

NOTE-TAKING EDITION

HONEST PRAYERS

FOR

Mama Bears

HILLARY MORGAN FERRER
with JULIE LOOS



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Contents

Contributors	12
An Honest Introduction	13
Raising Dragon Slayers in an Era of Dragons	20

Section 1: Selfless Prayers for Self

1. Craving for the Word	24
2. Eternal Perspective	25
3. Wise Use of Money	26
4. Give Me a Moldable Heart	27
5. Memory for What I've Learned	29
6. Humility Without Being Crushed	30
7. Self-Discipline	31
8. Contentment with Just Enough	33
9. A Life of Balance and Discernment	34
10. Stewarding My Body Well	36
11. Prayer over Blind Spots	38
12. Healthy Identity	39
13. Prayer for Words	41

Section 2: Spiritual Protection for the Home Turf

14. Parents' Bedroom	44
15. The Single Mama Bear's Bedroom	46
16. Kids' Bedrooms	47
17. Living Room	48
18. The Digital Sphere	49
19. Kitchen	51

20. Grandparents' House	52
21. Child's Friend's House	53

Section 3: From Bzzzz!!! to Zzzzz...: Short Prayers for the Daily Grind

22. Upon Waking Up	56
23. Before Waking Up the Kids (and Chaos Ensues).....	56
24. Prayer from Head to Toes	57
25. Putting Kids on the Bus	58
26. Blessing over Quiet Time	59
27. Before the Tasks I Don't Enjoy.....	59
28. While Doing Laundry.....	60
29. Before Driving	61
30. Preparing to Reengage with Kids	62
31. Reuniting with Husband After Work	63
32. Before Watching Entertainment	64
33. Before Putting Kids to Bed	64
34. Release at the End of the Day	65

Section 4: From My Bean to My Bean's Bean: Ages, Stages, and Rhythms of Life

35. Pregnancy	68
36. For the Adoptive Mama Bear	70
37. To Not Screw Up My Toddler	72
38. Children Exploring Independence	73
39. For a Child with Separation Anxiety.....	74
40. Blessing over Children on Their Birthdays	75
41. Kid's Party Stress	77
42. Before a Family Trip	78

43. Parent-Teacher Conferences	79
44. School Decision	80
45. Pubescent Identity Crisis.....	82
46. Popping the Christian Bubble Before the Kids Leave the House	84
47. Releasing My Almost-Adult Children.....	86
48. Adult Children to Walk Faithfully with God.....	87
49. Children’s Future Spouses.....	88
50. To Be a Good Mother-in-Law.....	91

**Section 5: From Clay to Vessel:
Prayers for My Kids’ Spiritual Formation**

51. Child’s Salvation	94
52. Child to Develop Personal Faith	95
53. Kids to Love the Word	96
54. For Children to Love the Church	97
55. Fostering Gratitude and Contentment	99
56. Healthy Outlets for Emotions.....	100
57. When Kid Makes a Big Mistake	101
58. Discerning God’s Voice from Other Voices.....	102
59. For Child’s Sin to Be Exposed	103
60. Reconciliation and Forgiveness When Hurt	104
61. Cultivating Sexual Faithfulness	105
62. Prayer for the Esaus’ (the Rough-and-Tumble Boys’) Gender Identity	107
63. Prayer for the Jacobs’ (the Sensitive Boys’) Gender Identity	109
64. Prayer for My Daughter’s Gender Identity	111

Section 6: Things My Kids Have to Deal With

65. Stewarding Popularity Well	114
66. Dealing with Rejection	115
67. When My Child Feels Alone in Following Christ	116
68. Good Friends for My Son	118
69. Good Friends for My Daughter	119
70. Sports Participation	121
71. Moving	122
72. Welcoming a New Pet	123
73. Saying Goodbye to a Beloved Pet	123
74. Nightmares	124
75. Dating	125
76. Teenagers with Raging Hormones	126
77. Forgotten Items	128
78. Pressure to Fit In	129
79. Protection Against Comparison	130
80. Broken Hearts	131

Section 7: Welcome to the Rumbllllllle

81. When I Have Been Wronged (and Want to Release the Kraken)	134
82. Before Engaging in Conflict Resolution	136
83. Loving the Unlovable	137
84. When Everyone Is at Each Other's Throat	138
85. When Husband and Daddy Duties Compete...and I Need My Husband	139
86. Parenting the Children I Have (and Releasing Who I Think They Should Be)	141

87. Calming Down Before Disciplining My Child	142
88. Asking for My Child’s Forgiveness.	143
89. When I Really Don’t Like Someone but Want To	144
90. Establishing Boundaries with Toxic Family Members	145
91. Prayer for My Husband’s Ex-Wife	147

Section 8: Does This Prayer Make Me Look Fat?

92. When I Just Want to Pee Alone	150
93. When Social Media Has Warped My View of Motherhood	151
94. When My Mouth Gets Me in Trouble.	152
95. When I’m Tempted to Use a Prayer Request as Gossip.	152
96. When I Want to Paint the Picture Prettier Than It Is	153
97. Unhealthy Fixations	154
98. Prayer over Habitual Sin	155
99. When I’m Too Comfortable with a Shallow Faith	156
100. When I Don’t Understand Prayer	157
101. When I Feel Like I Have Let God Down.	158

Section 9: When. I. Just. Can’t. Even.

102. Courage for Being Misunderstood as a Christian	160
103. Longing for Justice in an Unjust World.	161
104. Loving like Jesus When the World Has Redefined Love	163
105. When My Kids Are So Loud, Needy, and Whiny That I Want to Scream.	165

106. When I Want to Run Away from My Responsibilities	167
107. Am I Doing Enough?	168
108. Postpartum Anxiety	169
109. Postpartum Depression	171
110. When I Feel like the Wrong Mom for the Job	173
111. Praying Through Exhaustion.	174
112. Asking the Holy Spirit to Help Me Pray	175
113. When God Feels Silent	176
114. God, Please Use a Megaphone	177
115. When My Anxiety About the World Rubs Off on My Child.	179
116. When I Can't Focus on My Bible Reading	180

Section 10: Prayers You Pray You Never Have to Pray

117. Marriage in Crisis	182
118. Death of Husband	184
119. For the Unequally Yoked Mama Bear (or the Mama Bear Whose Husband Has Left the Faith)	186
120. Cries of a Single Mama Bear	188
121. Child Comes Out as LGBTQ+.	190
122. Pornography Addiction in the Home	193
123. Wife of an Addict	195
124. Pregnancy Loss	196
125. For My Prodigal Child in Rebellion	198

Section 11: Mind, Body, and Emotions

126. Healthy Attitude Toward My Body.	202
127. Taming Emotions	204

128. When My Brain Needs to Slow the Heck Down	205
129. General Healing	207
130. Chronic Conditions	208
131. For Medical Personnel Who Are Treating My Family	210
132. Anxiety-Ridden Child.	211
133. Healing from Trauma and Traumatic Memories	213

Section 12: Church, State, School, and Culture

134. Church Leadership	218
135. For Our Churches to Become Healthier	220
136. Prayer to Expose Corruption.	221
137. For Unity and Division	223
138. For Christian Schools to Not Compromise.	225
139. For Biblically Minded Teachers and Administrators in Public School	227
140. Protection for Teachers Who Refuse to Teach Lies.	228
141. Protection over Freedom of Speech and Religion in Schools.	229
142. When My Child Witnesses Bullying	231
143. When My Child Is Bullied	232
144. When My Child Is the Bully	234
145. Atmosphere in the Traditional Classroom	235
146. Atmosphere While Homeschooling	237
147. Child’s Ability to Learn/Learning Disabilities	238
Afterword: Creating a Legacy of Prayer	240
Appendix: Honest Questions About Prayer.	246

to pray for something that really mattered, I didn't feel pressured to sugarcoat it. The Lord knew my heart. He knew if I desired Him or not. Why pretend to be anything other than what I was? It's not like I had lost my interest in following God. I wasn't in any kind of rebellion. However, I heard people talking about having a desire and yearning for the Lord, and I knew that—emotionally—I didn't have that. But I really wanted to! Starting that ninth-grade year, I saw the Lord faithfully answer that prayer, slowly changing me from a “good Christian girl” into an avid disciple.

That one simple prayer served as the “aha moment” for the rest of my life. And an aha moment is my hope for you and the prayers in this book. Often, we are so consumed with what we think our prayers *should* sound like that we neglect to say what we are actually thinking. God knows our thoughts! He's not going to be surprised that we're not more “spiritual sounding.” There's nothing in Scripture about Him valuing elegant prayers more than simple ones. (Just the opposite, really.) So why not come to Him *as we are* since He already knows? Picture your kids coming to you like, “Oh, thou art my wholesome parental unit! Wilt thou doth grant me this sugary confection that delighteth my eyes and bringeth joy to mine heart?” rather than “I want a cookie.” If it's right before dinner, the answer is no either way. And if we're at a carnival, it's probably yes either way!

HONEST VERSUS SHALLOW

Now, there is a difference between shallow prayers and honest prayers. Shallow prayers are honest, but they aren't always effective (like my old junior high prayers). I'd liken a shallow prayer to a list of things we just want, as if we are a child making our Christmas wish list for Santa Claus. There's nothing wrong with asking for the things we want, but those aren't always the most effective prayers—because, as James 4:3 says, “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

An honest prayer is one in which you are willing to sound stupid,

So these prayers are for praying over the various rooms of your house or the other places where you or your family spend time. I recommend praying over your home spaces regularly. We don't need to over spiritualize, but neither should we ignore the authority we have to dedicate our homes to Christ.

Section 3 is meant to take the Mama Bear through her day. We encourage you to type these up and post them around your house, or (if you're feeling feisty) to memorize them! There is something comforting about quieting your soul with a quick liturgy as you go about your day, from the moment your alarm goes off (Bzzzz!) to the moment you finally drift off to sleep (Zzzz...).

In section 4, we zoom out a bit—focusing on the needs and concerns of various phases we Mama Bears might go through. Our parental role changes over time as we respond to each developmental stage of our children—from the moment we first see our little bean on the sonogram, to when our grown-up bean posts a sonogram of their own little bean! Each stage is its own kind of beautiful and its own kind of hard—and both will pass in God's timing (which, according to empty nesters, is in the blink of an eye).

Sections 5 and 6 are dedicated to our cubs—the regular prayers that everyone needs for spiritual formation and the specific prayers our kids need for the world in which they are growing up.

Sections 7 through 10 are focused more on things Mama Bears have to deal with, from interpersonal conflicts (section seven) to the exhaustion of motherhood in this crazy culture (chapter nine).

Sections 11 and 12 are self-explanatory.

A FEW MORE THINGS YOU'LL WANT TO KNOW...

We at Mama Bear Apologetics have always been about practicality, so we couldn't just leave you with prayers! Pay attention to the additional activities, ideas, encouragements, or journaling exercises that are included with some of the prayers.

Furthermore, we tried to create a template for you to personalize



Section 1

**SELFLESS PRAYERS
FOR SELF**



Wise Use of Money

Lord, You say so much about money in the Bible because You know how big of a stronghold money issues can become. I do not want You to ever have to compete for my heart. Keep my security in You, not in our bank account. Everything that is done in secret will be brought to light (Luke 8:17), so I pray that our family manages our resources in such a way that we'd have no shame if the whole world were to see how we earn, spend, and give.

God, I pray for holy conviction regarding how our family makes money. May we bring a ministry mindset into whatever our hands find to do (1 Corinthians 10:31), conducting ourselves with integrity, even if it costs us financially. I pray for enough godly ambition to provide amply for our family's present needs without indulging, and for wisdom to prepare for the future without hoarding. Convict my heart if I am ever given over to greedy accumulation.

I pray for unity in our family. Let how we spend money be a conscious decision rather than an unguided habit. Lord, prompt me to be a cheerful giver, sharing financially wherever I see You working. I pray that money would not just be a piece of paper, but that I would regard both my time and my resources as ways to support Your work here on earth.

