

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

*Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.* Psalm 40:5

Just as a young child learns to count by number, so they should also be taught to daily count their many blessings. Establish and develop a habit of pointing your child to God, moment by moment, throughout each and every day. In the morning, spend time talking about God's faithfulness and anticipate all He has in store for the day. At the breakfast table, consider together God's specific care and provision for each family member. Throughout the day, point to God's incredible creation. Encourage your child to consider all the things God has done and is accomplishing in his personal life. During the evening, ask questions that allow your toddler to think about God being all knowing, all powerful, and always near. At bedtime, engage in prayers of thanksgiving, allowing your child to recognize God as a God of detail and purpose. The God of the universe will become very personal to your child, when he understands that God is always working around him, on his behalf, and is available to him all hours of the day and night.

### **Dear Lord God,**

I praise You as the giver of all good gifts. Thank You for Your many blessings. Thank You for the gift of children. I realize that I am only a steward of this child. Please help me to raise him according to the truth of Your Word. Draw him close to You, Lord. Teach him to know that all things are from You. Help him to recognize You at work around him and prompt him to count his many blessings. Amen.

Additional Scripture: Psalm 75:1, Psalm 145:5

*With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.*  
Psalm 119:13

In order to be able to recount God's Word, one must first know it. To know God's Word is to have it committed to memory. Because decisions are always based on what we know, believers must know the truth of the Bible in order to make choices that please God. For this reason, Scripture memory is vitally important for those seeking God's best in their life. Parents can train children to memorize Scripture in a variety of ways. First, establish a consistent habit of selecting Bible verses to memorize. Since memorization is easier for children, don't hesitate to regularly add new verses. To help a younger child memorize, exchange some of the words in a Bible verse for pictures. Then, explain what the pictures represent. For an older child, print a Bible verse on a piece of paper and cut the pieces of paper to create individual words or phrases. To help him memorize, play games by either mixing up the pieces of paper and asking him to place them in correct order, or by placing only some of the pieces in front of your child, while having him practice remembering the missing words or phrases that complete the verse. Since application produces change, the most important part of Scripture memory is application. Teach your child the significant meaning of each learned verse and then point out practical ways, throughout the day, of applying or practicing its principles.

### **Dear Holy God,**

Thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Please instill in us a desire to memorize Your truth. Compel us to know, love, understand, and live according to Your Word. Amen.

Additional Scripture: II Peter 1:12-15, II Peter 3:1-2

## VALUE WATCHMEN

*“I appointed watchmen over you and said, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But you said, ‘We will not listen.’ Therefore hear, O nations; observe, O witnesses, what will happen to them. Hear, O earth: I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have not listened to my words and have rejected my law.”* Jeremiah 6:17-19

In the Old Testament our loving God appointed prophets as watchmen to alert His people of impending danger. Today God provides parents and others as watchmen in a child’s life. Since a growing adolescent does not always embrace godly adult counsel, teach your child to recognize and value the role of a watchman. Train him to realize that a genuine, God-appointed watchman will consistently point him to the truth of God’s Word. Help your child grasp that even though watchmen are instruments of truth, it is his responsibility to follow through in obedience by acting on truth. As watchmen, parents should take their roles seriously by learning to fully understand and apply biblical principles. As a child matures, it is important for him to have the freedom to make more choices independent of his parents. A child will gain spiritual maturity more quickly by experiencing consequences early, under controlled conditions, rather than when he has grown and is on his own. Watching a child experience the consequences of poor choices can be painful, but purposeful. Lovingly assist your child in realizing that, as with the Israelites, the consequences suffered are due to personal choices made.

### **Dear Holy God,**

Please train me to be a watchman for my child. Amen.

Additional Scripture: Jeremiah 11:6-7, Ezekiel 3:17-19