

Prayer – The Necessary Resource for Families of the Frontier



Families of the Frontier tribes pray together because God calls His people to pray together.

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (James 5:16, ESV)

Prayer is an act of worship and order but is also sets the order of our gatherings. Prayer is how a community carries one another. Many of us find it easier to pray for someone else than to pray for ourselves. Praying together creates space for honesty. Earnestly asking how we can pray for another person opens a level of shared commitment to one another not easily replicated.

While we will all gladly pray for Aunt Martha’s bunions, the deeper hope is that tribe prayer becomes a place where members can lay real burdens on the table. We are standing together before our Heavenly Father, our King, and speaking our burdens to him.

“Brothers, pray for us.” (I Thessalonians 5:25, ESV)

At least twice a year, tribes are encouraged to gather specifically for prayer. During these times, adults, older children, and younger children may break into groups—by age or by men and women—to share personal needs and pray for one another in that moment. This is not forced, performative, or rushed. It is meant to be grounded, honest, and pastoral.

Prayer Begins at Home

Families of the Frontier tribes pray together intentionally, but this is never meant to replace families praying together in their own homes. Tribe prayer is a supplement, not the foundation. The foundation is family prayer, practiced intentionally and consistently within the household. If you read this resource and walk away with only one message, let it be this: pray with your family.

Our hope is that prayer within FOF meetings enriches and strengthens your family’s prayer life, not that it becomes a substitute for it. The most important spiritual formation does not happen in tribe gatherings. It happens around your own table, in your own living room, with the people God has placed directly in your care.

If you need help getting started, Families of the Frontier will continue to provide simple resources and guides for family prayer. But you do not need to wait. Start today. Pray the Lord’s Prayer together as a family.

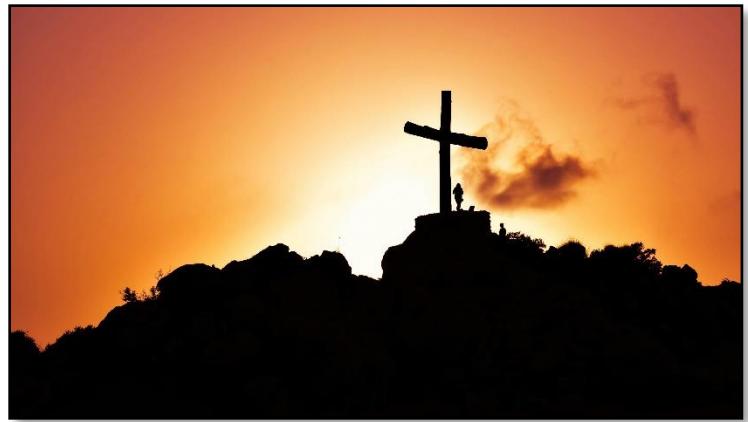


If you are praying together, you are doing family prayer rightly. Any added structure or complexity may be helpful for some, but it is never a requirement.

And if you have not prayed together as a family recently, put this resource down now and go pray with your family.

The Families of the Frontier Opening Prayer

Many outdoor and youth organizations use pledges, oaths, or mottos to open their meetings. Families of the Frontier opens with prayer.



This prayer sets the tone for who we are and why we gather. It reminds us that our work, our learning, and our time together are rooted in gratitude, responsibility, and trust in God. It frames the meeting not as a program to be consumed, but as a shared act of stewardship and formation.

Tribes are free to develop a more robust opening ceremony if they choose, using this prayer as a foundation. However, to be recognized as an official FOF meeting, the opening prayer must be spoken aloud together. This shared act matters. It unites families under a common purpose before anything else begins.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, You have given us this world to care for and enjoy. Thank you for the gift of family, for the beauty of Your creation, and for this time together.

Strengthen our hands for good work. Give us wisdom as we learn. Turn our hearts toward You in all we do.

As we walk the trails, tend the land, and practice new skills, remind us that You are our light, our sustainer, and our guide.

Bless this gathering that we may grow in skill, in fellowship, and in faith through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introduction to the Closing Prayer

A closing prayer is optional, not required.

When used, it serves as a simple act of gratitude and reorientation: thanking God for the time together and asking for faithfulness as families return to their daily work. This may also work well as a time where known prayer requests from the community may be prayed for publicly. But a closing prayer does not need to be long or formal. Its purpose is to send families out mindful that formation does not end when the meeting does.



Some tribes will use a closing prayer regularly. Others will reserve it for longer gatherings, feast days, or service projects. Both approaches are faithful. The goal is not uniformity, but reverence and intention. Here is a sample closing prayer:

Lord God, we thank You for this time together and for the work of our hands. Keep us safe, strengthen our families, and bring us back together with joy. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

A closing prayer, when used, helps mark a clear end to the gathering while reminding families that their calling continues beyond the meeting. It sends them back into their homes, work, and daily responsibilities with gratitude and purpose, rather than simply dispersing them as a group that has finished an activity. Whether spoken every time or only on occasion, the closing prayer reinforces that Families of the Frontier is not confined to scheduled meetings, but is lived out in the ordinary faithfulness of family life between them.

Families of the Frontier is not built on constant activity, rigid programming, or performative words, but on shared life ordered toward God. The opening prayer at every meeting anchors the tribe in gratitude, humility, and purpose before any work begins. Consistent opportunities to pray together give families a rhythm of shared dependence and mutual care, strengthening bonds that go beyond skills or schedules. This practice also assumes and supports the deeper work already happening in homes, where families are praying together regularly on their own. If tribes are faithful to these simple habits, prayer will quietly shape their culture, deepen trust, and keep Families of the Frontier rooted under God, for the good of families, and for the forming of the next generation.
