



34. At the time of your baby's birth or baptism, ask significant people in your baby's life to write a prayer for him on a large note card or colorful piece of card stock. You can send these cards out by mail or pass them out at the baptism. When you have collected the prayers, and have been moved and amazed by them, place the prayer cards in a special memory book, perhaps with pictures of the people who wrote the prayers. Later you can page through this book with your infant, exclaiming, "There's Grandma. She loves you." "There's your godfather. He prays for you." Or you can frame the prayers and pictures and hang them in your child's room. Your baby will sleep and play surrounded by prayers.

At his baptism, your child may have received a banner, garment, or towel with his name and baptism date on it. Display this in your child's room as a constant reminder of his baptism.



35. Please and thank you—we teach our little ones to say these important words very early in their lives. Stroller prayers teach us parents to say please and thank you to God. When we push our precious sleeping bundle, all tucked into the stroller, we sigh a deep, grateful prayer. *Thank you, thank you, thank you, God, for this unimaginable gift.* And half an hour later, when our newborn wakes up half a mile from home and screeches to be fed or changed, we repeat a fervent prayer. *Please, please, please, God, help me push this stroller as fast as I can!*



toddler



prek-k

36. Make sure your child has access to a story Bible such as the *Spark Story Bible* (Augsburg Fortress, 2009). Read and talk about the stories often, every day if possible. On car trips, put the Bible next to your child's car seat so that she can reach it and flip through it on the drive. Read a story or two from the Bible each night before bed.



toddler



prek-k

37. Your child may be learning prayers at school or Sunday school. Ask him about the prayers, and use those prayers in your home. Or encourage your child to create an original prayer with your help. There are four basic types of prayer that all children should learn:

Adoration: You're awesome, God!

Confession: I'm sorry.

Thanksgiving: Thank you.

Supplication: Please.

Begin teaching your child these types of prayers using the following examples:

Adoration: Dear God, I love you. You are an awesome God! Amen.

Confession: Dear God, I'm sorry for _____. Please forgive me. Amen.

Thanksgiving: Thank you, God, for _____. Amen. (Let your child fill in the blank with things he is thankful for.)

Supplication: Dear God, please help people who are sick. Amen.

Let your child add any requests that he has for himself or others.