

Simplified Prayer Guide

Week of April 19th, 2020



Scripture Passage: **James 1:12-15**

REMEMBER: These bullet points are *possible prayer prompts*. They work best in groups when the leader leads the group to pray *aloud* (so that everyone can hear), *briefly* (a sentence or two), and *clearly* (one thought at a time).

YOU ARE WORTHY: Jesus' Model Prayer teaches us to pray, "*Our Father, hallowed be Thy name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*"

Prompts for younger children to pray– you could have them repeat after you:

- God, I worship You because You give me LIFE!
- Heavenly Father, I praise You because You are GOOD!

- Father, the life that you give is better than the things of earth, even ...
- Lord You are holy and perfect in...
- God, let me clearly see and direct my heart's desires towards You through...

WE ARE NEEDY: Next Jesus instructed us to pray, "*give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

- Lord, deepen my desire to be holy as you are holy in...
- Help us to know my heart's desires! Don't let me follow my heart into...
- Temptations are deadly dangerous! Deliver me from the temptation to...

Standard Prayer Guide

Week of April 19th, 2020



Scripture Passage: **James 1:12-15**

REMEMBER: These are *possible prayer prompts*, and work best when the leader leads the group to pray *aloud* (so that everyone can hear), *briefly* (a sentence or two), and *clearly* (one thought at a time).

REVERENCE: This is our time to *praise or revere* God as Christ instructed us to begin our prayer with, "*Our Father, hallowed be Thy name...*"

Prompts for younger children to pray– you could have them repeat after you:

- God, I worship You because You give me LIFE!
- Heavenly Father, I praise You because You are GOOD!

- Father, I praise You that the life that you give is better than the things of earth, even...
- Lord, You are Holy, Holy, Holy! The temptation towards evil finds no purchase in your heart because you are perfect in...

RESPONSE: This is our time to *respond* to God, asking that "*your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*" as Christ instructed us.

- God, I need to see through the stuff of earth, such as...
- You want us to understand why temptations find traction in our hearts, so let me clearly see and direct my heart's desires towards You through...

REQUESTS: Next we make *requests* of our Heavenly Father, in line with what He calls us to ask for. Jesus instructed us to pray, "*give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*"

- I need a "*heart-and-soul-level commitment to remain under the work You are doing*" through trials! Let me grow in steadfastness, even through...
- Lord, deepen my desire to be holy as you are holy in...
- Father, forgive me for...

READINESS: This is our time to ask God to make us *ready* to live in joyful obedience to His will, as Jesus instructed us to pray, "*lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

- It's easier to believe that we are tempted by our circumstances and not our heart's desires! Don't let us follow our heart into...
- Lord, guard me from the temptations that lead to death! Deliver me from the temptation to...

(Discussion & Group Questions on Next Page)

Discussion & Group Questions

Week of April 19th, 2020



Scripture Passage: **James 1:12-15**

Discussion Questions for **KIDS**:

- 1) Main Idea: **GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ENDURE TRIALS** – When was the last time you had to do something you didn't want to do? Why do you have to do things you don't want to do? *God also brings us through things we do not want to do to bless and grow us through it.*
- 2) Main Idea: **OUR HEARTS DON'T ALWAYS WANT WHAT IS GOOD** – Do you know what it means to be "tempted" to do what is not right? Where does verse 14 say that starts, in our heart, right? *It makes God happy when we follow His Word and not our hearts.*

Discussion Questions for **STUDENTS**:

- 1) It's common today for people to believe that bad things come from "outside" of us: media, hard circumstances, difficult upbringing, etc. Where does verse 14 say that temptation finds traction? *What are some common temptations in your life? What might those temptations tell you about what you want?*
- 2) Are all desires bad? Since desires become sinful by *degree* (how much you desire to have it) or *direction* (desiring things that are not ours), *what desires in your life might need to be transformed?*
- 3) Consider verse 12, where the one that remains steadfast under trial is called "blessed." *What trials are you being tested by these days? Does the promise of the "crown of life" or the blessing of God help you in times of trial? Why or why not?*

Discussion Questions for **ADULTS**:

- 1) As you think about God's promise of a crown of life, how does that help you to remain steadfast in trial? In what specific way does it help you to walk steadfastly this very week?
- 2) Knowing that temptation has its source in the desires of your own heart, how does that shape your prayers? ...shape the way you relate to others?
- 3) Finish this sentence: Reading about the chain that links my DESIRE to SIN and then to DEATH, I'm seeing that I need wisdom and help in the area of...