

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER GUIDE

A Prayer Resource Developed by First Lavaca



A Prayer Over Our Schools

Father,

We place this school year in Your hands. Go before our students. Strengthen our educators. Give wisdom to our administrators and board members. Encourage our parents. Protect our schools. Comfort hurting students and may they build healthy friendships as they develop character.

Give Christian students courage. Open doors for the gospel. And let the light of Jesus shine brightly throughout our schools. May classrooms become places of discovery. May hallways become places of kindness. May athletic fields and courts become places where students, parents, and coaches display good and godly character. May lunchrooms become places where lonely students find friends. May teachers find renewed purpose. May parents find wisdom. May students discover that their identity is not found in a grade, a team, a relationship, popularity, or achievement, but rather in the God who created them and loves them.

Lord, when this school year is finished, may we look back and say: God was faithful.

In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

10 Days of Prayer for the New School Year

Covering Our Students, Families, Teachers, and Schools in Prayer

A new school year brings new classrooms, new schedules, new friendships, new opportunities—and sometimes new worries. Before we fill backpacks, calendars, classrooms, and car lines, we want to fill these days with **prayer**.

For the next ten days, take a few minutes each day to pray intentionally for our students, parents, teachers, administrators, coaches, and schools.

10-Day Prayer Overview

Day 1: God's Presence- *Go Before Them*

Day 2: Wisdom- *Give Them a Desire to Learn*

Day 3: Teachers- *Strengthen Those Who Serve*

Day 4: Friendships- *Surround Them with Wise Friends*

Day 5: Protection- *Guard Their Going Out and Coming In*

Day 6: Character- *Make Them People of Integrity*

Day 7: Hurting Students- *Help Us See Those Who Are Struggling*

Day 8: Witness- *Let Them Shine for Jesus*

Day 9: Families- *Strengthen Our Homes*

Day 10: Spiritual Growth- *Draw Them Closer to Jesus*

Day 1. Pray for God to Go Before Them

Deuteronomy 31:8. *“It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”*

Devotional Thought

The first day of school can bring a strange combination of excitement and anxiety. New teachers. New classmates. New schedules. New expectations. For some students, it means walking into an entirely new school. However, remember our kids never walk into a place where God has not already gone before them.

Before they enter the classroom, **God is there**. Before they meet that teacher, **God is there**. Before they face that challenge, **God is there**. We can't go everywhere our loved ones do, but God can, and He does.

Pray specifically for:

- Students who are nervous about starting school.
- Children entering a new school or grade.
- Kindergarten students beginning school for the first time.
- Students transitioning into middle school, high school, or college.
- Parents struggling with letting their children go.
- Students who feel alone or uncertain.
- God to give students courage and confidence rooted in Him.

Sample Prayer

Father, thank You that You go before our students. When they walk through doors we cannot walk through with them, remind us that You are already there. Calm anxious hearts and replace fear with confidence in Your presence. Help our students remember that they are never alone. Give them courage for every new experience and help them trust You. -In Jesus' name, amen.

Family Conversation

Ask your student: *What are you most excited about this year? What are you most nervous about?* Take a moment and pray specifically about their answer.

Day 2. Pray for Wisdom and a Desire to Learn

Proverbs 2:6 *“For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”*

Devotional Thought

Grades matter, but wisdom matters more. Our prayer shouldn't simply be, “Lord, help them make good grades.” We should also pray, “Lord, make them wise.”

Education is an opportunity to discover more about the world God has created. Whether students are studying mathematics, science, history, literature, music, agriculture, or athletics, they are developing minds that ultimately belong to God. Pray that our students would become curious learners, disciplined thinkers, and wise followers of Jesus.

Pray specifically for:

- A desire to learn.
- Discipline in studying.
- Wisdom in making decisions.
- Students who struggle academically.
- Students with learning differences.
- Patience when schoolwork becomes difficult.
- Teachers as they help students understand difficult concepts.
- Students to see their abilities as gifts from God.

Sample Prayer

Lord, You are the source of all wisdom and understanding. Give our students minds that are eager to learn. Help them work hard, ask good questions, and persevere when something is difficult. Give teachers wisdom as they instruct and encourage their students. Above all, teach our children to seek Your wisdom and recognize that everything they have is a gift from You. Amen.

Challenge for Today

Ask your child for one thing that they learned today before asking about grades. Help cultivate curiosity, not simply performance.

Day 3. Pray for Teachers and School Staff

Colossians 3:23–24 *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”*

Devotional Thought

Behind every classroom is a teacher carrying responsibilities most students will never see. Lesson plans. Meetings. Parent communication. Classroom management. Grading. Professional requirements. And often the personal burdens they carry home.

The same is true for counselors, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, coaches, paraprofessionals, nurses, and countless others. Today, instead of asking God only to give our children good teachers, let’s pray that God would strengthen the teachers He’s already provided.

Pray for:

- Teachers to have wisdom, patience, and endurance.
- School administrators and principals.
- Counselors, nurses, coaches and activity sponsors.
- Bus drivers and transportation staff.
- Cafeteria and custodial workers.
- Substitute teachers.
- Teachers who are exhausted or discouraged.
- Christian educators to represent Jesus faithfully.

Sample Prayer

Father, thank You for the men and women who serve our students every day. Strengthen our teachers. Give them patience when the days are long and wisdom when situations are complicated. Encourage those who feel overlooked or exhausted. Bless administrators, coaches, counselors, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, and every person who helps our schools function. May they reflect the character and love of Jesus in all they do. Amen.

Put Prayer Into Action

Consider sending a teacher or school employee a simple message today: *“I prayed for you today. Thank you for investing in our students.”*

Day 4. Pray for Friendships

Proverbs 13:20 *“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”*

Devotional Thought

Few things influence a student as much as friendships. Friends influence attitudes, language, priorities, decisions, and eventually direction. So today we pray for the people our children will walk beside this year. Don't simply pray, “Lord, give my child good friends.” Pray something bigger: “Lord, help my child BE a good friend.” May our students find friends who encourage them toward Christ, and become the kind of friends who encourage others toward Him.

Pray that students would:

- Develop healthy friendships.
- Choose friends wisely.
- Have courage when facing peer pressure.
- Notice students who are lonely and include those who feel left out.
- Avoid gossip and cruelty.
- Encourage their friends toward what is right.
- Become faithful and trustworthy friends.

Sample Prayer

God, surround our students with wise friends who will encourage them toward what is good. Give them discernment about relationships that may pull them away from You. Help them resist peer pressure and have courage to stand alone when necessary. But also make our children the kind of friends we are praying for: kind, loyal, compassionate, honest, and willing to include those who feel forgotten. Through Jesus I pray this. Amen.

Family Challenge

Encourage your student to notice one person who may feel left out this week and intentionally include them.

Day 5. Pray for Protection

Psalm 121:7–8 *“The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.”*

Devotional Thought

Every parent eventually discovers something difficult: we cannot control everything that happens to our children. But we can entrust them to the One who can. Today we pray boldly for God’s protection over our schools, not from a place of fear, but from a place of faith. We pray for physical protection, emotional protection, spiritual protection, and wise decisions from everyone entrusted with the care of students.

Pray for protection:

- While students travel to and from school.
- On buses and in student vehicles.
- During athletics and extracurricular activities.
- From bullying and harassment.
- From violence, harmful influences and from dangerous decisions.
- Over students’ emotional well-being.
- For school resource officers and emergency personnel.
- For wisdom in school safety decisions.

Sample Prayer

Father, we place our students in Your hands. Protect them as they travel, learn, practice, compete, and spend time with friends. Guard our schools from violence and danger. Give administrators and staff wisdom concerning safety. Protect students from bullying, harmful influences, and destructive choices. Help us refuse to live in fear while faithfully entrusting those we love to You. Amen.

A Prayer for Parents

“Lord, help me trust You with the places I cannot go and what I cannot control.”

Day 6. Pray for Character and Integrity

Daniel 6:4 *“They could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him.”*

Devotional Thought

Our culture often asks students, “What will you accomplish?” God is deeply concerned with another question: “Who are you becoming?”

A student can make straight A’s and still lack integrity. They can become an incredible athlete and still lack character. They can be popular and still be unkind. Our prayer is bigger than achievement. We want students who tell the truth when lying would be easier, who work hard when nobody is watching, who treat people with dignity, and who admit when they are wrong.

We want young people whose character points people toward Jesus.

Pray for students to demonstrate:

- Honesty, integrity, humility, responsibility, kindness and self-control.
- Pray that they would display respect for authority.
- A strong work ethic.
- Courage to do what is right.

Sample Prayer

Lord, develop Christlike character in our students. Help them choose honesty when dishonesty would be easier. Give them integrity when no one is watching. Teach them humility when they succeed and perseverance when they fail. May their lives be known for kindness, responsibility, courage, and faithfulness. Make them more concerned with becoming who You have called them to be than impressing the people around them. Amen.

Question for Students and Parents

What places are hard for you to live as you know Jesus would have you live?
Ask God to make that person look increasingly like Jesus.

Day 7. Pray for Students Who Are Struggling

Psalm 34:18 *“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”*

Devotional Thought

Not every student walks into school excited. Some walk in carrying burdens nobody sees. Family struggles, loneliness, anxiety, financial hardship, academic frustration, rejection, grief and a host of other insecurities. There will be students sitting in classrooms this year who desperately need to know that **someone sees them and someone cares**. God does. Sometimes God shows them His care through another student, teacher, coach, or church member.

Pray for students experiencing:

- Loneliness or grief.
- Family difficulties and financial hardship.
- Academic struggles.
- Anxiety and overwhelming pressure.
- Feelings of rejection and major life transitions.
- Pray also that God would help us notice them.

Sample Prayer

Jesus, draw near to students who are hurting. Comfort those carrying burdens that no one else knows about. Give hope to the discouraged and friendship to the lonely. Place caring teachers, coaches, friends, pastors, and adults around them. Open our eyes so that we do not overlook someone who needs encouragement. Use us to remind hurting students that they are seen, valued, and loved. Amen.

Challenge for Today

Pray this simple prayer: “Lord, show me someone who needs encouragement—and help me do something about it.”

Day 8. Pray for Students to Stand for Christ

Matthew 5:14-16 *“You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”*

Devotional Thought

Every hallway, classroom, cafeteria, locker room, band room, practice field, and school bus is filled with people Jesus loves. Our students have an incredible opportunity to demonstrate what following Jesus looks like. They don't have to be loud or obnoxious about their faith, they simply need to be faithful, kind when others are cruel, hopeful when others despair, courageous as others compromise, and ready to explain why Jesus matters to them if the opportunity comes.

Pray for Christian students to:

- Live their faith authentically.
- Have courage to stand for biblical truth.
- Show kindness to others.
- Share the gospel when opportunities arise.
- Invite friends to church.
- Refuse to compromise convictions.
- Demonstrate humility rather than self-righteousness.
- Encourage other Christian students.

Sample Prayer

Jesus, help our students shine Your light this year. Give them courage to live differently without becoming proud or judgmental. Let their kindness, honesty, compassion, and integrity make people curious about the hope they have. Give them opportunities to speak about You, and when those opportunities come, give them courage and wisdom. Use our students as missionaries in the schools where You have placed them. Amen.

Student Challenge

Before entering school each morning, pray: “Jesus, show me how I can represent You today.”

Day 9. Pray for Parents and Families

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 *“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children...”*

Devotional Thought

Parents can easily become consumed with schedules. School. Homework. Practice. Games. Lessons. Clubs. Church. Work. Suddenly the family calendar becomes full while meaningful family connection becomes scarce. God has given parents something more important than managing their children’s schedules. He has entrusted us with discipling their hearts.

Our homes should be places where faith is discussed naturally, forgiveness is practiced regularly, Scripture is valued, prayer is normal, and Jesus is central.

Pray for parents to have:

- Wisdom in parenting decisions.
- Patience during stressful mornings and evenings.
- Healthy priorities and intentional family time.
- Strong marriages that have consistency in spiritual leadership.
- Grace when mistakes are made.
- Courage to establish healthy boundaries.
- Meaningful conversations with their children.

Sample Prayer

Father, strengthen our families during this school year. Give parents wisdom, patience, and grace. Keep busy schedules from crowding You out of our homes. Let our homes be filled with grace, forgiveness, laughter, prayer, and conversations about You. Help parents remember that our greatest responsibility is not simply raising successful children, but pointing our children toward Jesus. Amen.

Family Challenge

Choose one consistent moment each week to protect for your family. Eat together. Read Scripture. Pray together. Talk. Laugh. Put the phones down. Be present.

Day 10. Pray for a Year of Spiritual Growth

Luke 2:52. *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”*

Devotional Thought

Imagine reaching the end of this school year. There will be report cards, trophies, performances, graduations, accomplishments, disappointments, victories, and setbacks. Let me ask, what would make this year truly successful? Our deepest prayer should be that our children can look back and say: “I know Jesus better than I did when this year began.”

May they grow academically, socially, physically, but above everything else, may they grow spiritually.

Pray that students would:

- Grow in their relationship with Jesus and develop consistent prayer habits.
- Read and understand Scripture.
- Get involved in a local church and develop godly friendships.
- Discover their gifts and make wise decisions.
- Serve others and share their faith.
- Finish the year closer to Jesus than when they began.

Sample Prayer

Father, we dedicate this school year to You. Thank You for every student, teacher, administrator, coach, parent, and staff member. Use every success and every challenge to shape us. Give our students wisdom, courage, integrity, compassion, and faith. Most importantly, draw them closer to Jesus. When this school year ends, may we be able to look back and see Your faithfulness in ways we never expected. May our students grow in wisdom, maturity, relationships, and most of all in their love for You. In Jesus' name, amen.