

# Family Devotional

From August 28, 2016

Read: Ephesians 6:18-24

**Reflect:** The last several weeks we have been working our way through the book of Ephesians, a letter the Apostle Paul wrote to his friends in the city of Ephesus. Sometimes it doesn't really sound like a letter, but as he wraps it up, we are reminded that he was writing to his friends, people he loved and wanted the best for. That is one of the best parts about being a Christian. We don't have to do it by ourselves. God gives us family and friends that encourage and support us along the way. Last week we talked about the Armor of God. It is important that we each wear our own armor and have our own relationship with Jesus, but when we join together in prayer, we become an unbreakable force.

Sometimes it is easy to think about prayer the same way we would think about writing a letter to Santa or rubbing a magic lamp, but prayer is much more than that. Prayer is not a formula and if we follow these steps then we get what we want. Prayer is our way of communicating with God, sharing what is on our hearts and minds, and then letting him show us what is on His heart.

Paul is one of the "mighty men" of faith so it would have been easy for the Ephesians to think he doesn't need our prayers, but here in verse 19 he asks them to pray for him. Read this verse again and see what he asks them to pray for.

You are never too young or too new to the Christian faith to be a mighty prayer warrior for Jesus!

**Create:** Gather paper, markers and whatever craft supplies you like to use when making cards. Choose a friend, pastor, teacher, or family member and write or draw them a card letting them know you love them and are praying for them this week!

**Challenge:** Commit to taking a little time each day to pray for this friend and the people around you. It doesn't have to take too long or be a profound prayer, just simply tell Jesus what you are thinking and ask him to be in the middle of every situation.

**Remember:** As a family work on memorizing/mediating on Ephesians 6:18b

"...be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

*Ideas:* Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

**Respond:** "Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us good friends to help support us. Help us remember to pray continually for our church friends and other Christians around the world.....Amen!"

Awana is a Bible based children's program that focuses on helping families learn scripture in fun, age appropriate ways. Awana is the children's component of Wednesday Night Downtown programming and is for children 3 years old through 5th grade. This is a great place for children to build friendships with fellow believers. Learn more at [firstchurchtulsa.org/awana](http://firstchurchtulsa.org/awana).