems that the great majority of parents aren't giving in because they see how the potential dangers outweigh the benefits. Parents, be prudent on this matter in ways that promote your child's flourishing.

New Podcast

Youth Culture Matters is a long-format podcast from CPYU co-hosted by Walt Mueller and Jason Soucinek.



Listen at www.cpyu.org/podcast.

Be sure to check out Episode 86 titled "Self Promotion In Youth Ministry" with Mark Matlock and Derry Prenkert

FROM THE WORD

Our greatest responsibility as parents is to pass on the legacy of Christian faith. No desire we have for our kids should exceed our desire to see them come to know and serve Jesus Christ with greater and greater maturity over the course of their lives. Christian education starts in the home with parents who are passionate about loving Jesus Christ.

In his first letter to a young Timothy, the Apostle Paul advises Timothy on how to lead the Christians in Ephesus away from believing false teaching by teaching the truth about God and His Word. Paul cites the importance of setting an example from which others might learn. We are called to do the same with our kids, and

we would do well to ponder how our own spiritual growth is facilitating a proper and mature example for our kids to follow.

In 1 Timothy 4:12 Paul cites five ways that we are to serve as example. First, we are to talk about God's Word, and we are to do so in ways that bring honor and glory to God. Second, we are to live lives that serve as a visual example of discipleship. Third, we are to love as we have been loved. Fourth, we are to exercise the precious gift of faith we've been given. And finally, we are to live lives marked by purity and holiness.

As we pursue our own growth in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, our kids will be raised by living examples of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

"LET NO ONE DESPISE YOU FOR YOUR YOUTH, BUT SET THE BELIEVERS AN EXAMPLE IN SPEECH, IN CONDUCT, IN LOVE, IN FAITH, IN PURITY."

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

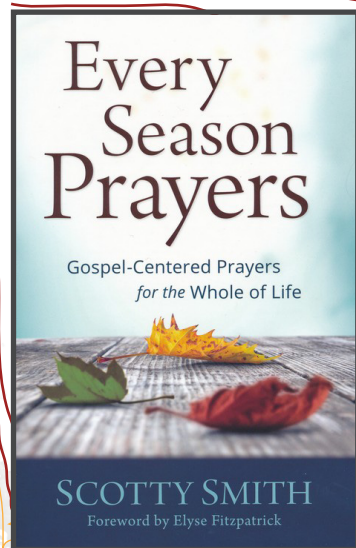
HELPFUL RESOURCE ←

Are you ever at a loss when it comes to what to say in your prayers?

Every Season Prayers offers a treasure trove of prayers that will lead you into a more intimate relationship with God. Topically arranged so you can easily find the sentiments that match your needs, this delightful book includes prayers for:

- everyday concerns, from health and relationship issues to expressing gratitude
- voicing our feelings, stories, and struggles to God
- listening to the heart of God
- congregational confession and worship
- Advent, Lent, Passion Week and more

No matter what your season of life or your daily reality, you will find a prayer you can lift up to God.



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