Parenting with Purpose: The Early Years

PART 1: PRAYING WITH PURPOSE

Imagine this: Thirty years from now, your children are able to say with confidence, "My parents have been praying for me EVERY DAY since I was born." What a gift—to know that somebody is praying for their emotional and spiritual development, the providential relationships, and the pivotal circumstances that they will inevitably experience. You can start to build this incredible foundation of prayer right now.

CONNECT

Use a pack of Story Cards to answer this question: Which card best represents where you are in your parenting journey right now?

LEARN

Watch the video for Part 1: Praying with Purpose.

DISCUSS

1. The concept of "you're in my thoughts and prayers" or "I'll pray for you" is a common saying. Although there may be differing opinions on how helpful "prayers" can actually be, have you ever had someone pray for you, and you felt an additional sense of peace or protection?

2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1 together:

   > *I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.*

   The Bible includes several commands and examples of people praying on behalf of others. Why is "intercessory prayer" such a big deal throughout Scripture?

3. As a parent, there are diapers to change, bottles to prepare, and mouths to feed. Parenting can seem like an endless list of responsibilities. How can you incorporate praying for your child into your daily parenting rhythms? (e.g., mealtimes, drive-times, playtimes)

4. What are some aspects of your child's life where you want them to fully know God's presence? If it's helpful, think of three things:
   - Something that you and your child are currently experiencing
   - Something that your child will experience in two to five years
   - Something that your child will experience much further down the road

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APPLY

Take a moment to intercede in prayer for your child about the three things that you listed from question four. (If applicable, share and pray together with your spouse.)

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