

Prayer Topic #16:

Celebrating the Children, Youth, Singles, and Married Couples of Windsor Village United Methodist Church

Light the Feast of Tabernacle Candle: Gather around your family/group altar just after sundown, if at all possible, and have the eldest woman present light the candle (if you are a single male, you may, of course, light the candle yourself) and all say this brief invocation: *Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to light the candle of the Holiday; and blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this festive occasion.*

Read the Scriptures: Now, please have two different people, if possible, read aloud the Scriptures listed below:

Scripture Reading:

I Chronicles 29:10-13, Colossians 3:18-21

Pray Aloud Together with Passion and Joy...

Holy Father, thank You for our children, youth, singles and married couples of Windsor Village United Methodist Church. Thank You for being patient with us. We are thankful to You and we bless Your Name. What mighty praise belongs to You, O God, in Zion. You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds, O God, our Savior. You are the hope of everyone on earth. You formed the mountains by Your power and armed Yourself with mighty strength. You quiet the raging oceans and silence the shouting of the nations. Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of Your wonders. From where the sun rises to where it sets, You inspire shouts of joy! You are good, Lord and Your unfailing love continues forever. Your faithfulness continues to each generation.

Loving Father, we confess that our children and youth are a gift and reward from You. You have made them so wonderfully complex; Your workmanship is marvelous. We declare that they will honor their parents and guardians so that all will be well with them and they will live long lives on the earth. We confess that our singles will love You with all their hearts, souls, strength, and minds and they will love their neighbors as they love themselves. We declare that our wives will submit to their own husbands and our husbands will love their wives just as Christ also loves the Church. We confess that our children, youth, singles and married couples will walk in the fruit of the Spirit and operate in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Holy Spirit, bless our children in school and surround them with Your shield of love. Please keep them as the apple of Your eye and hide them in the shadow of Your wings. Remind our children and youth to be respectful and obedient. Help our parents to model lives that are pleasing to You, so that they can train their children well. Holy Spirit, please help our singles and married couples to live with true Godliness and contentment, which is great wealth. Encourage those singles who feel lonely. For those singles who desire a mate, help them to wait patiently on You. Knit the hearts of our married couples closer together in love and help them to live Your Word in every facet of their marriages. Father, please restore the broken places in those marriages that are struggling. Increase Your love and security in those marriages that are doing well. We ask You to bless all of our families at Windsor Village United Methodist Church.

Holy Father, please forgive us when we do not provide the basic needs for our children and youth. Forgive us for not hugging them, telling them "I love you," and being too busy to interact and play with them. Forgive us where we have neglected to build up the self-esteem and self-worth of our children and youth.

Forgive those singles and married couples who are anxious and fretful. Forgive them for not trusting and depending on You. Lord, forgive me for ***(list any sins that you have committed.)*** Holy Spirit, remind us all of those we need to forgive and please help us to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. ***(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He shows you, say aloud, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)***

Magnificent Father, help our children, youth, singles, and married couples to not yield to temptation; but deliver us all from the evil one.

Mighty Lord, Your Name alone is exalted. Heaven is Your throne and earth is Your footstool. Your hands have made both heaven and earth and everything in them are Yours. You command the morning to appear and cause the dawn to rise in the east. You make daylight spread to the ends of the earth, to bring an end to the night's wickedness. The Lord God is Your Name! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Psalm 100:4, Psalm 65:1,5-8, Psalm 100:5, Psalm 127:3, Psalm 139:14, Ephesians 6:1-3, Mark 12:30-31, Ephesians 5:22,25, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Galatians 5:22-23, Psalm 17:8, I Timothy 6:6, Colossians 2:2 Matthew 6:13, Isaiah 66:1,2, Job 38:12-13

Family/Group Celebration Activity:

Home Scavenger Hunt! Hide inexpensive prizes in each of the major, publically accessible rooms in your home. Give each participant a collection bag. Have everyone in the house go to the room that best fits each clue below, then find the prizes in each room. Designate a starting location/room. Everyone must first work together to match the clues on the left side of the page to the area/room on the right side of the page. Draw a line from one to the other. After each match is made, then participants have 30 seconds to go to the area/room, find a prize and return to the designated starting area. Turn on some music during the "hunts." You will notice that there is one more room/space than there are clues. Answers can be found on page _____. The "match and hunt" process is repeated until all clues are matched and all rooms/spaces visited. The first participant that has returned with a prize from each room is the winner. There can be and should be multiple "winners!"

Here, you ascend and descend.

Living room/family room

This room is where you get some flushing relief.

Kitchen or Pantry

This room is where food resides.

Office

This room/space really works.

Bedroom

This room/space is often dominated by a big glowing box.

Laundry Room

This room is for slumber.

Dining Room

This room/space is for turning dirty into clean.

Stairs

This room/space is where plates empty.

Bathroom

Garage

Discussion: After the game, discuss how Jesus says, "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7, NLT) What does Jesus want us to keep asking for and looking for? Why doesn't Jesus just give us everything we want?