

'We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.' Psalm 78:4



# The Prayer Manifesto for Moms

By Dalene Reyburn

The  
Prayer  
Manifesto  
for  
Moms

By Dalene Reyburn

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Because being a MOM is  
difficult and devastating  
and the most beautiful thing  
you'll ever do and your heart will get  
ripped out  
happy and whole  
over  
and over.

And we need

Jesus

King

Friend

to hold all that together.

And we need to

pray.

So I wrote a month of prayers  
for **you**, friend.

(And for me.)

You can  
clutch one close

day-in-day-out

every month

of the year

and find

worship and wonder

in the mundane and the magnificent.

Shall we do this thing?

Start the revolution?



**Change the world?**

day 1

Oh God,

I'm making a radical commitment to obedience.  
Challenge - change - and channel me.  
Do whatever it takes.

(Gently, maybe?)

Make me your love lullaby -  
the soothing soundtrack  
to the lives of my children.

Help me to keep on doing the Next. Right. Thing.

For your glory.

day 2

Jesus,

some days I'm

cold and complacent.

Help me to want to **want** to

**shine brightly**  
in a dark generation.

My kids are watching.

I want them to see that  
in all things you are  
**first.**

Keep my **love** for **you** burning.

day 3

Father,

help me to put

**my man**

before all other men -

to love and honour and enjoy him.

Keep our **you-and-me** sacred

when the

kids clamour

for first place

because the **best thing**

we can give them is a happy marriage.

day 4

Lord,

these children are yours before they are mine.

Arrest their hearts!

Show up in ways they can understand.

Help me to dish up big happy helpings of  
every

day

gospel

to be swallowed down delicious  
heavy and wholesome like peanut butter and truth.

Oh God, save my children.

day 5

Maker of marriage,

choose forever-partners for my children.

Pick out as perfect

the hour

of the day

of the crossing of their paths.

Even now,

prepare their small soft

somewhere-out-there

hearts.

day 6

Almighty God,

show me how to call out

the **potential**

in my children.

Choose the avenues of their education.

Be their promoter.

Make them wise and mighty of heart -

**leaders** in their generation.

May the world take notice of their lives:

to **your glory.**

day 7

Friend of sinners,

choose friends for my kids.

Protect and establish their relationships.

Give them discernment:

to give space

or draw close

or - like Job's friends -

to sit silent with someone

in the dust.

Bless my children to be a blessing to others.



day 8

God,

let my children believe

that I believe

in their dreams -

that I won't laugh

that I'm not waiting for them to be perfect.

Help me to support them -

big banners waving wild.

Let them hear my:

'Play hard have fun love you!'

no matter how it all turns out.

day 9

Father God,

it's **wisdom** I'm after. Please please please  
please.

Please?

Give me wisdom.

Every **bit** I'll need to raise these children.  
Advise them. Discipline them.  
Guide them. Encourage them.  
Love them.

Your Word says wisdom is

**shouting** in the streets.

Oh God, I'll sleep on the sidewalk and

listen.

day 10

Jesus,

you said God blesses

the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Help me teach my kids the wondrous link  
between clean hearts  
and clear vision.

Help me to model the posture of a godly life:

Walk upright -

child of the King.

Bow low -

object of mercy.

day 11

Thank you, Creator God,

for big trees

big skies

mountains and mud.

Give my kids

s p a c e

to get outside

hail or heat wave.

Every. Single. Day.

To shriek and run -

Breathe in peace and perspective.

Worship you under bright sun, bright stars.

day 12

God,

I want to teach my kids how to

rest;

in this fast-frenetic guilt-tripping go-go-go world.

Help me to

**trust you**

for sleep enough to fuel the day's demands.

Help me to uphold the Sabbath:  
slow down enough to taste and see that  
**you are good.**

day 13

Jesus,

thank you for what Andy Stanley taught us about  
labels.

How only the manufacturer  
or purchaser  
or owner of something can  
label it.

You made our kids.  
You bought them with your blood.  
You own them.

Let yours be the only labels that stick.  
Redeemed.  
Beloved.

day 14

Lord,

when my kids **ask?** Help me to say

**yes**

to everything I can say

**yes** to even if

**yes** is inconvenient.

So that when I say

**no**

they know that **no** means **no**

and there's a reason

and there's respect.

day 15

Father God,

keep me from

spilling

hot-wrath lava-words

all over my children -

turning warm hearts and supple minds to

cooled rock.

And keep me from the

drip

drip

of nag

nag

nag.

Please God - strong sweet honey from my lips.



day 16

God of grace,

help me to keep a short account of my sin -

to ask my children's forgiveness  
often and honestly.

Give them the courage and humility  
to do the same.

I know it's up to me to choose the weather  
in this home.

Help me read the needs of these hearts I'm growing  
and bring sunshine

cool breeze

rain on thirsty days.

day 17

Heavenly Father,

teach me daily the

holy balance

of grace and obedience.

Make real my kids' love for you so that  
their yes to your ways is  
pure joy born of

freedom

from law.

day 18

Lord Jesus,

I want to challenge my children:

'How **big** is your God?'

Help them understand:

they don't have to be up to the task.

Because a **big** God

equips and

provides

as they surrender.

day 19

God,

what voices are my children listening to?

Who do they need to

tune in?

tune out?

Give them good judgement  
to switch off lies

or waste-of-time white noise

and make them brave

to turn up loud truth

and rock it.

day 20

Holy Lord,

help me to be **real** about my children's  
faults and flaws.

I'm doing them no favours -  
when their every action and attitude  
gets a podium finish.

I don't want to dote on denial.

Make me **honest** and **tender** -

calling them to straight paths.

day 21

Jesus - living Word -

prepare my kids for  
blessings and battles.

Help them to hold firm in small fists  
the sharp sword of the Spirit -  
Word of God.

Help me see moments to  
sharpen weapons of grace and glory -

at bedtime or breakfast -  
in the car or the crazy of life.

day 22

Lord of life,

I pray that my kids would

read deep and wide

travel far and light.

And listen eclectically but not indiscriminately.

Protect their gung-ho zest.

Give them dauntless courage

to adventure

and explore.

Never let them lose their sense of wonder,  
sense of humour.

day 23

God of wisdom and knowledge,

strengthen me to teach my kids all things  
wise and practical -

from folding egg whites  
to (not) holding hamsters too tight -

from stock exchange to stubborn stains.

With money make me both generous and thrifty,  
that they would learn to:

give  
save  
live



day 24

Father,

make our home a place of peace  
where Christ is King -

small slice of heaven on earth -  
refuge from the world -  
wide open to kids and kids' friends.

Help me respect my children's space,  
their favourite things,  
and their aversions.

Build mutual thriving trust.

Make me fun to live with.

day 25

Jesus,

Please remind me that I have

just enough time  
each day to do your will.

And when the day unravels  
into tantrums  
and timeout  
and I untangle  
in a tirade  
of tears -

keep me calm.

And kind.

Help me to sew it all back together.

day 26

God,

I want to teach my kids how to say  
yes

to community.

how every week we go to church to meet with you  
and every week you are there.

But how you are in the rest of the week, too, and  
church is not an audience  
but a body at work across  
the divide  
of cultures and continents  
and kids are a part of that.

day 27

Almighty God,

will you make **heroes** of our children?

Give them **clarity**

and the **compulsion to act.**

Empower them to do  
the **right thing**  
in the **right way**  
at the **right time.**

day 28

Lord,

please protect my children –  
climbing trees or corporate ladders.

Would you send your angels?

And make me **brave**.

I don't ever want to  
**over-protect** or  
**shield** them from

**your magnificent plans**  
for their lives.

day 29

My Father,

give me right understanding  
of my changing role  
as a mom.

In each season let me wear the colours of  
grace and joy.

When no longer mom to newborns but friend to adults:  
help me let go gladly  
with every blessing –  
that they would know they hold forever  
the keys to our hearts and our front door.

day 30

God of all time,

Moses prayed,

'Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.'

I want to spend time  
and never waste time.

I want to take time  
to make time.

Help me to be in the

**now**

to notice nuggets of  
time to be treasured.

day 31

Sovereign, loving God,

you could have given these kids to anyone.

But you didn't.

You gave them to me.

I lay down my life in thanks.

I am awe-struck by the mystery.

In the matchless Name of Jesus,  
and for his glory,  
I pray all these things.

Amen.



# pass it on

I would love for you to share this manifesto with another mom.

Or a dad who's married to a mom.

Or a mom who knows another mom who -  
you get the idea.

Spread the love, seriously.

Just a couple things - please don't sell it or change it in any way.

And thank you! So much.

You can email this pdf, or share the link on your own facebook page or blog, or [click here to tweet the link](#), or [pin](#) these prayers.

# grow young inside

It would be awesome to journey with you

over at [dalenereyburn.com](http://dalenereyburn.com)

where we are growing younger because,

‘though our bodies are dying,

our spirits are being renewed every day.’

(2 Corinthians 4:16)

Subscribe for weekly posts, updates and other book releases, or join me on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

# I'd like to honour

Ross and Tracy Barrett

Corné Bekker

Jack and Pam Ferreira

Jeff Goins

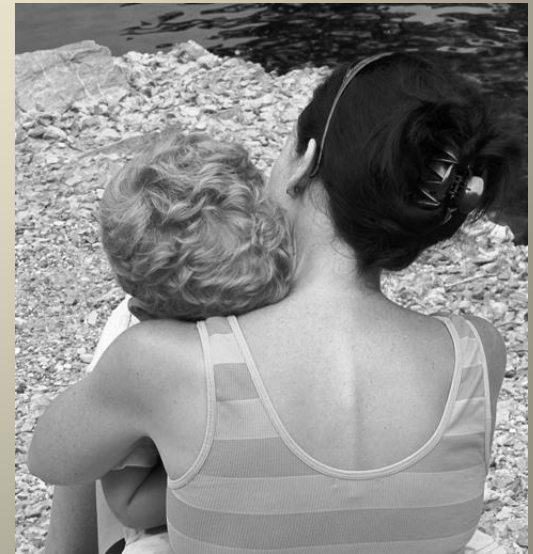
Brahm and Antoinette Hattingh

Andy Stanley

for inspiring some of these prayers.

# about the author

Dalene Reyburn is a writer and speaker who looks for worship and wonder in the mundane and the magnificent, sharing weekly at [dalenereyburn.com](http://dalenereyburn.com). She is the author of *[Dragons and Dirt: The truth about changing the world - and the courage it requires](#)*, co-author of the children's novel *Flight to Fabuland* and a contributor to [theWordSpace.mobi](http://theWordSpace.mobi). She has a Master's Degree in Applied Language Studies and was a high school teacher before giving that up to pack lunchboxes and play astronaut-astronaut. She and her husband, Murray, have two sons and a golden retriever. They live in Pretoria, South Africa, and there is often mud on their carpet.



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