



# Vacation Prayer in the Car with Tired Children

Oh, God of Peace, invade our car and turn it into a haven of peace and quiet for just a little while.

Give the children a little patience with one another  
and us a lot more patience with them.

In the miles to go before we stop,  
help them realize their power to make each other happy or unhappy.

Make them willing to share the windows,  
to stop touching each other,

to stop asking when we'll get there.

Help us to hold our tempers for just a few more miles.

Adapted from [Family Prayer/The Complete Guide for Praying Families](#) by Dolores Curran. Twenty-Third Publications. West Mystic, CT. 1978.

## ***Make Reading a Part of Your Summer!***

### **Raising Readers in the ELECTRONIC AGE**

In today's media-rich age, good old-fashioned reading is still at the heart of academic achievement. It is easy to see why research clearly shows that reading is one of the strongest predictors of school success. Reading opens the doors to new people, places, and cultures, stimulates the imagination like no other medium can, and reinforces organized thinking.

*Here is a list of tips for parents to help young readers blossom as they grow:*

- ✓ Let your child see how important reading is by doing it yourself and having bookshelves your child can reach.
- ✓ **Read to your child every day.**
- ✓ Make **library visits** a regular routine.
- ✓ **Books on tape** can help pass the time on long road trips.
- ✓ Set aside time as a family to read for fun by making **bedtime stories** a day-end ritual.
- ✓ **Give books** as gifts.
- ✓ Make sure you have a comfortable, well-lit place to **cuddle together with a book.**
- ✓ **Make a book** by inviting your child to tell a story about anything she wants while you write it down.
- ✓ Select media products that **promote reading.**
- ✓ As your children get older, **read longer chapter books and poetry** to them.

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### ***Prayer Before Reading to a Small Child***

Thank you for this bonus, Lord, this moment of intimacy and sharing between me and my child. Let me savor the quiet joy we give to one another. Help me to make time to read together again tomorrow because the day after tomorrow he will be reading to himself and will be much too grown up to pull my arm around him and open a story that transports us together to another time and place. And for those families who have never read together, I pray, Lord, that they try it just once. Amen.

Dolores Curran, [Family Prayer/The Complete Guide for Praying Families](#). West Mystic, CT. Twenty-Third Publications. 1978.