Feel free to use these prayers and blessings however is helpful to you, in part or as a whole. Please credit Traci Smith in your publication or on social media. These words may not be republished or sold. Please contact Traci Smith for permissions details. (http://www.traci-smith.com/contact-2/)

Special note: Links back to my website (traci-smith.com) or books (links below) are a special way to show gratitude and love and help support my work and ministry. May these words be a blessing to your families. -TS

*Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home*
*Prayers for Faithful Families*
*Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas*
Contents

A Prayer for Back To School
A Prayer for At Home (Remote) Learning
A Prayer for Blended Learning
A Prayer for Homeschooling
A Prayer in the time of COVID-19
A Prayer for Putting on a Mask
A Prayer for Washing My Hands
A Prayer for Healers
A Prayer for Scientists and Other Leaders
A Prayer for Living Day by Day
A Prayer for When I'm Out of My Routine
A Prayer for When I'm Tired and Overwhelmed
A Blessing for the School Space Inside the Home
A Blessing to Start the Day
A Blessing to End the Day
Introduction

As I write this, a lot of the back to school plans are up in the air because of the COVID-19 virus. Some districts are starting the new year in person, with modifications, some are offering a remote option, some are trying a hybrid model, and others are homeschooling, many for the first time.

The one consistent thing that I’m hearing from parents and educators all over the world is this: it’s different, hard and often overwhelming.

I wrote these prayers to give you and your family words when it feels like there are no words to say. My philosophy is that prayer with children should be simple, honest, and leave room for us to listen to God’s voice and our own intuition. Some of the prayers read like mantras or affirmations, others address God simply and directly. Use them however you feel is most beneficial for your family.

A Prayer for Back to School

At the start of the school year, we are beginning something new
New things can be exciting
New things can be scary
New things can be wonderful
New things can be confusing

God, you are always with us
You are with us when things are exciting, or scary, or wonderful, or confusing
You are with us every day
And all the time

God, please help us to feel your presence with us on the first day of school, and every day, Amen

A Prayer for At Home (Remote) Learning

Home is where we eat at the table and sleep in our bed
For now, home is where we do our learning, too

God, please be with me when I learn at home
Help me to understand what to do
Help me to be patient if it gets hard or feels too different
Most of all, help me to feel your love, Amen

Back to School Prayers and Blessings www.traci-smith.com Traci Smith, 2020
A Prayer for Blended Learning

I can learn in many different ways
I can learn at home
I can learn at school
I can learn in both home and school
This year I'll be learning in many different places
Though my body will be in different places, one thing will always stay the same:
No matter where I am, God is with me
No matter where I am, God loves me
No matter where I am, I am God’s child
Amen

A Prayer for Homeschooling

As I start a year of school at home, I pray for all of the things I will learn this year. I pray for my teachers and family members. (Sometimes my teachers are my family members!) Help us all on this journey. May we be kind and do our very best, Amen.

A Prayer in the Time of COVID-19

God, we have so many things to pray for:
We pray for those who are sick
We pray for those who are worried about getting sick
We pray for doctors, and nurses, and medical professionals
We pray for those who are sad and grieving someone who has died
We pray for scientists
We pray for politicians
We pray for our family
We pray for our friends
We pray for all the other things in our hearts and on our minds
We end our prayer by saying “thank you,” God
Thank you for the small blessings of every day
Thank you for hearing us when we pray
Thank you for your love
Amen.

A Prayer for Putting on a Mask

I put on my mask to show others I care
I put on my mask to keep others safe
I put on my mask to love my neighbor
Thank you, God, for being with me
Amen

Back to School Prayers and Blessings
A Prayer for Washing My Hands
I wash my hands
I make them clean
I dry them off
While I wash I say “Thank you, God”
While I wash I say “Peace to all”
Amen.

A Prayer for Healers
God, we pray for those who heal, in mind and body and spirit
As they care for others, may you care for them
As they bring healing to others, may you keep them safe
Thank you for those who have a special calling to heal others
May they always be well
May they always have peace

A Prayer for Scientists and Other Leaders
God, we thank you for those who are working hard to solve the problems we face. May you be with scientists and other leaders as they make discoveries about COVID19 and the world we live in. May they be brave. May they know that their work is important. May they never give up. Amen.

A Prayer for Living Day by Day
When our world is changing day by day, sometimes we worry about the future
Sometimes our plans change
Sometimes we don’t know what will happen later
Sometimes we are disappointed
God, please be near to us when we are disappointed, or worried, or in a time of change
Help us to live day by day, and to be thankful for what each day brings
Help us not to worry about tomorrow
This is the day that you have made, God, let us be present and joyful today

A Prayer for When I’m Out of My Routine
Some days are topsy turvy
Some days are not what I was expecting
On those days I stop
I breathe in
I breathe out
I take a break and feel the Holy Spirit guide me
A Prayer for When I’m Tired and Overwhelmed
When I’m tired I need rest for my body
And for my mind and spirit, too
God, please show me how to rest and space
Help me to find peace for my spirit
Peace for my mind
Peace for my body
Thank you for my breath
Thank you for my family
Thank you for your Spirit
Amen

A Blessing for the School Space Inside the Home
God we dedicate this space as a space for learning
May our minds be quieted in this space
May we be open to learning in this space
May we be curious in this space
Be with us each and every moment we come to our special learning place
Amen

A Blessing to Start the Day
May your day be filled with joy and gladness
May you be kind today
May you be at peace today
May you know you are loved today, by God and by your family
May you hold that love in your heart, today and every day

A Blessing to End the Day
Goodnight, sweet dreams, the day is done
Goodnight, have peace, and know God’s love
Traci Smith is an ordained minister, mother of three and author. Her books are *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home, Prayers for Faithful Families*, and *Faithful Families Advent and Christmas*. Traci’s passion is helping families find time for connection and spiritual nourishment amid the hustle and bustle of daily life. What began as a quest to help her own family has helped thousands of others. You can connect with Traci at [www.traci-smith.com](http://www.traci-smith.com)

Traci also runs a popular newsletter called Treasure Box Tuesday. Treasure Box Tuesday is a weekly email with links to resources for faith and family ministry, among other quirky and interesting links of interest. The list often shares links to free resources and many people say it’s their favorite email of the week. Learn more at [tracismith.substack.com/about](http://tracismith.substack.com/about) (Note there is a free version and a subscription version. Most people choose the free one!)