

# *A Back-to-School Prayer Guide*

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*“Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.” Psalm 144:12*

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## *Students*

Focus your prayers on our students, both young and old. Pray for:

- Growth in wisdom & knowledge.
- Godly teachers & friends.
- Protection from evil & harm.
- Perseverance in study & direction in vocation.

*Luke 2:51-52* “And [Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”

*For Students:* Dear Jesus, you who promise to be with our students always, we pray that you would be with them today as they go to school. Bless their going in and coming out. Bless their learning and playing. Please protect their hearts from fear. Please keep them safe from all evil. Give them good and wise friends. Give them joy this very day, and thank you for loving them from head to toe. In the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.\*

*A Prayer for Christ to Be Formed in Our Students:* Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in these, our children and students, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen.

## *Teachers*

Focus your prayers on our teachers. Pray for them to:

- Teach what is true and right.
- Have godly influence & godly peers.
- Experience protection from evil & harm.
- Persevere in leading & serving students.

*James 3:17* “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”

*Psalm 36:9* “For with you is the well of life, and in your light shall we see light.”

*For Teachers:* O Lord, you who are the Good Teacher, we ask that you help our teachers to love their students well and to be patient with things that don’t go according to plan. May teachers help their students to feel afresh the wonder of their subject matter, to be humble in the face of ignorance, to be gracious with themselves in the light of mistakes that they may make, to delight in things newly discovered, and to love the truth with all their hearts and minds, so that they might be wise and compassionate citizens of this world that you so love. In Jesus’ name. Amen.\*

*A Prayer for Christian Schools:* Almighty God, by your gift alone we come to wisdom and true understanding: Look with favor, we pray, on our universities, colleges, and schools, that knowledge may be increased among us, and wholesome learning flourish and abound. Bless those who teach and those who learn, and grant that in humility of heart they may ever look to you, the fountain of all wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Parents*

Focus your prayers on our parents. Pray for:

- Perseverance for mothers & fathers.
- Strength for parents to invest in and actively engage with the schooling of their children.
- Clarity not to forget the “one necessary thing” in the midst of a busy school year.

*Ephesians 6:4* “Fathers [and mothers], do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

*Luke 10:41-42* “But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.’”

*A Prayer for the Family:* Merciful Savior, you loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus, hallowing their home with your sacred presence: Bless our homes, we pray, that your love may rest upon us, and that your presence may dwell with us. May we all grow in grace and in the knowledge of you, our Lord and Savior. Teach us to love one another as you have commanded. Help us to bear one another's burdens in fulfillment of your law, O blessed Jesus, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

*Many thanks to Rev. Justin Clemente for writing and sharing this guide.  
\*Adapted from W. David O. Tapler, "11 Back School Prayers." Christianity Today.*