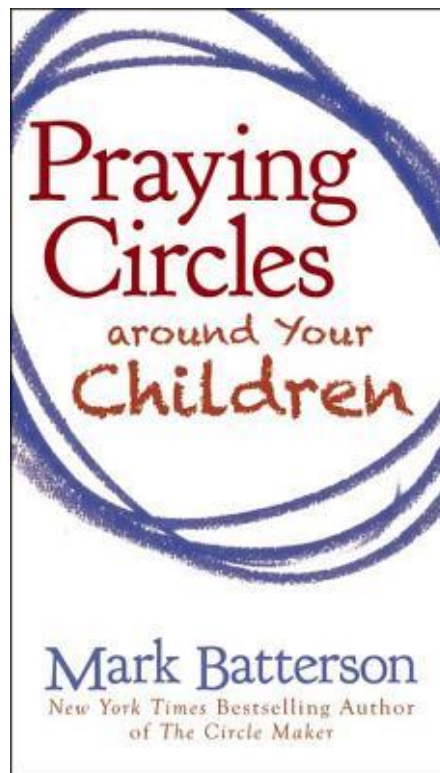




Praying Circles around Your Children

Mark Batterson

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Praying Circles around Your Children

Mark Batterson

Praying Circles around Your Children Mark Batterson

Mark Batterson shares a perfect blend of biblical yet practical advice that will revolutionize your prayer life by giving you a new vocabulary and a new methodology. You'll see how prayer is your secret weapon. Through stories of parents just like you, Batterson shares five prayer circles that will not only help you pray *for* your kids, but also pray *through* your kids.

Batterson teaches about how to create prayer lists unique to your family, claim God-inspired promises for your children, turn your family circle into a prayer circle, and discover your child's life themes. And he not only tells you how, he illustrates why.

As Batterson says, "I realize that not everyone inherited a prayer legacy like I did, but you can leave a legacy for generations to come. Your prayers have the power to shape the destiny of your children and your children's children. It's time to start circling."

Praying Circles around Your Children Details

Date : Published July 28th 2012 by Zondervan (first published July 17th 2012)

ISBN : 9780310325505

Author : Mark Batterson

Format : Paperback 107 pages

Genre : Parenting, Christian, Prayer, Nonfiction, Christian Non Fiction, Religion, Faith

 [Download Praying Circles around Your Children ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Praying Circles around Your Children ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Praying Circles around Your Children Mark Batterson

From Reader Review Praying Circles around Your Children for online ebook

Keiki Hendrix says

A short read, but a good exhortation of the importance of prayer. The focus is more on the form or structure your prayers take. It's based on the LEGEND of Honi who prayed circles for rain.

After identifying the form to shape your prayers around (the legend of Honi), the author moves on to define types of circles to create in your prayer life. Using personal stories both from his own family and his friends, Mark Batterson lists the types of prayers for your children and why these are important.

Great instruction for strengthening your prayer life.

Reviewed by: Keiki Hendrix
Reviewed for: The Vessel Project

Nicole says

Maybe it was just the day I read it or the parenting challenges I am currently facing, but this book spoke to me. It was practical and provided answers to questions I didn't know I had. It brought clarity and gave me comfort.

Sonnigirl says

Great book, easy and quick read with lots of practical ideas on how to pray with and for your children!

Robert Martin says

I appreciate the concept of this book, that parents need to intentionally enter into a life of prayer for their children, to cover their lives with that prayer and "circle" them. So, to that extent, this is a good book to remind us as that.

However, the presentation of the concept, while peppered with "You need to make sure you're praying God's will, not your will" admonitions, still came across strongly as "If you pray for it, it will happen". The stories and examples told came across as a matter of all that needed to happen for one daughter to gain self-confidence, for a son to have a miraculous healing, for the children to have good morals at school and at home, is simply for the parents to pray fervently, frequently, and earnestly.

But what I saw in all the stories was a different dynamic. While the book presented prayer as some way of making God do the things that needed to be done, instead what I heard were stories of parents who actually spent time discipling their children with prayer, reading scripture with them, modeling a life centered around God and God's purposes, and simply parents actually being parents and spending quality time discipling their

children. Prayer is part of that, but not as some formulaic means to a miraculous end, but as a connection between the parents and God which leads to a changed life on the part of the parents. That changed life ends up positively influencing the children. So, yes, the prayer was answered... but not through a "magical" influence, but because God made the parents the instruments of the answer.

Don't get me wrong, I know prayer does miraculous things. I have a story in mind right now of a two-year-old little girl with a serious head injury who has made an amazing recovery. That was certainly beyond just the parents being changed. But while the praying was happening for that little girl, the parents WERE being changed by the outpouring of prayer and support by their community, including very tangible and practical activities that the community did in order to support the family. So, while the girl received what amounts to a miraculous healing, the parents and their faith community experienced a deeper appreciation for Christian community, a greater sense of peace of God being in control, and a deeper reliance on God's promises. That is what happened with that prayer.

So, while there are some good practical tips here as to ways of praying, I see them as tips more on how to incorporate prayer in with parenting to make the parents more godly parents than any formula for getting more miraculous answers to prayer.

Note: I received this book for free from Zondervan as part of a blog tour, eliciting reviews, with the understanding that the book would be reviewed honestly. I was in no way compensated for this review and all views are solely and completely my own. I was not required to offer a positive review either through the publisher or author.

Wendy Sparkes says

I came across the titles of Mark Batterson's *Circle* series among the one of the lovely groups I belong to on Goodreads. Several of the group were recommending it highly, saying how it had helped their prayer life. So, when *Praying Circles around Your Children* became free on Kindle, I decided to download it. Not because I have children of my own (I don't) but I figured that although the emphasis would be about praying for your children, the basic principles would be there that I could adapt for me personally.

So, I decided to start reading it – and got so caught up in it, I finished it on the same day!

The idea of the circle prayers is the theme of 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – to keep praying until you receive an answer, even if that answer takes years to come. Sometimes I find that persistence in prayer is extremely hard when Heaven remains silent, and yes, there have been times when on certain issues I've given up. One sentence from this book did stop me in my tracks: *100% of the prayers I don't pray won't get answered*. Seems so obvious, doesn't it? Yet, it brought me up short – if I don't pray, then I'm not going to see an answer to them – how much have I missed out on, just because I didn't pray, because I thought God wouldn't be interested?

I am a big believer in praying Scripture. I have Lee Robert's *Praying God's Will for My Life* to thank for getting me started on that road several years ago. I have since added and expanded my requests, and have found praying Scripture to be a very powerful form of prayer.

Mark Batterson's books encourage this, and in *Praying Circles around Your Children* he not only encourages you to pray Scripture for your children, but also to pray it with them. If one of his children has a problem, then they will find a Scripture and pray it with them. His daughter was suffering a confidence problem, so Mark and his wife Lora prayed with Summer a Scripture that would build her up. I loved how

Mark set aside time in the morning before the children rushed off to school to individually sit with them for a few minutes to pray Scripture with them that would help meet their needs. What a wonderful way to help build your children up, to teach them about prayer, how to pray, and to together see the answers unfold.

Finally, I just want to share an account of another father mentioned in the book. He has 3 children, and for each child he has a Bible that he has set aside for them. For each Scripture that he prays for them, he highlights it in "their" Bible. Before his eldest child went to college, the father handed his son the Bible with all the prayers he had prayed for him highlighted, so he could see how his father had been praying for him over the years! Isn't that a beautiful idea! How wonderful for a child to have a gift of his parent's prayers for him! I know I'm going to be doing something similar when I have children. If you missed out on doing this with your own children, well, it's not too late to start! You can also do this for your grandchildren.

Let's surround our children with our prayers for them, and also praying with them, so they can grow into mighty prayer warriors themselves as we battle through life, triumphing gloriously on the victory side!

Rhonda says

Great, and important, reminder to always 'pray circles around', or pray without ceasing, for your children. I do this daily, actually at least twice a day.

Favorite Quotes:

Just as one decision can change your destiny, so can one prayer. If you were to map out your spiritual history, you would find countless answers to prayer at key intersections along the way. Before you were even born, even named, many of your had parents and grandparents who prayed for you. I believe that every blessing, every breakthrough, every miracle traces back to the paryers that were prayed by you or for you. ... And when God finally reveals His strange and mysterious ways, it will drop us to our knees in worship. We wil thank Him for the prayers He did answer. We'll also thank Him for the prayers He didn't answer because we'll finally understand why. And we'll thank Him for the answered prayers we weren't even aware of. p 5

It's imperative to distinguish between your will and God's will. Every prayer, including your payers for your children, must pass a twofold litmus test: your prayers must be in the will of God and for the glory of God. God is not a genie in a bottle, and your wish is not His command. His command better be your wish. IF it's not, you won't be drawing prayer circles. You'll end up walking in your own circles. So drawing prayer circles starts with discerning what God wants, what God wills. Prayer is the way we take our hands off and place our children in the hands of God. p 6

You can't choose Christ for your kids, but you can pray that they choose Christ. And I've met far too many children who have come to Christ because their parents prevailed in prayer, sometimes for decades, to believe God for anything less. What other option do we have? To pray or not to pray---these are the only options. p. 11

Drawing prayer circles is a metaphor that simply means to pray without ceasing. It's praying until God answers. it's praying with more intensity, more tenacity. It's not just praying for, it's praying through. We need to start praying as long as it takes. That's what praying circles is all about. It's resolving in your heart of hearts that you will pray until the day your die. p 13

I have come to terms with the fact that I've done more things wrong than I've done right as a parent, but I've taken courage from this simple truth: it's not just my wife and I who are raising our kids; we have a heavenly Father who compensates for our deficiencies, weaknesses, and mistakes. Where we fail as earthly parents, I believe our heavenly Father can succeed. p 16

The goal of a prayer list is not to lay out a laundry list before God. In fact, prayer is not about our agenda for God at all; it's about discovering God's agenda for us. But once we discover His agenda, we have to write it down. In my experience, it's very difficult to pray with specificity, intentionality, and consistency without a prayer list. p 24

You need a vision for your children. With your physical eyes you see who a person is. With your spiritual eyes you see what that person can be. And it's only when you close your physical eyes in prayer that God will open your spiritual eyes to perceive what is far more real than the reality you can perceive with your five senses. p 29

Until kids get into the driver's seat, they won't know how to get anywhere. What do I mean? You can pray for their entire lives, but if you never let them pray, they're just along for the ride. They won't know how to get anywhere in prayer. One of the greatest responsibilities of parenthood is praying for your kids, but an even greater responsibility is teaching your kids to pray. Don't just pray for them, pray with them. p 34

Now let's be honest, our children don't always appreciate what we do for them at the moment when we do it. It's usually not until we have kids of our own that we appreciate the sacrifices our parents made. So don't be disappointed if you feel your prayer circles aren't making a difference. They are. They will. Or maybe you feel it's too little too late. Listen, it's never too late to be who you might have been. Maybe your kids are already adults and you feel like you missed your opportunity. God gives us a second chance, and it's called becoming a grandparent. You can do for your grandchildren what you failed to do for your children. p 38

You never completely know who you are praying for and who is praying for you. You never know how or when God will answer your prayers. But you can be sure of this: Your prayers will shape the destiny of your family for generations to come. And if you are willing to interrupt your sleep cycle, if you are willing to get on your knees and intercede for your family, God will answer your prayers long after you are gone. Don't lose heart. Don't lose hope. Don't lose faith. Keep circling! p 43

Angel says

Originally posted in angelroman

There's something I have to confess, I don't have children, but still enjoyed the reading. You don't have to be a parent, or to be married to be interested about prayer. And this is exactly the impression I felt after few pages.

The booklet starts with an introduction about the importance of prayer, and the effects it can produce in your life and in your family. Quoting the last lines of this chapter:

Your prayers for your children are the greatest legacy you can leave - Mark Batterson

Then, we get to the chapter where Mark shares the legend about The circle maker. In a few words, according to a Jewish tradition, there was a man called Honi that prayed for rain when everyone couldn't hear God's voice and thought God wouldn't hear their prayers. But Honi believed different and he drew a circle around him with his staff and remained there praying until he got an answer from God.

I liked how Mark responds to the way some people have wrongly understood what was the meaning about drawing circles:

Drawing circles is a metaphor that simply means "to pray without ceasing" - Mark Batterson

From this point, Mark introduces his family to the readers, giving his own experience on the subject of prayer, and how any parent can become a prophet to his children through prayer. I'm pretty sure parents will feel identified with him and it will be easier to understand the rest of the examples.

Since this book is called Praying Circles around Your Children, the next section is dedicated to describe 5 circles that can be applied or put into practice with your kids (I feel weird saying that).

- Circling the promises of God
- Making prayer lists
- Creating prayer mantras (or creating key phrases as a spiritual reminders, nothing to do with eastern religions mantras)
- Forming prayer circles
- Praying through the Bible

As you can see, these circles are not specific words to be prayed over your children. They're actions to be taken by those parents that are willing to leave a mark on their children through prayer.

Finally and personally, I found these circles really helpful, even if you don't have children like me, you can start praying for your loved ones applying these same principles.

Stephanie says

I was with him until he said one of his most important prayers was that his son would like girls. Yet early in the book he claims we shouldn't pray for our children to be what we want them to be. I hope his son hasn't read this book. Batterson does not really seem to know what he wants to say here. I'll keep looking. If anything, it taught me some ways not to pray for my children.

Emily Ventura says

The book, in my opinion, is biblically sound. The author explains five topical ways we can pray for our children (he calls each of these "circles"). These circles include:

1. Praying the promises of God
2. Making a prayer list
3. Creating a Prayer Mantra (basically a chosen verse for your child)
4. Praying in circles, (kind of making your family your prayer partner)
5. Praying through the bible

This is a great list and a wonderful way to pray for your children and grandchildren.

Here's what I didn't like about the book.

1. There are not a wide variety of sources for examples within the book. Most of the stories given are from the authors own family. I appreciate the author's first hand experience however, in order to reach a larger audience I think it beneficial to use many different family experiences.
2. There is no example of serious difficulties. His is a family in which both parents believe and if they or their children have faced deep struggles, he does not share them. You do not need to have a "normal" family to be a praying parent and I wish he had shown examples of praying through hard times.
3. Chapters aren't cohesive. For instance, in the chapter "Praying through the bible" he has a section discussing not being offended when our prayers go unanswered, along with a section he calls "hyperlinked". These portions really are not linked to praying through the bible and would have served better in other parts of the book.

Overall I would not recommend this book. A better read, in my opinion, would be "The Power of a Praying Parent" by Stormie Omartian. It is a more comprehensive book with deeper instruction and more varied examples.

Jerrod Carter says

Many of the most important things in life take a lifetime to master, and many of those take only a moment to explain. Even relatively unimportant things, like golf, fall into that category. (Yeah, I know a lot of you may disagree on the importance of golf).

Prayer is definitely one of those things. Mark does a great job here of giving practical ideas of how to pray for our kids--our own biological children, and the children of the community around us. If you're interested in becoming better at interceding for your children, consistently and effectively, then I highly recommend this book.

It's a book written from Protestant perspective, but I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to my fellow Catholics. Prayer is one area where we can agree! I really liked his idea of praying the entire Bible on behalf of your kids, any my next pass through will be done exactly that way.

Jeff says

As a parent, praying for your kids is one of the most, if not the most important thing you can do.

Mark's book inspired me to keep circling in these very important, formative years in the life of Jesse and Cole.

Here are some take-aways:

- * Make sure your Heavenly Father hears about your kids daily.
- * You'll never be a perfect parent. But you can be a praying parent.
- * Your prayers must be in the will of God and for the glory of God.
- * Your worst mistakes double as your greatest opportunities.
- * Psalm 103:17: "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and

His righteousness to children's children."

* Drawing prayer circles is a metaphor that simply means, "to pray without ceasing." It's praying until God answers. It's praying with more intensity, more tenacity. It's not just praying for, it's praying through.

* Lamentations 2:19: "Rise during the night and cry out. Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord. Lift up your hands to him in prayer, pleading for your children."

* I've taken courage from this simple truth: it's not just my wife and I who are raising our kids; we have a Heavenly Father who compensates for our deficiencies, weaknesses, and mistakes. Where we fail as earthly parents, I believe our Heavenly Father can succeed.

* If you asked me what I pray for as a parent more than anything else, the answer is the favor of God. The favor of God is what God can do for you that you cannot do for yourself.

* Irrational fears only submit to prayer.

* Pray Philippians 4: 6-7 for your kids as a promise. Our most powerful prayers are hyperlinked to the promises of God.

* Your focus determines your reality.

Steven R. McEvoy says

It has been a long time since I have read a book so immediately applicable, a book that literally drove me to my knees. It is a book that instilled a greater desire and conviction of the need for prayer and ways to pray specifically. But this book is much more than just a guide book. It is amazing that a book of just over 100 pages can have so much power and an incredibly lasting impact. This book was so powerful I did not trust myself to write a review at first; I waited until after a second reading and a month had passed to have some more perspective. All I can say is that it truly is an amazing book. I honestly believe that every Christian parent should read this book to be better equipped to pray for their children.

My first time reading this book I highlighted 20 passages. I have pulled out some of the best to highlight for you in small glimpses, some of the knowledge and wisdom that this book will impart.

Mark starts off by acknowledging that becoming a praying parent is hard work. To be disciplined to pray for our children is work and many in family life start to let things slide. "You don't become a praying parent by default. You do it by design, by desire, by discipline. Spiritual disciplines take sheer determination, but if you determine to circle your children in prayer, you will shape their destinies, just like Susanna Wesley shaped the destinies of her children. Your prayers will live on in their lives long after you die. Your prayers for your children are the greatest legacy you can leave." p. 18. From there he moved on to remind us that all our prayers must pass two tests: "It's imperative to distinguish between your will and God's will. Every prayer, including your prayers for your children, must pass a twofold litmus test: your prayers must be in the will of God and for the glory of God. ... Prayer is the way we take our hands off and place our children in the hands of God." p. 20-21. We need to pray God's will and God's glory or else we are just not doing it right.

Mark's earlier book, *The Circle Maker*, has been immensely popular. This book is an off-shoot but can easily be read without reading the first one. Mark States: "Drawing prayer circles is a metaphor that simply means 'to pray without ceasing.' It's praying until God answers. It's praying with more intensity, more tenacity. It's not just praying for; it's praying through. ... We need to start praying ALAT prayers - as long as it takes. That's what praying circles is all about. It's resolving in your heart of hearts that you will pray until the day you die." p. 29 And that is what God is after for us as parents, to be Prayer Warriors in our children's corner, interceding for them, to stand between them and the enemy and them and the world, to raise them up in the

ways of God. "Parenting is the hardest thing you'll ever do. And the more you love your kids, the harder it is." p. 31. The more we love, the more we can be hurt.

Finally, he reminds us this will be a life-long journey. "Does this mean the final battle has been fought? We know better; we're parents! The challenges never end, but we need to celebrate our victories along the way. And for the record, prayer is the way we fight our battles. Prayer is the difference between you fighting for God and God fighting for you. Secret prayer is our secret weapon." p. 33, 34. We will be praying until we go home to God or until Christ comes again.

This was an incredible little book. I cannot say how beneficial it was to my prayer life and know I will be reading many more of Batterson's books in the months to come. Give it a try - it is more than worth the low price tag!

Read the review and with links to other reviews of books by the author on my blog [Book Reviews and More](#).

Loraine says

This was a very insightful read. Wish I had read it when my son was small, but found much that will be helpful in praying for my grandson. Full of good ideas and nuggets of wisdom. I have already recommended this book to several young moms I know. Every parent should read this book.

Crystal Scott says

I want to begin by saying that this little book will change the way you pray for your children. Mark Batterson says, "You'll never be a perfect parent, but you can be a praying parent!" Praying Circles around your Children will help you understand how important it is to pray for children out loud. Pray where they can hear you and you will be truly amazed at how well they will remember the prayers and the Bible verses you say during your prayers.

The five prayer circles, Circling the Promises of God, Making Prayer Lists, Creating Prayer Mantras, Forming Prayer Circles, and Praying through the Bible are explained in detail and Mark also gives examples of not only his life but of others as well. It is very interesting to read how this type of praying has changed the lives of others and how well those around them can see the changes taking place.

One of the suggestions given is to make a prayer journal for your children, that means to write down the prayers you pray for your children and when they graduate high school, college or get married, present them with the journal. This is something that I am personally going to start doing for my children. I have always prayed for my children but not like Mark suggests. It is time for a change for the better and I am so glad I read this book.

Mark also stated, "Prayer is the way we write the future. It's the difference between letting things happen and making things happen." I am ready to start making things happen in my home, with my family. That begins with prayer, prayer for my children, prayer for my husband, and prayer for everyone.

I highly recommend that you pick up a copy of this book, I guarantee you will not regret the purchase. If you would like to purchase this book, you may do so by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page, or by visiting your favorite retailer. I have a copy of Praying Circles Around Your Children to give away, to be entered, please leave a comment about how you pray for your children or grandchildren, you need to be a follower of this blog, and please share this with your friends on facebook, twitter and everywhere else. Leave me a comment and let me know you shared and you follow my blog for extra entries. Good Luck!!

"I received this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review."

<http://zondervan.com/9780310325505>

visit my blog at <http://agreateryes.wordpress.com>

Mandy J. Hoffman says

THE OVERVIEW:

Praying Circles Around Your Kids is a short book that takes the principles of his previous book - *The Circle Maker* - and applies them to praying for your children. Batterson combines his personal thoughts with Scripture along with tips to apply what you learn as you read. The main point of this book is praying for your children, but this book could also be read by grandparents and others involved in the lives of children.

THE READABILITY:

As I already mentioned, this is a short book - a mere 103 pages - and can be read in about two hours of time. The author writes from a personal viewpoint so you feel like you're having a chat rather than just reading an essay. Batterson shares many personal stories and gives a variety of examples that keep it interesting. I have not read his first book, so I'm not sure if you should read that first or not to understand the whole "circling" principle, but in this book I felt that it was a bit vague. And since 5 of the 9 chapters were about "5 Circles", the flow was fairly rough.

THE HIGHLIGHTS:

I agree with Batterson that prayer is the first step in solving problems and I also liked the whole focus on the importance of praying for our children. This is something that too often we easily let slip.

The section titled "Love Girls" found on page 50 was probably my favorite part of this book. He talks about praying for his children in light of a culture that perverts sexual orientation from God's loving plan. His application of Psalm 37:4 in this section is right on and sound Biblical counsel. He soundly addresses something that needs to be said a whole lot more!

I also appreciated the practical examples and tips on praying for your kids or incorporating prayer into their lives. For example, he highly encourages you to pray with your children, not just for your children.

THE DOWNSIDE:

Unfortunately, the "downside" points of this book far out weigh the good points. While I agree that prayer is important and we each need to grow in this area of spiritual discipline, I feel that this book treats prayer more like a tool than part of a relationship. Prayer isn't about getting what we want, it's about a relationship with

Christ and it's part of the process of changing our desires to be God's desires for us.

Several specific points that I disagree with are as follows:

- On page 40 he says: *"When you catch them doing something wrong, gently rebuke them. Lovingly remind them: that's not who you are."* While I agree that we should lovingly correct our children, I also believe that according to the Bible we (and children) need to be reminded that they are sinners in need of a Savior. We have all fallen and the gospel is appealing not when we think about how good we are, but about how amazing the Savior is.
- Batterson talks through out this book as if the children we are praying for are saved. I am sure many are, but I am also sure many are not - including my own three. There is a distinct difference in how you should pray for an unsaved person and in how you should pray for a believer and that is not addressed here.
- On page 48 he talks about searching the Bible for every verse that mentioned the word "confident" and using those verses to pray over one of his children. This would mean pulling verses out of context. Need I really say more on this?
- Also on page 50 (just before the part I actually liked) he says: *"Irrational fears only submit to prayer."* He goes on to quote Philippians 4:6-7 and says that: *"When we circle the promises of God, those promises then encircle us."* Let me quickly explain two things- (1) the promise he mentions is found in verse 7 and is linked to a **command** found in verse 6, and (2) he doesn't quote verse 8 which tells us that changing our thinking - which controls our fears - is a major part in overcoming fear...NOT just prayer...NOT only prayer.

Sadly, I could go on...but I won't.

THE RECOMMENDATION:

As you may have already concluded, my recommendation for this book is to read it with GREAT discernment. And quite honestly, in my opinion the downside of this book so highly out weights the good points that I can't encourage you to read it at all.
