

RAISING CONFIDENT KIDS

in a Confusing World

PRAYER CARDS FOR PARENTS

CHAPTER 1: THIS IS ME

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

- 1. IDENTITY:** In what ways is your child trying to define their identity? Pray that you would show them that who they are is not defined by others, or even by themselves, but by Jesus. Ask God to teach you to find your own identity in him as well!
- 2. CULTURE:** "Your children live and breathe your family culture". Pray that the habits and beliefs of your home would teach your children about the truth and goodness of the gospel.

CHAPTER 2: WHAT DO YOU (REALLY) WANT MOST FOR YOUR KIDS?

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)

- 1. BEHAVIOUR:** "Religion makes an identity out of actions and behaviours." While good behaviour is important, pray that your children would learn that a change in identity is more important than simple behaviour modification.
- 2. LABELS:** Whether we'd like them to or not, our children (and even ourselves as parents) often adopt different labels for themselves. Pray that your children would learn which of their self-identified labels are God-given, if any.

CHAPTER 3: I AM PRECIOUS

God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." (Genesis 1:26)

1. **VALUE:** When it comes to your children's self-worth, whose voice are they listening to—God's, or someone else's? Pray about those areas that compete with God's voice—whether their achievements, feelings, or something else—and ask that the Lord would show them how his approval is better than the world's.
2. **OBEDIENCE:** "If our children understand how precious they are to their Creator, then they will know that it is good to listen to him." This chapter lists a few ways that your family can actively listen to God together. Ask the Lord to help your family better discern his voice together.

CHAPTER 5: I CAN CHANGE

We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him. This change in us brings more and more glory. And it comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18, ICB)

1. **HEART:** "Don't forget that with the Lord, change is inevitable. And it's the heart where the Lord goes to work." Our children often act out of fear, wrong beliefs, or hidden desires. Pray that God would show you the motivations of your children's heart, that you might speak more specifically to their needs and wants.
2. **DISCIPLINE:** When disciplining your child or trying to change their behaviour, do you tend to respond out of fear, manipulation, or something else? Ask God to expose your own hearts and teach you to rely on his timing when disciplining your child.

CHAPTER 4: I AM FORGIVEN

My people will live in peaceful dwelling-places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. (Isaiah 32:18)

1. **SHALOM:** What types of "rules" do you have in your family? Pray that the culture and rules of your household would reflect the shalom God creates for his people.
2. **AUTHORITY AND GRACE:** "Knowing our kids means we can then respond with compassion." Practice getting to know your child even better this week. Ask the Lord to show you how to extend grace to your children without abandoning discipline and authority.

CHAPTER 6: I KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN I'M NOT OK

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (Psalm 23:6)

1. **SUFFERING:** "Suffering is going to be part of the story of our children's lives if they seek to follow Christ." Pray that your children would be drawn closer to Christ in their suffering, rather than allow it to pull them away from him.
2. **SECURITY:** Where does your family find strength and security? Pray that your children (and yourself) would run to Christ when feelings of fear or uncertainty arise.

CHAPTER 7: I AM WONDERFULLY MADE

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)

- BODY IMAGE:** Do your children struggle with their body image? Do you? Pray for wisdom as you teach your kids that their bodies are beautifully and wonderfully made. Ask God to show you the value of your own body.
- TOUGH CONVERSATIONS:** "Someone will be teaching your kids about their souls and their bodies. Make sure it's you." Are there any tough conversations you know you need to have with your kids but that you've been putting off? Ask God to show you what your child needs to hear, and to provide a helpful time for the discussion.

CHAPTER 9: BOYS, GIRLS AND GENDER

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

- STEREOTYPES:** It can be difficult at times to differentiate between genuine biblical teaching about gender and cultural norms. Ask the Lord for discernment when teaching your children about boyhood and girlhood.
- GENDER:** "Our bodies have been crafted beautifully, and we thank God for them as a unique gift given individually to us. That is the starting point in understanding what it means to be a boy or a girl." Confusion around gender issues is on the rise for kids. Pray for clarity in your own thinking about gender so that you can better communicate this message to your kids.

CHAPTER 8: FRIENDSHIPS, SEX AND MARRIAGE

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18)

- RELATIONSHIPS:** Do you discuss marriage and singleness in your home? Pray for wisdom to show your kids that while marriage is good, we can lead a fulfilling, God-honouring life without being married.
- SEXUALITY:** "You cannot control your children's sexuality. You cannot determine if they will spend their lives married or single. You can teach them the goodness of God, the truthfulness of his word, and the goodness of both marriage and singleness." Pray that you would trust the Lord with your child's future, in all areas.

CHAPTER 10: WITH JESUS, LIKE JESUS

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

- THANKFULNESS:** Parenting is a joy, but it can also be sorrowful. Pray that you would be aware of God's presence during harder periods. Think of ten good things about your life, whether they be related to your children or not, and thank God for them this week.
- MOVING FORWARD:** "One day, our identity as children of God will be seen. It will be certain. It will be proved with our senses. We will see it, touch it and even taste it as we sit at the banquet with Jesus. We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." Reflect on what you have learned and been struck by as you have read this book. Pray that you and your children would be made more like Jesus in the days and years to come. Ask the Lord for peace as you parent, knowing that your children are in his hands.