

“FOR THE SCHOOLS” PRAYER GUIDE

It's back to school time! As students, parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, coaches, volunteers, friends and others in the community embark on a new school year, our hearts are flooded with many concerns and burdens, hopes and dreams.

What better way to start the new school year than coming together as church to pray across all school campuses close to our hearts and homes represented in our church, city and communities.

Abba Father Invites us to cast all our concerns and burdens upon Him who cares.

Jesus Christ Compels us to cry out to Him, our champion to show up big for school.

Holy Spirit Dares us to believe He can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

This Prayer Guide is designed to spark and spur you on to pray in the Spirit for your school on Prayer Saturday and throughout the new school year.

PRAY FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR:

Lord Jesus Christ, as a child, you grew in wisdom and stature, favor with God and people, you listened to your teachers and asked them questions, you were always about your Father's business. May we follow in your footsteps and be like you.

- *Bless all who learn that they may grow in the knowledge of their Creator and Redeemer, and of your glorious world we live in. Bless all those teach and care for our students, that they may share the wisdom they have received from above and that they may do their work with patience and love that reflects your mercy and grace that endures forever.*
- *You are the Great Teacher. Instruct all of us in your truth: to show love by glorifying you and serving our neighbors. Disciple all of us with your living Gospel; to be forgiven, renewed and empowered through your life, death, and resurrection.*
- *Fill our hearts with wonder and excitement as we see your divine design in math and science, as we see your hand in history, as we learn to glorify you through art and music, healthy competition in sports, as we learn to know our neighbors, their hopes, their hurts, their needs, that your love may flow through us to them.*
- *By your power, help us increase in wisdom, never ceasing to learn all the days of our lives until we sit at your feet in your Kingdom; wherewith the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen*

PRAY FOR STUDENTS

Lord Jesus, we pray that You would grant them a hunger to learn new things and patience when the learning gets tough, that You would bring alongside them good friends to building their character, that You would provide for their needs and open doors of opportunity, and that You would keep Your hand of protection over them, keeping them safe from illness, bullying and violence.

GRADE SCHOOL (K-5th):

- *Jesus becomes known and real to them personally.*
- *Discovery of Jesus being known in the public place.*
- *Have a good attitude and be a positive influence on their friend.*
- *Choose to follow God's path and make Godly friendships.*
- *Develop patience and understanding for others.*
- *Show respect to teachers, leaders and each other.*
- *Make choices to honor God above all else.*
- *Bear the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).*
- *Have a discerning heart for truth (versus non-truth) in their culture and world.*
- *Honor their parents and give their best effort for God's glory.*
- *Safety in all environments and interactions.*
- *Physical, emotional, mental, financial, relational, and spiritual health.*

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL:

- *Desire to honor God and walk consistent, humble and courageous in their faith.*
- *Make meaningful connections with teachers, coaches and peers.*
- *Feel heard and supported at school, home, and church.*
- *Freedom and space to be themselves.*
- *Be an ambassador of Christ, living and sharing the Gospel.*
- *Resist temptation and pursue holiness in thoughts, online and sexually.*
- *Respond well to pressure and hardships with academic work, tests, relationships.*
- *Safety and protection at school, during athletics, and while driving.*
- *Navigate the difficult transition of attending a new schools and new classes, changing of faculty and district, from building-to-building and class-to-class.*
- *Respect their teachers and authority in school while standing for righteousness.*
- *See the learning as a part of God's plan for their life and become a life-long learner.*

COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- *Live out their Christian faith in words and actions to those around them.*
- *Hunger and thirst for more of Jesus capturing their heart and changing their life.*
- *Desire and discipline to meet with Jesus in the secret place through prayer, silence solitude, sabbath, and scripture.*
- *Desire and discipline to be more like Jesus in the public place, sharing his life, light and love in our world.*
- *Love the gift of the local church, it's gatherings and mutual support, accountability, and service with one another amidst the pressures of a typical college student life.*
- *Love the learning process as part of God's plan for their life and be content with where God has them.*
- *Give them strong desire draw near to Christ, for grace and power to fight sin and temptation, pursue holiness and live with integrity especially sexually.*
- *Grow spiritually and emotionally in all their relationships including lifelong friendships and future Godly spouses.*
- *Learn to live life skillfully according to God's wisdom and design.*
- *Have the mind of Christ and be full of his grace and truth as they encounter differing world-views and belief systems.*
- *Desire to give their best for the glory of God (not settling for less than God's best).*
- *Provide jobs that work well with school, necessary finances, and travel mercies.*

PRAY FOR PARENTS

Lord Jesus, we pray that You would grant parents wisdom as they lead their children in the way they should go, grace when they feel discouraged, and strength to do the work needed to support and raise their children well.

May You grant them opportunities to connect with their children, and to be a positive, Godly influence over them.

- *God's protection over their children and safety in their school environments.*
- *Patience in the transition of schedules, routine, schools, classes.*
- *Godly influences over their children to help them find and follow Jesus.*
- *Spiritual and mental health entering into a busy season of balancing new routines, careers and kids.*
- *Create a Christ centered, home environment.*
- *Develop and model a heart for Christ.*
- *Awareness of God's will and grace at work in the family life.*
- *Discernment with what's going on in their child's life, when and how to connect with their child's heart.*
- *Awareness of the voices of influence in the child's life.*
- *Wisdom to help the child understand their culture and world.*
- *Godly responses of humility, respect, and obedience to authority of school, government, teachers, coaches, etc.*

PRAY FOR TEACHERS:

Lord Jesus, we lift up to you those you have called and gifted to be teachers like you. What a great responsibility it is to teach and care for growing boys and girls, young men and women. Bless our teachers with the wisdom they need to help prepare students for their place in life. Bless them with love, patience, understanding, compassion, mercy, and kindness for the students entrusted to their care.

We pray for your protection over our teachers. We pray for our teachers physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health. Give our teachers the energy, strength and stamina needed in their classrooms as they teach and plan. We pray for your provision of classroom needs.

We pray for opportunities for teachers to connect meaningfully with students and change lives while finding balance in their own life. Bless our teachers with rest. Bless them today and always. In Jesus' name, with His power and authority we pray.

- *Wisdom in class preparation with content, lesson plans, time management, various delivery methods.*
- *Graciousness toward students especially when encountering bad attitudes, laziness, foolishness, disobedience, disrespect, etc.*
- *Patience as students struggle with learning and life difficulties.*
- *Handle stressful demands in a godly and wise manner as it builds up, ebbs and flows throughout the school year.*
- *Demonstrate integrity, compassion, and support for other teachers.*
- *Be a positive example and mentor to the watchful and impressionable students.*
- *Demonstrate kindness, compassion tenderheartedness, and love.*
- *Provide them an eye and heart for the strugglers.*
- *Ambassadors of Christ wherever they go and whoever they meet.*

PRAY FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

Heavenly Father, we pray for all administrators working in and for our schools as an overseer like you. For superintendents, principals, assistant principals, deans and board members and more...

We pray for wise decision making, for abundant provision for their buildings, spaces, and resources. We pray Holy Spirit for your spiritual discernment and enlightenment in problem solving, We pray, Jesus that your peace, grace and truth will be their constant companions.

Holy Spirit be with them and empower them with divine wisdom, strength, and compassion to lead our respective districts and schools through the upcoming school year.

- *Respond Godly to authority (the school board, other administrators, head masters, legislature, department of education).*
- *Lead by godly example and exhibit servant leadership.*
- *Engage students and staff with love, grace and truth.*
- *Seek to understand and have empathy for and with parents concerning their students.*
- *Courage and humility to navigate the pressure and tensions from various constituents.*
- *Wisdom and discernment on curriculum and equipment choices.*
- *Vision and compassion for their schools, families and the hurting in their district.*
- *Patience in the many different intense situations and relationship dynamics at play.*
- *Christ-centered perspective as they lead their staff and oversee their district.*
- *Team spirit in regard to parents, guardians, grandparents, volunteers.*

PRAY FOR SUPPORT STAFF:

Holy Spirit, we pray for all the support staff working in and for our schools, being an advocate for others like you. For assistants, aides, librarians, coaches, nurses, counselors, psychologists, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, crossing guards, police officers, custodians, office staff, athletic trainers, boosters, paraprofessionals, and more...

We pray for grace, patience, and health. We pray for their leadership to shine through onto those around them and we pray that their stresses or burdens be laid at the foot of the cross and Jesus' feet.

Lord let Holy Spirit be with them and positively influence those they come in contact with throughout this school year.

- *Awareness of the necessity and importance of their role — often the first person with whom students, staff and the public interact.*
- *God-honoring relationships with students and constituents.*
- *Have a servant hearts, selfless spirit, and grateful attitude.*
- *God-honoring communication, attitude and conflict resolution under pressure with each other and other constituents (patience, forbearance, gentleness, humility, self control).*
- *Provision for safety and security for buildings, properties, equipment, etc.*
- *Health and stamina for custodial staff.*
- *Traveling safety for faculty, students, and bus drivers.*

PRAY FOR COACHES:

- *Invest in the lives and hearts of their student athletes for their best interest.*
- *Prepare athletes to be good humans and take the next step of life.*
- *Help student athletes find and follow Christ.*
- *Honor Christ in victory and defeat.*
- *Demonstrate grace and courage under pressure.*
- *Wisdom in decisions regarding athlete's health.*
- *Navigate the tension of winning games and developing character.*
- *Eyes to see past the Xs and Os to see athletes who need encouragement, an example, a friend, a mentor, and a loving voice.*
- *Safety in transportation, competition, and practice for their teams.*

PRAY FOR VOLUNTEERS (IN & OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM):

- *Have a servant heart, others first attitude, motivated by Christ to serve the community out of love for God and others especially our young people.*
- *Have creativity and ingenuity as they seek to serve.*
- *Resist entertaining gossip and turn a deaf ear to politics.*
- *Awareness of ministry opportunities as they interact with students and faculty (simply be present, listen well, share a smile or a word of kindness).*
- *Demonstrate a gracious and generous spirit toward others.*
- *God would honor their sacrifices of personal and family time to serve others.*

PRAY FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES:

Parents

- *Bear the weight of responsibility to educate their kids with Jesus.*
- *Balance schedules and needs of each kid.*
- *Ability to adapt and adjust based on each kids learning needs.*
- *Inspire, encourage, and build up kids.*
- *Inspire kids to develop a love of learning.*
- *Confident in who God created them to be and called them to teach their kids.*
- *Learn how to not exasperate their children but instead grow in patience and endurance.*
- *Wisdom for curriculum choices and extracurricular activities.*
- *Respond wisely and graciously to those who question or their choice to their homeschool.*
- *Encourage other homeschooling families or those who may have questions.*
- *Connect and work well with Co-ops (leadership, organizational challenges, building complications).*

Kids

- *Be a student God's Word and follower of Jesus every day.*
- *Learn how to honor their parents and respect their authority.*
- *Manage time, energy, schedules well.*
- *Flexibility to enjoy the little things and know learning happens even in the mundane.*
- *Positive example for those outside the homeschool community.*
- *Honor, worship and serve God in their homeschooling.*
- *Diligent and self-disciplined.*

A PARENT'S BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank You for the beautiful gift of my children, and for the blessing of their education. I trust in Your providence and Your promises, and ask for Your blessing on them as they begin this new school year. Please help them remember Your presence in times of fear, anxiety and stress. Give them confidence and hope in You. I know You made them unique in Your image, and that You have great plans for them! As they bump into challenges, disappointments, joys and achievements, thank You for being present in their lives and give me the wisdom to guide them and point them toward You every day, and in every thing. Please give the teachers, staff and administrators wisdom and endurance as they begin the long school year. What a gift these men and women are! I thank You for them all. Please surround my children with good community, with kind friends and wise teachers. Please keep them safe at school as they travel to and from there. Let my children be a light for You in their classrooms! Let them spread joy and gratitude each day. Thank You Father, for your many blessings!

*In Jesus Name, Amen.**

A CHILD'S BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER:

Dear God,

*It's a new school year! I know every day won't be easy, but I know You are with me in everything. Please help me to be a good friend to everyone I meet, and please help me to work hard and try my best on my school work. I know that You have big plans for me, and that You want me to honor You in everything that I do. Please help me to remember the strength You give to me each day to start each day with a loving heart, a peaceful spirit and a thankful attitude! In Jesus Name, Amen**

Psalm 112 NLT

1 Praise the Lord!

***How joyful are those who fear the Lord
and delight in obeying his commands.***

***2 Their children will be successful everywhere;
an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.***

***3 They themselves will be wealthy,
and their good deeds will last forever.***

***4 Light shines in the darkness for the godly.
They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.***

**** With permission, some of content was adopted and adapted from the Back to School Prayer
Guide created by Pastor Kevin Carson of Sunrise Baptist in Ozark, MO.***

