



A Year of Personal Prayer Focus

PRAYING THE BIBLE

SEPTEMBER

INTRODUCTION:

What's your CQ (Childlike Quotient)? As the traditional month for the start of a new school year begins, it's an opportune time to do a self check to see how "childlike" you are as a child of God. For some of us, child-like faith is a distant memory and a child's view of the kingdom is close to Never-Never-Land. Take some time this month to recapture the wonder and simplicity of the kingdom. Work toward simpler prayers full of faith and pray prayers for yourself that you would otherwise lavish on the children in your life. After all, the kingdom is for those who can come to God "as little children" do. Cast your cares upon Him, get comfy, get real, and reconnect with "Abba, Father."

FIRST FOCUS:

Increasing your CQ? Pray during this focus for the following areas to be strengthened:

- Matthew 5:29—How are my peace making skills?
- Matthew 5:44-45—Got any enemies I need to forgive/love?
- Matthew 13:38—Would God consider me good seed?
- Matthew 18:3—What is my "humble-meter" reading?

SECOND FOCUS:

For this second focus, take a closer look at your life in these three areas. Can you be considered a "child" of God?

- John 12:36—Are you walking in the light? It's important to walk in "all the light" that one has. Walking in the light makes you a child of the light.
- Romans 8:16—Is the Spirit bearing witness that you are a child of God? What has the Spirit said to you (about yourself) lately?
- Romans 8:17—When you suffer, you become a joint heir with Christ. What's your definition of "suffer?" Are you doing anything that's putting you out there, open for criticism for following Christ?

THIRD FOCUS:

As the focus expands, spend time praying simply using simple words and concepts that an elementary child would use. Frame your prayer time with the image of sitting in your Heavenly Father's lap, talking and listening together. Why? *You'll be surprised at how difficult this can be.* According to Matthew 18:3, it's not enough to be a "child," one must be able to come as a "little child." Ponder: what does it mean to "receive the kingdom of God as a little child?" (Mark 10:15).

FOURTH FOCUS:

Following is a list of prayer points you may see most often for children. Pray through them for yourself.

- Psalm 25:21—It goes against our culture for a person to be honest and exercise integrity.
- Psalm 11:7; Micah 6:8—It is important to love justice, not retribution.
- Galatians 6:5, NLT—Everyone is responsible for their own actions, it's no one else's "fault."

Personal Prayer Focus adapted from *Praying the Bible: The Pathway to Spirituality*.

