



## ***Invitation to Prayer Rites of Passage Experience***

It's a beautiful thing to hear the words I love you from your child. Equally as beautiful is hearing your child pray to God. We go through lots of prayers with our kids; mealtime prayers, bedtime prayers, etc. This Rites of Passage Experience is designed to help you write a life prayer for your child. A prayer that you'll begin praying out loud on a daily basis with your child. A prayer that your child will hear so often that he/she knows exactly what you want for him/her.

If you participated in the Birthday Blessing Rites of Passage Experience then you've identified a couple of personality traits that you want for your child. Maybe you were unable to participate in the Birthday Blessing. Regardless, the first step in completing the Invitation to Prayer Rites of Passage Experience is to identify exactly what you want for your child. Be specific, identify a couple of characteristics you want for your child to exhibit as he/she grows up.

Next formulate this into a simple prayer that includes words your child will understand. For example, if you want your child to be compassionate, your prayer may change the wording to

"kind to others." You want the words you choose to be understandable to your 2-3 year old. As they get older you can use the larger words, but make sure you can explain what your words mean to your child.

Make the prayer a simple 1 or 2 sentence one, one that can be easily repeated, and one that your child will eventually be able to repeat. Begin praying this with your child every night at bedtime. Imagine the significance of praying this prayer over the life of your child as they hear you say your dreams for him/her.

It would be great to make a piece of artwork that includes this prayer that you can put in your child's room. You can consider painted canvas, etched wood, embossed fabric, engraved metal, printed paper, etc.

The point is to build the repetition and rhythm of this prayer into your family's life. It will be one that will be prayed repeatedly so make sure it encompasses what you really want for your child.



## **Sample Prayers**

*Dear God,*

*Give Kelyn the bravery to be a risk taker and help her to see others and love them like you do.*

*-Amen*

*Dear God,*

*Help Kozbi's compassionate heart be one that helps her change the world so others will know You and the hope You alone can bring.*

*-Amen*

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for Tristen's tender heart. Help him to be an encourager and a great friend.*

*-Amen*

*Dear God,*

*Anthony is a warrior. Help him fight for things in life that are worth fighting for.*

*-Amen*

*Dear God,*

*You have given Madison an amazing mind. Help her to use this gift to point others to You, and help her give you the credit.*

*-Amen*

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for making Sam so unique. We pray that she would know that is a gift from you. Show her how to help others who are different see they, too, are wonderfully made.*

*-Amen*