



A FREE PRAYER EXPERIENCE FOR FAMILIES

THE STANDING STONES

The following is a prayer experience that I wrote to be used following a time with parents or families.

Whenever we take on the task of discussing parenting or being a Godly home, we must include the task of prayer.

So often our families do it in their own strength. May we become standing stones that point to how God moved in our homes and families. And may this prayer experience serve as a blessing for many prayer times.

Standing Stones Then...

On several occasions, the Bible mentions significant events that were commemorated with standing stones:

Jacob set up stone pillars at Bethel in order to remember his powerful dream, in which God reaffirmed his covenant with him (Genesis 28:18-21, 35:14-15).

Moses built twelve standing stones at the foot of Mount Sinai after receiving the Ten Commandments and other laws (Ex. 24:2-4).

The Israelites erected standing stones to remember their miraculous crossing of the Jordan River (Joshua 4:2-3, 8-9).

Joshua built a standing stone when the covenant was renewed at Shechem (Joshua 24:27).

Each of these moments in scripture represent an opportunity to remember where God has been present and renew the relationship to continue in the journey ahead. It was also a symbol to those who would come upon it later, that Israel's God was living and building relationships with His people...helping them along to the places He had called them to be.

Standing Stones Today

Today, we recognize that parenting is a God-sized task. It is something that God created and blessed, but it is something not to be taken on without His guidance and strength. Today you have the opportunity to create your own "standing stones" and re-covenant with God that you acknowledge you need Him on this parenting journey you are on.

We know that you have heard from parents, talked with parents, and share with parents today about the challenges and joys you may be experiencing. However, we want to make sure that we give you time and space to thank God for the blessing of parenting and present your family and yourself before Him for all the future days you get to do what God has called you to do as a parent.

Instructions

You will find some stones at your table and sharpies. We want each family represented to take 2 stones. On one stone, write the initials of your children.

Place the stone in your hand, and take a turn praying as parents by just saying a sentence prayer for each child whose initials are on the rock.

Thank God for each child, and ask God to help you to see the wonderful plans He has for each child. Ask God to help your child to see His wonderful plans and to have a heart that longs to know Him more and more.

Now, On the other rock write the initials of you and/or your spouse. Place your rock in the center of the table along with the other parents rocks. You are not alone on this journey. As a table, pray for God's strength to be the parents in a day where it is not easy to be a parent. Pray for God's love to grow your family even closer together. Pray for God's Guidance as you seek to live out God's best in your daily lives every day.

CLOSE IN PRAYER AND DISMISS.