

GOING FURTHER - Resources

All books are available for checkout in the Church Library or for purchase in the Church Bookstore

Recommended Book:

God, I Need to Talk to You about Bullying (by Susan K. Leigh) Delightfully illustrated, this story deals with a concern youngsters encounter in their daily lives. This book points out the Good News of God's love and forgiveness

Mean Girl Makeover Trilogy (by Nancy N. Rue) Walk through these books in the perspective of the bully, the victim, and the bystander.

Recommended Website:

<http://www.prayerideas.org/>

Don't know what or how to pray for this topic- search this great website to kick off your time of prayer!

Bullies



Faith@Home
Pointers

Praying for Bullies

I am sure that every one of us has had an experience with a bully. Bullies can be found in classrooms, playgrounds, and most recently via a cell phone or computer screen. What do we do when these bullies enter the lives of our children? Below are a few steps and tips for dealing with bullies. Bullies are usually hurting in some way, shape or form. When someone is hurt we should pray for them! Pray every day with your child for the bully in their life. Pray God's comfort and peace can be brought to their life. Walk with your child through these steps and continue to be an advocate for your child!

1. Matthew 5:44 tells us, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

As an adult, our enemies look different than those of your son's or daughter's in school. We need to teach our children at an early age that not everyone is going to be nice to them, that they will encounter bullies, and we are told to pray for them.

Our hope is that, as your child grows older and the bullies get bigger and stronger, their faith in God and a reliance on prayer would be their strength and shield (Psalm 28:7). Our children shouldn't learn this lesson on their own in the depths of despair. We, as parents, should teach this to our children at the earliest opportunity.

2. We want my son/daughter to see firsthand that they can rely on God.

God doesn't always answer our prayers in our time and in the way we want. So it's important to teach our children that God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:9) and that while we might not always understand how He works, we must always trust Him to work.

When we invite our children to pray for the people around us and for their specific needs, our children get to see God in action! We all get to learn the value of prayer and that we can rely on God.

3. Follow Jesus' example, because our children will follow our example.

Jesus gave us the ultimate example in Luke 23:43 when he prayed for the ones who were crucifying him. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

As a Christ follower, it is my responsibility to follow Jesus' example and pray for bullies in my child's life. As a parent, it was my responsibility to be an example to my child.

It might seem easier to tell your child to stay away from the bully. It might be easier to talk with the teacher to make sure they get justly punished. But the right thing is not always the easier thing.

It takes discipline to remember to pray for bullies every night. It takes self-control to not call the bullies mom and tell her to constrain her kid! But God instructs us to be disciplined and self-controlled. Two attributes we would want our children to learn; two attributes that they *will* learn from watching us.

As parents, we need to remember that as Christians, we will have enemies (Matthew 10:22). We will face persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). When we teach our children to pray for the class bully, we are looking ahead and equipping them with their best defense for life.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" Philippians 4:6.