



35 Character-Building Prayers for My Grandchild

Volume One

by Dr. Mary Manz Simon

Introduction

Prayer is personal.

That's the reason I yearned to share with God my deepest hopes for our grandchildren. Being removed from the daily drama allows me to love these "grands" a bit differently. Have you experienced this, too?

Now that parenting is behind us, we find the extra money to buy a cherished toy and listen to the entire journey of a lost tooth. And that's good! Research suggests such actions convey a sense of safety, security, and belonging.



I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

EPHESIANS 1:16-17



But we can offer so much more.

Just think: Every generation learns through the family. Years ago, you and I watched our parents. We absorbed what they taught us. Then suddenly, we were parents; our children learned from us. And now? Our family story isn't finished: you and I can help shape the next generation.

For through prayer, God invites us to wrap a grandchild in the values of a Christian family. What a privilege to help shape the moral character of another generation!

Those babies who snuggled in our arms will determine their own journey through life. But don't let them leave without God's blessing: Launch them into the world on wings of prayer.

Space for journaling is provided for each prayer. When we pray for our grandchildren, my husband and I love to keep a record of the prayer moment, jotting down his/her name, the date, and any other notes that memorialize the prayer time. This simple practice helps us remember the prayers and also serves as a sweet memento of our grandchildren's youth. When they are grown, how encouraging it is to look back at these notes to be reminded of God's faithfulness!

Personalize these prayers to reflect the traditions, culture, and heritage of your family. Instill the virtues and values of your shared legacy. Cover your grandchild with love. But most of all, as a member of God's family, may your grandchild know Jesus as his/her Savior.

Dr. Mary Manz Simon

[Jesus said,] "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

JOHN 15:7



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

ADAPTABLE

Flexibility allows growth.



Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of my grandchild, _____. I pray that he/she will develop such a firm foundation in Your truths that adjusting to change will not shake this solid core. Encourage the use of resources to nurture creative thinking and problem solving that respects the ideas from others. Lead him/her to respond appropriately to revisions and shifts, especially when unexpected. During transitions that are weighted with unknowns, may _____ lean on You for direction. Lead him/her to follow the biblical example of Jacob, who modified personal expectations in a difficult situation. Show _____ how collaboration can result in new opportunities. As he/she grows up in our ever-changing world, may _____ exhibit the flexibility that enables relevance. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read how Jacob adapts to a challenging situation in Genesis 29:15-20.

APPRECIATIVE

Show gratitude.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. I pray that he/she will discover how helping others feel valued can also be personally energizing. When Your Son, Jesus, visited His friends Mary and Martha, He complimented Mary for paying attention. Help _____ become so fluent using positive terms and energizing language that others are encouraged. Show my grandchild how a connection made through active listening and attentive gestures contributes to a healthy relationship. May _____ graciously accept affirmation, so that he/she is motivated to use the gifts You have generously given. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42.

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:3



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

*The wicked flee when no one pursues,
but the righteous are bold as a lion.*

PROVERBS 28:1



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

ASSERTIVE

Choose calm, direct words and actions.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. I pray that he/she will speak directly but respectfully, drawing from the same inner strength of the Syrophoenician woman who appealed to Jesus to heal her daughter. Allow my grandchild to reflect the power that comes with wearing spiritual armor. Give _____ the confidence to speak up and the ability to think independently. When peer pressure threatens to shift _____ away from what he/she knows is right, remind him/her that he/she was created in Your likeness. If my grandchild feels intimidated, reach out in fatherly love to keep him/her physically and emotionally safe. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Jesus and the Syrophoenician woman in Matthew 15:22-29.

ASTONISHED

Reflect God: delight
in surprising ways.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. When he/she pauses to appreciate the world You made, may he/she express deep gratitude that You delight in him/her as Your creation. As the psalmist David stood in awe long ago, help my grandchild also visualize bright prospects for the future. Energize him/her to be curious about the future's vast potential. When _____ looks through eyes of hope and wonder, empower and equip him/her to explore, dream, and act upon the expansive opportunities You offer. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read how David praises the Lord in Psalm 150.

*Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars!
Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the Name of the Lord! For He commanded and they were created.*

PSALM 148:3-5



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 PETER 5:8



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

ATTENTIVE

Be observant.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. I pray that he/she is watchful and alert, especially during times of change. Eliminate interruptions so that he/she can be more mindful of personal needs and alert to the needs of others. May _____ use the biblical Abigail as an example of someone whose diligent observation prevented problems. Lead my grandchild to invest a similar level of conscientious attention to see cues unnoticed by others. Shepherd _____ so he/she pays attention to Your leading. Steer him/her away from the flashy appeal of society to connect with the truths found in Your holy Word. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Abigail in 1 Samuel 25.

BOLD

Stand up for what is right.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. I pray that You will energize him/her to move forward without hesitation when action is needed. Just as the Old Testament judge Deborah inspired the Israelite army leader, empower _____ to step forward according to Your plan. Lead my grandchild beyond his/her comfort zone so that his/her influence is felt by others. May _____ recognize the inner strength which feeds his/her soul comes from You, so that You receive the praise that is due. When my grandchild's spirit wavers or weakens, grant him/her determination needed for the task. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read what happens when wise judge Deborah boldly instructs Barak to face the Canaanite army in Judges 4.

This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

EPHESIANS 3:11-12



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

DEUTERONOMY 31:6



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

BRAVE

Follow God's lead.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. I pray that he/she will act courageously even when worried, afraid, or anxious. Just as Jehosheba dared to step forward long ago, may _____ depend on Your power to overcome fears and threats. May _____ honestly reveal to You his/her need for the moral courage and mental vigor that sustains gallant action. Inspire learning from mistakes to fuel bold responses in the future. And when my grandchild is hesitant to act honorably, empower him/her with the inner strength needed. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read the story of Jehosheba and her brave action to save the little prince in 2 Kings 11:1-3.

CARING

Express God's love
by caring for others.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. I pray that his/her Christ-like caring reflects a maturing faith. May the obvious support of others remind him/her of your constant love. Allow him/her to echo the caring behavior of Boaz, in the biblical story of Ruth. Open _____'s heart to not merely be sensitive to those around him/her but also to those in distant places with needs unlike his/her own. Help _____ understand that a caring person asks for nothing, but appreciates an opportunity to show concern. Alert him/her to situations through which he/she can show Christ-like compassion. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read how Boaz expressed his care and concern in Ruth 2.

That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:25-26



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in Him, and He will act.

PSALM 37:5



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

COMMITTED

Demonstrate belief in God.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May his/her actions and behaviors reflect his/her pledge to follow You as the One true God. Impress on _____ the importance of giving up habits that can dilute or shift the best of intentions. Give him/her the inner peace that accompanies the level of faithfulness shown in the Bible story of Daniel in the lion's den. If challenged, may _____ have the strength to take an unpopular stand or defend his/her faith. Allow this deep loyalty to You to give meaning and purpose to each day, so that he/she values this blessing throughout life. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read the story of Daniel in the lion's den in Daniel 6:1-23.

COMPASSIONATE

Ask, "How can I help?"



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Turn his/her heart outward so that conscious decisions are made to assist others. May _____ echo the compassion of the father in the Prodigal Son story, who reached out in celebration upon the return of his wayward son. Move my grandchild beyond any unconscious bias that could deny help to those in greatest need. Allow _____ to experience the good feeling that accompanies this empathetic form of love. Open my grandchild's heart to forgive others, as this is a necessary step that leads to true compassion. Strengthen and affirm my grandchild's efforts to make connections that reflect the mercy You offer each of us. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about the compassionate father in Luke 15:11-24.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests,
but also to the interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:4



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

PSALM 27:3



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

CONFIDENT

Trust God.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Knowing that Your promises are true, may he/she pursue opportunities to use the talents, gifts, and abilities You have given. Help these starting points become the building blocks needed to make a difference. Walk in front of _____, leading toward practical goals that are achievable. Following in the footsteps of John the Baptist, may my grandchild's trust in You allow him/her to stride with purpose into new situations. Give _____ the peace of mind that comes with the prayerful certainty that You are already leading the way. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read John 1:29-32 to learn about the confidence of John the Baptist.

CONTENTED

Fulfillment leads to satisfaction.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May he/she feel a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment when serving You and others. Teach him/her to differentiate needs from wants, as St. Paul did long ago. When so many live with abundance, guard his/her heart. Provide a way for _____ to celebrate blessings he/she already has, instead of craving what he/she doesn't have. May his/her heart be filled to overflowing and delighted at the deepest level, so praise of You reflects his/her honest joy. Lead my grandchild to focus on Your promise to give what is needed for this time in his/her life. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read St. Paul's words about contentment in Philippians 4:10-13.

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

PHILIPPIANS 4:12



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord!

PSALM 31:24



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

COURAGEOUS

Determination inspires us
to move beyond fear.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Give him/her the unyielding strength he/she needs to act wisely when facing a choice between good and evil. Boost _____'s inner resilience to move boldly beyond the shadow of fear. Strengthen his/her backbone so that he/she may be a steady presence for those who need hope or help. Like the Israelite midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, demonstrated years ago, may my grandchild stride resolutely past risk. Incorporate mental and emotional strength into _____'s approach to everyday challenges. May this internal stability drive behavior, attitudes, and insights that reflect biblical principles and encourage others. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about the Israelite midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, who refused pharaoh's order to let male babies die, in Exodus 1:15-22.

COURTEOUS

Courtesy is a gift of respect
that costs nothing.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. In this ever-changing world, may his/her gracious manners be obvious in all types of communication, even digital formats. Inspire my grandchild by the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, in which both men display respectful behavior. May he/she learn that being polite is a simple way to let others know they are important. Lead _____ to understand that how he/she presents himself/herself contributes to making a positive impression and influences how others respond. Let him/her see how being well-mannered can become a healthy pattern in meaningful relationships. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read Acts 8:26-39 to hear the courteous conversation between the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip.

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned
with salt, so that you may know how you
ought to answer each person.

COLOSSIANS 4:6



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same
God who empowers them all in everyone.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns,
your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you
sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

CREATIVE

God gives talents,
skills, and abilities.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May he/she discover the joy of creative expression that stretches curiosity and allows him/her to maximize personal potential. Lead _____ to uncover new and different approaches that push him/her to continually grow and learn. Open _____ to explore ideas, meet people, and engage in experiences that increase his/her unique impact on others and the world You created. Show him/her how challenges can reveal unexpected paths, much as Miriam experienced when she hid her baby brother, Moses. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read Exodus 2:1-10 to discover how Miriam's creative thinking led to a safe and healthy infancy for her baby brother.

DETERMINED

Purposefully move forward.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Give him/her the robust courage he/she needs to act wisely. Boost _____'s inner resilience to move ahead with purpose and resolve. Strengthen his/her backbone so that he/she is a steady presence for those who need hope or help. Like Jacob demonstrated years ago, may my grandchild march firmly ahead with plans. Incorporate mental and emotional strength into his/her approach to challenges, so that this internal stability drives behavior, attitudes, and insights that reflect biblical principles. I pray that _____ optimizes opportunities to show a level of fortitude that encourages others. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Jacob in Genesis 29 who followed through on his desire to marry Rachel by working for her father.

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with
weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and
calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns,
your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you
sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5-6



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

DISCRETIONARY

Thoughtful judgment
leads to wise decisions.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May he/she learn to stop and think instead of acting on impulse. I pray that he/she has a positive environment in which to safely practice decision-making, which requires thoughtful consideration. Frame _____'s thoughts in prayer before allowing emotions to define actions. May the forgiveness Your Son offers give _____ a fresh start when needed. I pray that he/she will avoid mental bargaining with her conscience and prayerfully reflect on decisions. May the biblical example of Noah, who stood alone instead of conforming to worldly pressure, inspire _____ to choose actions that reflect Your truths. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Noah in *Genesis 6:5-22*.

EMPATHETIC

Build emotional
connections with others.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Lead him/her to look beyond personal prejudices and individual differences to intentionally reach out to others. May these efforts to seek common ground lead to greater understanding on a broader scale. Demonstrate to _____ that when searching to connect, commonalities will become more obvious. May my grandchild use these shared elements to resolve issues, reduce interpersonal stress, and build healthy relationships. Allow _____'s gift of presence, as modeled so eloquently by friends of the Old Testament Job, show an ability to convey heartfelt empathy. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read how friends of Job resisted the urge to offer advice or ideas, but conveyed empathy through their gift of presence in *Job 2:11-13*.

Bear one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ.

GALATIANS 6:2



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

ENCOURAGING

Have a caring heart.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Equip him/her as an active listener who seeks to understand and inspire others. May _____'s words reflect sensitivity to feelings, situations, and problems, even those that may not be easily resolved. Allow him/her honest praise to be motivating and draw attention to efforts that lead to positive outcomes. Let _____ respond to even small improvements and little changes that can brighten a day. Allow the gutsy endorsement by Barnabas of the new Christian Paul propel my grandchild to offer similar encouragement. Permit _____'s well-timed smile to reflect the knowledge of Your faithfulness. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read Acts 9:17-31 to see how the support of Paul by Barnabas, whose name means "son of encouragement," led to the growth of the early Christian church.

ENTHUSIASTIC

Power up with Jesus' love.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May embracing Your Son, Jesus, as Lord and Savior empower a lifelong zeal to live as a faithful disciple. Demonstrate to _____ how this personal motivation maintains energy through a difficult season or challenging task. I pray my grandchild conveys an upbeat manner that is contagious and encouraging to others. Help him/her temper this fervor to avoid overwhelming others. Like Zacchaeus who eagerly ran to see Jesus long ago, may _____'s passion for life include spiritual growth. Lead this learning to include a respectful response to Your guidance, so that a mature acceptance of constructive criticism is integrated into his/her upbeat approach. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read Luke 19:1-10 to be reminded of how enthusiastically we, too, can embrace Jesus' message.

You are serving the Lord Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:24



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

*The righteous who walks in his integrity—
blessed are his children after him!*

PROVERBS 20:7



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

ETHICAL

Integrity is based on
strong moral choices.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May he/she embrace the teachings of your holy Word, which provides a lifelong foundation. Allow this to create such a strong moral sense of rightness that even if something feels only a little wrong, he/she doesn't waver. May this consistency emerge as he/she lives with integrity, choosing honest words to match actions. Allow these principled decisions to result in a personal sense of integrity and positively impact the world around him/her. Even if he/she struggles during her faith journey, strengthen his/her resolve to follow in the footsteps of Job, going where You lead. Guide _____ to develop healthy pride in this moral compass that leads to helping others. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Job in Job 2:1-9.

EXCELLENT

Use God-given talents and abilities.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. I smile when I recall Your fatherly delight at how well Jesus carried out the work laid out for Him here on earth. I long for a similar sense of fulfillment when my grandchild strives to excel through realistic goals. Although my grandchild can't come close to the perfection of Your Son, motivate _____ to work toward what is possible. As he/she learns new skills and refines abilities, empower a drive to achieve and reach for success. When effort isn't rewarded, may he/she be proud of the attempt. Help _____ understand that Christ-like excellence does not mean he/she must be better than others, but the best he/she can be. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read how Paul instructed Timothy to live a life of diligence and focus in his service to Christ and the church in 2 Timothy 2.

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as
for the Lord and not for men.*

COLOSSIANS 3:23



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

But let justice roll down like waters, and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

AMOS 5:24



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns,
your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you
sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

FAIR

Be impartial and
balanced when judging.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Reveal how incorporating godly principles naturally leads to treating others in a Christ-like manner. Help him/her recognize that because You hold people accountable, he/she can prayerfully leave You to determine what is fair. May the parable of the Good Samaritan inspire my grandchild to step forward when others are being exploited or hurt, even if those people are not friends. Teach _____ that solutions regarding fairness do not lie in his/her comparisons, but with Your ultimate judgment. May his/her maturing sense of justice not be swayed by societal overtones or other human influences, but reflect biblical truths. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about the Good Samaritan who reached out to right an unfair situation in Luke 10:25-37.

FAITHFUL

Faithfulness to God
determines how we live.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May he/she follow Your guidance, even if the path appears uncertain. I pray that my grandchild will see how Christian principles provide a moral compass for making wise choices. Lead _____ to choose loyal friends whose daily witness encourages my grandchild's faith walk. May my grandchild be inspired by the biblical example of Daniel, whose words and actions reflected strong devotion to You. Allow _____ to reach a deeper sense of loyalty as he/she experiences the many ways You keep Your promises. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Daniel's faithfulness in Daniel 6.

[Jesus said,] "Be faithful unto death,
and I will give you the crown of life."

REVELATION 2:10B



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns,
your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you
sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

[Jesus said,] "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

MARK 11:25



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

FORGIVING

Forgiveness frees us to move forward.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Lead him/her to face the truth that as a sinner, he/she needs to ask for Your forgiveness. May my grandchild experience the empowering freedom which accompanies this amazing gift. Open _____'s heart to accept forgiveness not only from others but also from himself/herself. Give my grandchild the insight to understand that after being forgiven, there is no reason to hold onto anger, guilt, or similar emotions. May the Parable of the Prodigal Son remind _____ about the two sides of forgiveness, especially within our family. Enable my grandchild to admit mistakes, apologize, and move forward. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about forgiveness in the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32.

FRIENDLY

Communicate through
a courteous smile.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Give him/her the social confidence to reach out to others. Permit him/her to build a circle of friends which is mutually supportive within a rich tapestry of experiences. Give _____ a listening ear and open mind, so he/she can give both helpful input and receive honest feedback. May my grandchild be someone who others seek as a friend. Lead _____ to place a high value on these connections, so that respect for other individuals contributes to a deep well of commitment. Like the biblical Ruth demonstrated to her mother-in-law Naomi, may my grandchild follow his/her heart to care, without being asked. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior and embrace Your Son as his/her best forever Friend. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read how Ruth reached out to care for Naomi in Ruth 1:6-18.

Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

PROVERBS 27:9



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

[Jesus said,] "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

GENEROUS

God's love flows
through our giving.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Allow his/her definition of cheerful giving to show, "I care about you." Like the impoverished widow in the Gospel of Luke, may my grandchild experience the fulfillment and joy that accompanies such heartfelt generosity. Widen his/her eyes to recognize needs that might not be obvious but could be met by bountiful giving. May _____ be encouraged to focus on those who need help, unshaken by those who abuse generosity, so that his/her unselfish sharing reflects Your sacrificial love. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about the widow's gift of two small coins in Luke 21:1-4.

GENTLE

Consideration reflects
a sensitive spirit.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May his/her thoughts and actions reflect the self-control that shows compassion and avoids hurting others. In our agitated world, lead _____ to communicate effectively with a soft voice that can be heard above the noise. Support development of this calm spirit so that genuine smiles result as bridges are built. May the example of the biblical Timothy inspire my grandchild to show strength wrapped in tenderness. Let my grandchild's selective choice of words and tender actions enable those who are fragile to dwell in emotional safety. May _____ develop a spirit of peace that flows spontaneously from a humble heart. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about how Timothy gently treated those who were against him in 2 Timothy 2:24-25.

He [God] will tend His flock like a Shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

ISAIAH 40:11



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

PSALM 145:8



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

GRACIOUS

Being cordial adds kindness to courtesy.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May Your deep well of graciousness be a continuing reminder to show that depth of kindness toward others, whether or not they are deserving. Encourage my grandchild to choose tactful and kind words when defending himself/herself. May _____ see how a pleasant attitude goes beyond mere rule-following to bless others with kindness. Point my grandchild toward the model of the biblical Shunammite woman, who offered her welcoming smile and cordial hospitality to a traveler. And when _____ makes time for others, may he/she give that gift without obligation. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about the Shunammite woman in 2 Kings 4:8-37.

GRATEFUL

Gratitude can lead to contentment.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May thankfulness shape the lens through which he/she views the world. Allow this perspective to spark appreciation for both the large and small blessings that might hover beneath the surface. May his/her celebration of Your gifts stifle envy or jealousy of others. Although my grandchild might remember various facts from the story of Jonah, lead _____ to embrace the messenger's prayer of thankfulness, especially during challenging times. As my grandchild gives and receives, may an optimistic spirit resonate with a ripple effect that is obvious to others. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read Jonah 2:7-10 to hear Jonah's prayer from the belly of a whale.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His Name!

PSALM 100:4



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

GALATIANS 6:9



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

HELPFUL

Assist others.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Open his/her eyes to notice what others need and then identify the most effective way to provide aid. If a collaborative effort is required, guide my grandchild to make the appropriate contact. May the parable of Elijah and the widow in Zarephath inspire my grandchild to show kindness even to those whom he/she does not know. Lead _____ to acknowledge that the many ways You support offer multiple examples of a helper. Remind _____ that when he/she needs assistance, asking for aid is not a sign of weakness. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Elijah and the widow in 1 Kings 17:7-16.

HONEST

Truthfulness
increases reliability.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Help him/her learn the difference between what is true and what is false. Lead _____ to be forthright with himself/herself and others. When my grandchild is afraid to tell the truth, allow him/her to experience the freedom that accompanies direct communication. May _____ refuse to bend the rules, exaggerate, make excuses, steal, or cheat. Lead my grandchild to discover, like Zacchaeus, that although dishonesty might seem easier, truthfulness means you don't need to remember a lie. May applying creativity and imagination still enable him/her to tell the truth. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

EPHESIANS 4:25



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

*But he who is noble plans noble things,
and on noble things he stands.*

ISAIAH 32:8



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

HONORABLE

Follow Christ-like principles.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. May he/she respect himself/herself and others, becoming the person You intend him/her to be. Allow this child I love to distinguish himself/herself by choosing to do what is right, according to your holy Word. May truthfulness lead _____ to say what he/she intends and follow through with those actions. Empower him/her to take the lead in situations which require a fair solution, respecting the rights of all involved. Align his/her choices with that of the honorable carpenter Joseph. May my grandchild bring honor to You, even when no one is around, so that Your love shines through the darkness. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25.

HOPEFUL

Confidently anticipate
what lies ahead.



Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. As he/she works through disappointments or unrealistic expectations, remind him/her of the bright future You have promised. May looking through this positive lens motivate _____ to take any necessary action to fulfill Your purpose for him/her. Reinforce this message through others who uplift my grandchild's spirit so that challenges are viewed as opportunities for growth. May the model of the biblical Anna remind _____ that deeply grounded faith will propel him/her forward with eagerness and anticipation. Wrap him/her in optimism, so that those around him/her will pause to inquire about the Source of this expectant spirit. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about Anna in Luke 2:36-38.

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares
the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil,
to give you a future and a hope.*

JEREMIAH 29:11



JOURNAL: Use this space to record prayer concerns, your grandchild's name, the date, and/or what you sense God is saying to you in this prayer.

JAMES 4:10



Be willing to learn
from mistakes.



Thank You for the gift of my grandchild, _____. Give him/her satisfaction and fulfillment when using the opportunities, abilities, and talents You have given. May this focus on doing his/her best lead to personal learning and successful collaboration so that others are also elevated. And if _____ needs an attitude shift away from entitlement or arrogance, may the model of humility shown by John the Baptist guide my grandchild's behavior. May _____ admit mistakes, accept feedback, and move ahead, having been reminded of the continuing need to learn. Let a concern for others increase selfless behavior. Most of all, though, may _____ trust Jesus as his/her Savior. Amen.

FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: Read about how John the Baptist publicly expresses his humility in John 3:22-30.

Notes:

An award-winning author with more than three million books sold in English, Mary earned a doctorate in education from St. Louis University. She and her husband, Hank, a Lutheran pastor, are the parents of three adult children and have five grandsons.



CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

For free online courses, and more information covering five faith-strengthening categories, visit lhm.org/learn today.

660 Mason Ridge Center Dr.,
St. Louis, MO 63141-8557
1-800-876-9880 • www.lhm.org



Copyright © 2025 by Lutheran Hour Ministries

Unless noted otherwise, Scripture is taken from the HOLY BIBLE: ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION, Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

6BE202