

NOTE TO FAMILIES:

Dear SIM Family,

Below are writings for the 10 Days of Prayer for Families. They are simple in format. They include a Bible passage that corresponds to the ones found in the 10 Days of Prayer, questions, and a short guide for praying. Many of the days also include a story from one of our SIM workers all over the world. I am delighted to be able to share these with you, and I hope they will prompt your family to remember God's character and His love for you and His world. We pray with you during this time!

With love,

Mindy Beetham,
SIM International TCK Coordinator

Day 1 God's Name is Yahweh

Read: Exodus 3 (Yahweh) together as a family.

Ask together: What do we learn about God from this passage? How did Moses respond when God told him who He is?

Story (Mindy Beetham, SIM International TCK Coordinator):

One year, at the end of our home assignment, we were getting ready to return to Ethiopia, and there was a major snowstorm in Chicago. Our flight got cancelled, so my husband Chris called the airline to get new flights. The airline operator was confused, she told him that there was no one called Chris Beetham or Mindy Beetham or our kids' names on that flight that had been cancelled. I was in the room and could see that my husband was becoming nervous. After a few minutes the operator said, "Wait! I have a Christopher Alan and a Mindy Lynn." Quickly we could see that we had flown all the way home for our home assignment with our first and middle names! To get back to Ethiopia we would need completely new tickets or need a small miracle because the ticket office in Addis Ababa wasn't open to changing our tickets in time. I'm not sure what changed their mind, but miraculously they allowed us to fly with a layover in Dubai, even with our first and middle names on the tickets.

I will never forget thinking, "The Lord knows my name and the names of my family." I was at peace with having the wrong names. I knew He would get us where we needed to go with the "wrong" names because He knows my real name, and He knows me. But even much more importantly, I know HIS name and who He is. Because I know Him, and He calls me to walk with Him, I had peace that even though our tickets were not correct, God Himself would get us where we needed to go. He is faithful always.

Question: What name of God reminds you of a story of His faithfulness to your family?

Pray: Lord, help us to remember who you are, that you are always with us and guiding us through all the many stories in our family. Help us to remember that your name (Yahweh) reminds us that all that you are you will be to us today and forever.

Day 2 God Most High

Read: Genesis 14:4-20 + Psalm 46:1-3

Ask together: What did Abram do for Lot? How did he need to trust God? What do we learn about God from this passage? When was a time in your family when you needed God to rescue you and give you refuge?

Pray: Lord, you are our refuge and strength. We are so grateful that you cover us and that we do not need to fear.

Day 3 The God Who Sees

Read: Acts 10:9-33 (The God Who Sees)

Ask together: What is happening in this story? Why would Peter say he had never eaten any of those animals? What changed after this vision? How did Peter respond in obedience to the Lord? Who does the Lord tell us to share his love with? Tell of a time that your family responded to God's Word in obedience.

Pray: Lord, you ask us to trust you and obey. We ask that you give us the courage to trust and obey today. And we thank you that you will show us each day how you are faithful.

Day 4 God Almighty

Read: Genesis 12:1-3

Ask together: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Story (Zelege O, ME):

God is Almighty God. He is faithful to His covenant. No one changes his plan as all His words are righteous. He called Abraham to make him a channel of blessing for the generations. God wanted to lead him to the place that He would show him. God is Almighty, and I am witness of His faithfulness.

When I was a 9th grade student, God Almighty had an amazing plan for me. He shined His light on me and prepared my heart to receive salvation. Before that I was a Muslim from my forefathers. I decided to follow Jesus with my full heart, and after just a couple of hours, God Almighty motivated my heart to share the love of Christ with my brothers and sisters. My siblings heard willingly and

accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. I have continued sharing the good news with my parents, friends, relatives, neighbors, and others.

God Almighty inspired me to bear more fruit through my testimony and witness. Many of them, including my parents, accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Not only this, but He also made me an instrument to win more to His Kingdom in Ethiopia and the Middle East. Truly, God is Almighty God. I praise and glorify his name. All credit belongs to Almighty God.

Question: Has your family experienced God as almighty?

Pray: God, you are almighty. We are amazed at how you are over all things and that you have a plan for each of our lives. Thank you for making us, loving us, and sending your son so that we can know you and live with your Holy Spirit.

Day 5 God Eternal

Read: Genesis 21:1-7

Ask together: What do we learn about God from this passage? How did God show that He was Almighty God in this story (from yesterday)? How does he show He is Eternal God in this story?

Story (Susan Strong, SIM Australia TCK Coordinator):

Waiting. So much of our lives seem to be waiting. Especially in missions. For my husband and I, there always seemed to be waiting. But that is life, isn't it? We wait for one thing after another. One event after another, some filled with great joy and some with deep, heart wrenching sadness. Times when we see God work in amazing ways and times when we cry out, "How long, oh LORD?" Just as it was for Abraham and Sarah, along with the waiting comes the ups and downs, the twists, and turns of life.

The characteristic of God focus today is that God is Eternal, and I am so thankful for this. As my husband, Andrew, our girls, and I went through waiting times, sometimes hours, sometimes days, sometimes years, we trusted in our eternal God, that He was in control. Even in the times when we just didn't understand why things were happening, we trusted what He did and that He had a plan. Now without Andrew (my husband died of cancer), I confess, at times I do not like his plan. And the waiting is scattered with tears and loneliness. However, through all the waiting, God has shown Himself to be true, just, gracious, and incredibly loving, as He gently prods and pushes our girls and I in the pathway He has set for us. Sometimes, I still feel like I am wandering in the wilderness like Abraham and Sarah, and I guess in a way I am. We all are. However, despite all this, I pray we will wait and trust in the "Alpha and the Omega, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." He is the eternal one, whose waiting has an eternal purpose and whose gift, through our Lord Jesus, is eternal life.

Question: Do you have someone who is waiting for something? How can you pray for them?

Pray: God, we pray for _____ who is waiting for _____. Please be with them and give them your comfort and peace as they wait on you. Thank you that you are patient with us during our waiting.

Day 6 The LORD Provides

Read: Genesis 22

Ask together: What do we learn about God from this passage? What do we learn about humans? (Abraham and Isaac) How did God provide? Tell a story of how God provided for you and your family.

Pray: God, we are amazed at how you provide. Today we each thank you for five things you have provided. (Each thank him for five things).

Day 7 The LORD is peace

Read: Judges 6 & 7

Ask together: What do we learn about God from this passage? What do we learn about Gideon?

Story (Andres Corrales, SIM Uruguay Director):

The afternoon before my 10th birthday, my city was shaken by the biggest earthquake my country, Costa Rica, has ever experienced. Thirty years have passed since that day, but I cannot forget how I jumped into my parents' bed where my mother was taking a nap. And while our house shook violently, and we did not even have time to run away, she instinctively just recited a psalm, hugging me as tight as she could while all the things fell down around us.

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...” - Psalm 46:1-2

At the end of the earthquake, I felt very scared. The days that followed brought with them many aftershocks and a birthday party without friends. The fear was so great that my neighbours even preferred to sleep in the street for fear of more earthquakes. But my mother kept repeating that psalm to me. She did it so many times that I could keep it in my heart until I believed it, and it became a reality within me. That truth kept repeating to my heart that God was worthy of my trust, even in the moments when everything was shaking, and when I was shaking. God was my peace in the midst of those difficult days, and in some special and mysterious way, He made me take courage.

In Judges 6 and 7, we find the story of Gideon, a young man who faced the "earthquakes" of military invasions from the enemies of his people. They came and stole the crops of his people, leaving them in famine, until one day, God decided to use him to free his nation from their oppressors.

It was not easy for Gideon to take on all that God wanted him to do, struggling with his own doubts and to gain courage. Even harder were the moments where he had to believe in the voice of God above what any logic could sustain or believe. But Gideon gradually decided to trust in the Lord in the midst of the turbulent times he was living.

So, I want to encourage you to remember that God is our peace. God's peace that He can give you does not mean the absence of difficult moments, or times of confusion. It doesn't mean that you won't see chaos, or have anxious thoughts, or hear news that fills your heart with uncertainty, where

everything in your life will seem to tremble. Whether these tremors come from inside or outside, you can be sure that you need to jump into the arms of God and let yourself be embraced by His peace, because He is and wants to become your peace.

Pray: Lord, you say that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Today we remember together that you are the only one who can bring lasting peace. We look to you to bring us peace about _____ that is causing us to worry and fear. We trust you in this time.

Day 8 LORD of Hosts

Read: 1 Samuel 17

Ask together: What do we learn about God from this passage? What do we learn about David?

Story (Elya, missionary to Paraguay):

Since I was a little girl, the story of David and Goliath has always been one of my favourite Bible stories. To me, David was a real live hero, and I wanted to be like him! In fact, I even had a stuffed raccoon I named David.

You see, when I was a little girl, I used to have horrible nightmares. I would wake up so scared most every night and cry out for my mom or dad. My parents tried everything to help me not be afraid and to make my nightmares go away. They would pray with me before I went to bed, they got me a nightlight for my room, and they even let our pet Dalmatian sleep in my room with me! But, no matter what we did, it seemed like nothing helped, and I still kept having scary nightmares.

Then, I remembered the story of David and Goliath and how brave David was. David was a kid just like me, and with God's help he defeated a giant! I realized that with God's help I could be brave like David, because God is bigger and stronger than any nightmare I had. So, the next time I had a nightmare instead of calling out for my mom or dad, I called out for Jesus! I prayed for him to help me to be brave and to be with me because I was scared. And you know what, he did!

After that, I would still get nightmares sometimes. But I wasn't as scared of them because I knew that every time I had one I could call on Jesus to be with me. You see, we don't need to be afraid when hard or scary things come our way, because God is so much bigger and stronger than anyone or anything!

Pray: Lord, we thank you that nothing, no problem, or situation is bigger than you. Thank you that we can trust you and that your armies are greater than any other army on earth. Please help us as we face big problems. We bring _____ to you because we know we can only face it with you! We trust you.

Day 9 The LORD is my Shepherd

Read: Psalm 23

Ask together: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Story (Puii, missionary and mom in Thailand):

Sheep are adorable, gentle animals that need a lot of care because they cannot take care of themselves. They love to graze in the green fields and drink water, but they cannot find grazing fields or water by themselves. To be healthy and to sleep peacefully, they need a safe place, but they cannot find shelters by themselves. They just go where they see grass to eat, but they cannot see the dangers, like cliffs or holes, ahead of them. They need protection from other wild animals, but because they are not aggressive, they cannot fight back to defend themselves. Sheep need shepherds to survive.

A good shepherd knows exactly what the sheep need. He guides the sheep to green pastures and to water, so that they will be well-fed. He lets them rest in a safe place and guards them so that they can sleep peacefully. He anoints the sheep with oil, which acts as a repellent for insects, so that the sheep will not be disturbed. He calls them out and leads them so that they will not wander off to unsafe places. And at the end of the day, He brings them back home to the sheep pen to enjoy a good night's rest. In summary, a good shepherd does everything the sheep need to survive and to be healthy.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." But Jesus is a shepherd for people. He knows the personal needs of everyone. He is the best person to take care of us because He knows our needs, and He can give us what we need. But for Jesus to take care of us, we have to let Him be our Shepherd and be willing to be His sheep. If we follow Him and are obedient to Him, He will provide us with what we need daily. He will be with us every day - in school, at work, or at home. And in the end, He will lead us safely into heaven.

Pray: Good Shepherd, we thank you that you do not drive us in the way of many earthly shepherds, but rather, you lead us and call us. Thank you that we can trust you to always take care of us. We thank you today for this story: _____ where you faithfully lead us.

Day 10 The LORD is Good

Read: Exodus 33 & 34

Ask together: What do we learn about God from this passage? What do we learn about Moses and God's people, the Israelites?

Story (Daniel Salamu, WAMO Director):

Our son was about two years old when we went for a short home assignment. During our time home, we visited our wildlife park to relax and see some animals. At a particular cage with monkeys inside, we were watching alongside many other people. Our son, who was already walking then, held the cage and was watching. To our surprise the monkey jumped on him and almost got his fingers, if not

for me (his dad) swiftly pulling him away from the cage. He ended up with only some minor scratches on his hand from the monkey who almost bit him. We have heard stories and seen photos of the hands of children who have been bitten terribly by these wild monkeys. This to us is the display of God's goodness to us that the monkey could not get to our son, if not it could have been a different story by now.

In Exodus 34:6-7 we see that our God is compassionate and gracious. These two attributes of God clearly show God's goodness. God was merciful to our son and continues to be merciful to all of us. In Exodus 33:19, we read about God listening to the prayer of Moses. When we pray to Him for our protection, He listens. It is out of His goodness that He listens. As disobedient as we can be, God still protects us from danger, even from His anger. We see in Exodus 33:3 that God told Moses that He would not go with them, in order not to destroy them on the way. It is out of His goodness that He protects us. Just like our son, we do not deserve any protection because all humans are disobedient, but God in His goodness protected our son. This is one of many stories of God's goodness in our lives.

Pray: Thank you, Lord, that you alone are good. We confess our sins to you quietly now. We thank you that you forgive us of our sins and that because of Jesus we can come close to you and have the Holy Spirit living in us! This is the best news. We want to live all our days with you. Thank you that in your goodness you make this possible. We love you.