

HEART CONNEX

Truth Flowing from One Generation to the Next— Through Strong Heart Connections

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November 5-7, 2006

The Power of Intercession—Richard Ross, Ph.D.

1. Heart Surprise (Today a teenager goes first): When it's your turn, say: **It makes me happy that you want to bring your family here some day. Our door always will be open. The day I think it would be most special to have you here would be . . .**

2. Read Scripture: Invite a family member to pray. Ask family members to read James 5:16. Discuss the Truth and Untruths in light of these passages.

Truth

- Prayer for others, by righteous believers and consistent with God's purposes, moves the hand of God.

Untruths

- God's going to do what He wants to anyway, so it makes no difference if you pray.
- Prayer is just another form of meditation, similar to yoga.
- Prayer is like magic and can be used by believers and unbelievers.

3. Explore Scripture: Say: **Intercession is praying for others. God promises us that intercession moves His hand, but there are conditions.** Read aloud James 4:2. Say: **Sometimes others do not benefit from our prayers because we never actually pray about situations.** Read aloud James 4:3. Say: **Some prayers are not answered because our motivation is wrong.** Read aloud Psalms 66:18. Say: **Some prayers are not answered because the one praying is living in unrighteousness. We have to pray God's way.**

4. Think It Through: A teenager will lead this step.

5. Nail It Down: Say: **In the past, intercession has:**

- **Removed even the most stubborn kind of demons.**
- **Protected kingdoms and nations when invaded by enemies.**
- **Removed judgments from a people, such as the time Moses asked God to remove the fiery serpents in the wilderness.**
- **Brought down blessings, such as Elijah's prayer for rain.**
- **Delivered believers from trouble, such as Peter's deliverance from prison through the constant prayer of the church.**

And, we can expect God to continue to move in our day as well.

6. Pray: A teenager will lead this prayer.

7. Blessing: Say: **I bless this family as a family that will pray for each other and for the advance of God's kingdom on earth.**

Parent Tip: Affirmation is a much better motivator than guilt or shame. One model of communication says it takes nine affirming comments to make up for a single critical comment. Our teens need discipline with consistency, but they also need to hear words of encouragement.