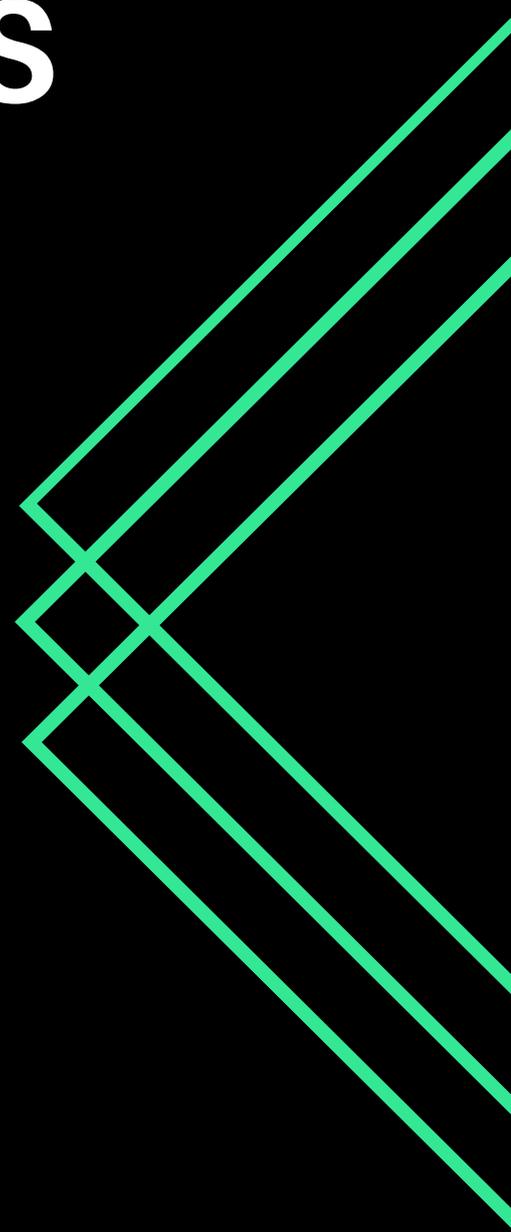




COMPLIMENTARY DOWNLOAD

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR KIDS

PANDEMIC PRAYER SERIES



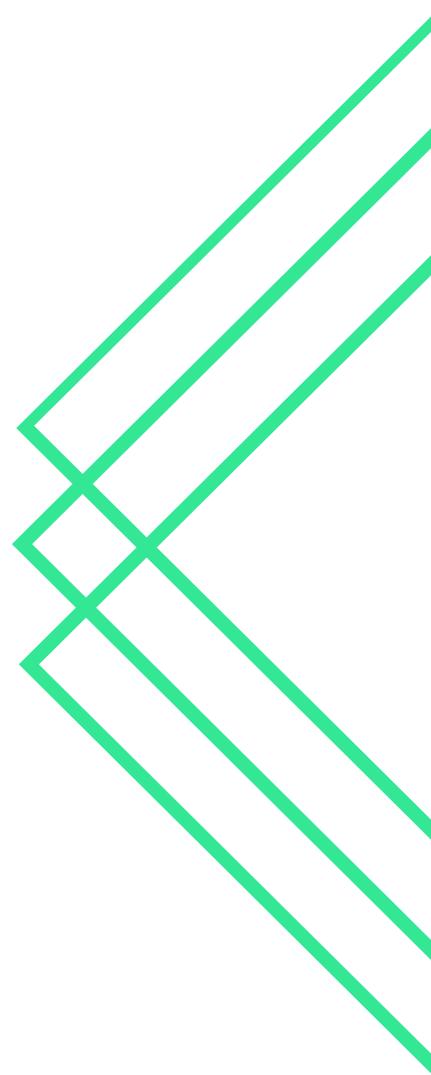
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Introduction

During this time of quarantine, experts have encouraged us to stay busy by learning new skills. Why not take this opportunity to pray our kids (and ourselves) will develop new spiritual skills?

The new realities brought on by the pandemic will undoubtedly require extraordinary wisdom, tenacity, and courage. So, let's pray God will raise up a generation of faithful Christ-followers equipped to meet the new challenges.

Here are three examples of women in the Bible who successfully navigated significant crises. Use their stories to inspire prayers on behalf of your kids.



Esther

(Esther 1-10)

Esther saved the Jewish people from a plot to eliminate them, and her story illustrates how God uses events and people to fulfill His purposes. Esther rose from an unknown Jewish girl to become the queen of a mighty empire, serving alongside her husband, Persian King Ahasuerus (AKA "Xerxes").

After Esther's mother and father died, her cousin, Mordecai, raised her as a daughter. But a significant crisis arose when Mordecai, a devout Jew, would not bow to Haman, an Amalekite who also happened to be King Ahasuerus' closest advisor. The long history of tension between the Jews and Amalekites didn't help, and Haman convinced the king to issue an edict permitting him to kill all the Jews and seize their property.

Mordecai alerted Esther to the plot, urging her to realize she had the opportunity to help her people "for such a time as this." She fasted for three days and urged all the Jews of Susa to do the same. Afterward, she showed tact and skill as she exposed the evil plot to the king. Modern-day Jews still celebrate their deliverance from these events through a feast called Purim (Esther 9:26-32).

Like Esther, pray your child will courageously use his/her influence to help the vulnerable.

Canaanite Woman

(Matthew 15:21-28)

What did the Canaanite woman do when she wanted Jesus to heal her daughter? She kept calling after Him, pleading for mercy, and persisting to the point that the disciples urged Jesus to send her away. With humility, she continued and knelt before Jesus to make her request. When Jesus balked, she remained undeterred. Her creative response proved she wasn't going away because she knew that He could help her (v. 27).

How often do we stop praying when we don't receive our answer? Persistence like that of the Canaanite woman is rare but often necessary; look at the question Jesus asked in Luke 18:8 about our willingness to remain faithful while we wait on God.

Like the Canaanite Woman, pray your child will develop spiritual tenacity.

Deborah

(Judges 4:1-5:31)

Deborah was the fifth judge of Israel and the only woman to serve in this role. People admired her courage and considered her a prophetess. Deborah spoke to her people during a dark time in history when Israel had no king, and “all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes” (Judges 17:6 NLT).

To make matters worse, King Jabin of Hazor and his army commander, Sisera, had ruthlessly opposed the Israelites for 20 years. The people of Israel were demoralized, paralyzed by fear, and must have felt hopelessness. Yet, they cried to the Lord for help (Judges 4:3).

Seeing the suffering of her people, Deborah sent for Barak and told him the Lord had commanded him to call out 10,000 warriors to fight Sisera. Although Deborah assured Barak the Lord had promised victory, he agreed only on one condition: She must accompany him. Barak knew Deborah had the insight and courage he needed.

On the day of battle, Deborah told Barak, “This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera, for the Lord is marching ahead of you” (Judges 4:14). She gave the people the courage and inspiration they needed to move forward despite their fear. May God develop more people like Deborah, who will seek God's wisdom and take decisive action during critical times.

Like Deborah, pray your child will inspire wise action during times of uncertainty.

Laura Lacey Johnson

About the Author:



Laura Lacey Johnson is an author and speaker. Her new book, [10-Second Prayers to Transform Your Life: From the Parables of Jesus](#), is available on Amazon. Laura enjoys treasure hunting at thrift stores, drinking dark roast coffee, and taking walks with her dog, Boo. Originally from Victoria, Texas, Laura earned a Master of Arts degree in Communication from Abilene Christian University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication from Howard Payne University. She began her career in Texas as a radio personality and television news reporter. Laura is a commissioned fellow for *The Colson Center for Christian Worldview* and speaks on many topics, including the parables of Jesus and little-known ways Christianity transformed the world. Laura lives in Bolivar, Missouri, with her husband, Brad, and their children, Evan and Elle. To watch Laura's video devotionals, or to download free resources, join her email list at: www.lauralaceyjohnson.com.

