

Prayers for the Future

By Jolene Roehlkepartain

In addition to making New Year's resolutions, take time as a family to create New Year's prayers.

For

Teen Family

Season

Winter

Needed

Bible, one copy of Prayers for What's Ahead worksheet, a pen or pencil for each family member, 2 x 2 inch sticky notes (lots of 'em)



Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God, we welcome the New Year with our hopes and dreams. Amen.

2. Ask someone to read aloud Jeremiah 29:11 "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."

Then ask another family member to read aloud 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

3. As a family, talk about these questions:
 - What are you looking forward to in the coming year?
 - What worries or concerns you about the New Year?
 - How can we support each other in the New Year?
4. Get one copy of the Prayers for What's Ahead worksheet. Give each family member a pen or pencil. Give each person a number of sticky notes.
5. Explain that each person is going to write a prayer on one sticky note. Start with one person in your family. Have that person write a prayer on a sticky note, tell the family about it and then place it on the Prayers for What's Ahead worksheet. Encourage family members to be specific. Prayers could include: doing well in soccer, working hard in school, the name of someone who is sick, college applications, finding a job, and so on.
6. Continue naming prayers until the sheet of Prayers for What's Ahead is full of sticky notes.
7. Post the Prayers for What's Ahead worksheet in your home. Use it during dinner prayers and other times your family prays.
8. Alternative: Get a poster board. Buy star-shaped sticky notes (or heart-shaped ones). Write your individual prayers on the star or heart shapes and stick them on your poster board. Display the poster board in your home.

Prayers for What's Ahead

Write your prayer on a sticky note and place it on this page. Then display this page in your home.

