



### How Can I Have Meaningful Prayers?

1. Counsel with the Lord. As you bring your worries, joys, and decisions to Him, you can receive personal strength and knowledge. (See Alma 37:36-37.)
2. Express your gratitude. Recognizing your blessings rather than asking for things can be inspiring. (See Colossians 3:15.)
3. Pray for others. And not just for those you love. Seeking to help others keeps your heart full of humility and cleansed from pride. (See Helaman 3:33-35.)

## IT'S SNOW COINCIDENCE

**FOR A LONG TIME,** I wasn't really good at praying to my Heavenly Father. I was either too tired or would forget. Finally, for a Personal Progress experience, I challenged myself to start praying every night and every morning. I was doing really well and felt good too. I was waiting for some big moment to prove that God answered my prayers. That moment never came for me, but I did see God answer my little sister's prayer.

That weekend was the Daddy-Daughter

“Every sincere prayer is heard and answered by our Heavenly Father, but the answers we receive may not be what we expect or come to us when we want or in the way we anticipate.”

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Apr. 2008 general conference.

dance, and she was really excited. A couple of days before the dance, my stepdad called and said that his work schedule had changed, causing him to miss the dance. My little sister was devastated and my stepdad even cried when he gave the news.

But our sadness didn't last long. The next day, he called back to say that because of the incoming snowstorm he could come home and go to the dance! My little sister's eyes lit up with happiness as she said, “Whoa! I prayed last night that Daddy could make it to the dance!”

That night, I prayed to Heavenly Father and thanked Him for being there for my sister and my family. I learned that God does answer our prayers, although it may not be exactly when and how we want them answered. He wants us to be happy. He loves us! He promises to help and remember us. And it's our part to remember Him.

**Katie W., Washington, USA**

# EMBRACE YOUR FAITH

**ONE SUMMER** I participated in a youth leadership summit hosted by a popular teen magazine. Once there, I soon made friends with the other girls. We addressed important issues like how to overcome bullying, the smart use of technology and social media, and how to be a good friend.

During my group's free time, one of the girls pulled out her phone and began to watch a video that was very offensive. When I realized what they were watching, I was really confused. If we were the leaders, then why were they choosing to watch this awful video?

I asked them to turn the video off, which they did, but soon turned on another video that was even worse. I decided to walk away and left the room. Another girl followed close behind me, and we spent free time somewhere else.

I thought about Sister Ann M. Dibb's general conference talk, "I Know It. I Live It. I Love It" (Oct. 2012 general conference). When we really know, love, and embrace our faith in the Savior, we can receive the help we need when tough choices have to be made.

I had been taught the gospel my whole life. In that moment, I had been able to live what I knew to be right, but most importantly, I loved the peace I felt from making the right choice.

**Mia H., Missouri, USA**



# A DEAL WITH MOM

**WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD,** I really wanted a gaming console. I knew that my parents didn't really like video games, so I made a deal with my mom. I told her that I would serve a mission if she would buy me the one I wanted when I got back. Smiling, my mom jokingly said, "Son, I will even buy you two games to go with it."

Now that I'm 17 and seriously preparing to serve a mission, I realize how silly that deal was (though my mom and I still laugh about it). My motivation to serve has changed as my testimony and faith in Jesus Christ have grown. I want to share the joy and blessings that come with living the gospel.

I've found that going to seminary, studying my scriptures, praying, and helping with family home evening have helped me to feel more prepared to serve on my mission. I think it is up to us as youth to take the lead in preparing to serve. Maybe that's on a mission. Maybe it's attending the temple, participating in ordinances, and serving in the Church. Whatever we do, as long as what we want lines up with what God wants, we will be blessed.

**Brigham R., New Zealand**

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