

IN STEP

WITH

CHRIST

PRAYERS AND
DEVOTIONS
FOR FATHERS

Creative
Communications
Sample

IN STEP WITH CHRIST... AND WITH OURSELVES

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

EPHESIANS 2:10

As Christian fathers — if we are responsive to the call inherent in our roles as the biological creators and cultural and religious nurturers of our children — we spend much of our time providing and caring for others. It's what we do.

And like all creators, we are merely weak reflections of the original Creator, poor copies of the Father of all. “We are his workmanship, created for good works,” Paul writes to the Ephesians. We are made to care for others, but in order to respond to those immense responsibilities, we must learn to care for ourselves first. That self-care begins with prayer and with our connection to the giver of life. I hope these short reflections and “considerations and prayers” will give you a place to begin, a moment within your day that will nudge you into a closer relationship with God — Father, creator, nurturer, and role model for all that we live and do.

— Steve Givens

IN STEP WITH MY SPOUSE

Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

EPHESIANS 5:28

When my wife and I were newlyweds, I remember asking her frequently, “Do you love me?” I thought she did, of course, but at that early stage of our life together I needed to be reminded. Over the years, the need for that question and answer faded as our experiences with and our respect for one another replaced any lingering doubts.

Our lives became one in Christ on our wedding day, but it takes a lifetime of physical, emotional and spiritual caring for one another to bring love to life and make it more than a greeting card sentiment. Love, we come to learn, is a gift from God that flows through us and becomes real as we share it with another and, especially, with our spouses.

CONSIDER AND PRAY

Lord, show me what can I do today to love my wife more fully and allow her to feel more loved.

IN STEP WITH WORK & RESPONSIBILITIES

Entrust your works to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.

PROVERBS 16:3

One of my favorite sayings is the old Yiddish expression: “People make plans and God laughs.” In our human wisdom, we think we have it all figured out and know all the answers. We think we must plan our lives from beginning to end and “live that plan” if we want to succeed. That’s not bad advice for much of our lives, but it’s not nearly enough.

Plans are good things, but unless and until we include God in them, we are building lives without a proper and lasting foundation. And they will crumble. Instead of just making plans, open your life to God and allow him to be the author of your dreams. Work and study hard, but do so with the knowledge and faith that God is in charge.

CONSIDER AND PRAY

All-knowing God, may my plan for my life include all the dreams you have for me.

IN STEP ON THE FIELD OF PLAY

Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Every two years, many turn their eyes to the Olympic games, hoping to catch some moment of greatness and see the world's best athletes compete. It can be a wondrous, inspiring time. Unfortunately, there is also a dark side. We see gloating winners and name-calling losers, and poor sportsmanship gets shrugged off as "competitive spirit."

As fathers, we are often coaches and spectators at our children's sporting events, where it is tempting to relive our glory days (or the lack thereof) through these young athletes. This is one of our greatest challenges. Can we build confidence without criticizing them and down-playing others? Are we strong enough to leave sarcasm and name calling outside the lines of our children's lives? They don't need it, and neither do we.

CONSIDER AND PRAY

God of all wins and losses, what can I do today to encourage my children in their activities and dreams?

IN STEP WITH CHRIST

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EPHESIANS 2:10

Receive encouragement as a faithful father, grandfather, step-father, man of faith with this handy two-week devotional. Through fourteen devotions in *In Step With Christ*, author (and father) Steve Givens helps provide much needed scriptural support to men as they walk faithfully each day as Christ-led and Christ-like examples to their children and families.