

THIS DEVOTIONAL BELONGS TO:

How is your Fruit?

"Each tree is recognized by its own fruit" (Luke 6:44).

Galatians 5:22-25 tells us how Christians should live. We don't have to guess. God has shown us in His word. Our trees - our lives, should reflect only God's character: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

These characteristics describe how we treat others: patience, kindness, and gentleness. They describe our values of goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. And last but not least, how we express our love, joy, and peace.

In Galatians, Paul illustrates the only 2 paths we can follow after the world (flesh) or after the Spirit (God). We can follow any path we choose but must remember each path will have an eternal consequence. The fruit that grows on our trees will be determined by the path we follow. The question remains, "How is your fruit?"

<u>Activity: How is your Fruit</u>

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and selfcontrol; against such things, there is no law. Galations S: 22 - 23 ESV

Directions: Rate yourself to see how your "fruit" is doing

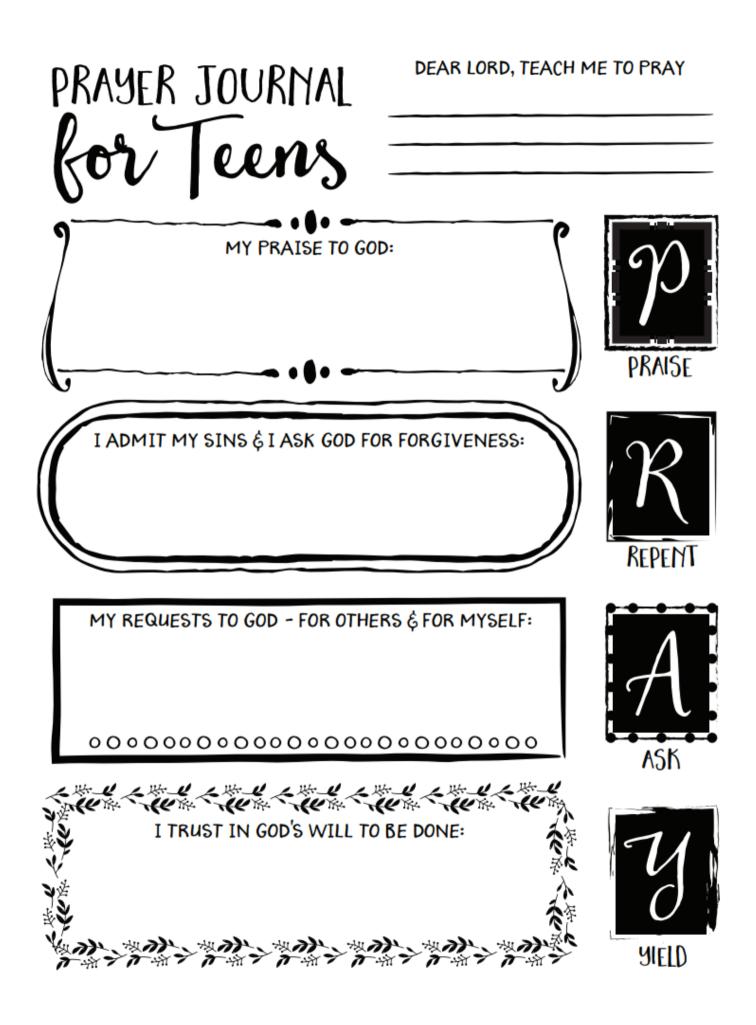
- 1 = Great
- 2 = Okay, but need some improvement
- 3 = Need some help



- ____ Love____ Patience____Faithfulness--- Joy____ Kindness____ Gentleness____ Peace____ Goodness____ Self-Control
- If you don't know what a word means, use a dictionary, computer or ask your parents.



<u>Think about it</u> How can you grow better fruit?



<u>Joy</u>

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hope, joy, and peace-these are the words of God. We have the hope that as we trust in God, He will fill us with His joy and peace.

Proverbs 17:22 (ESV)

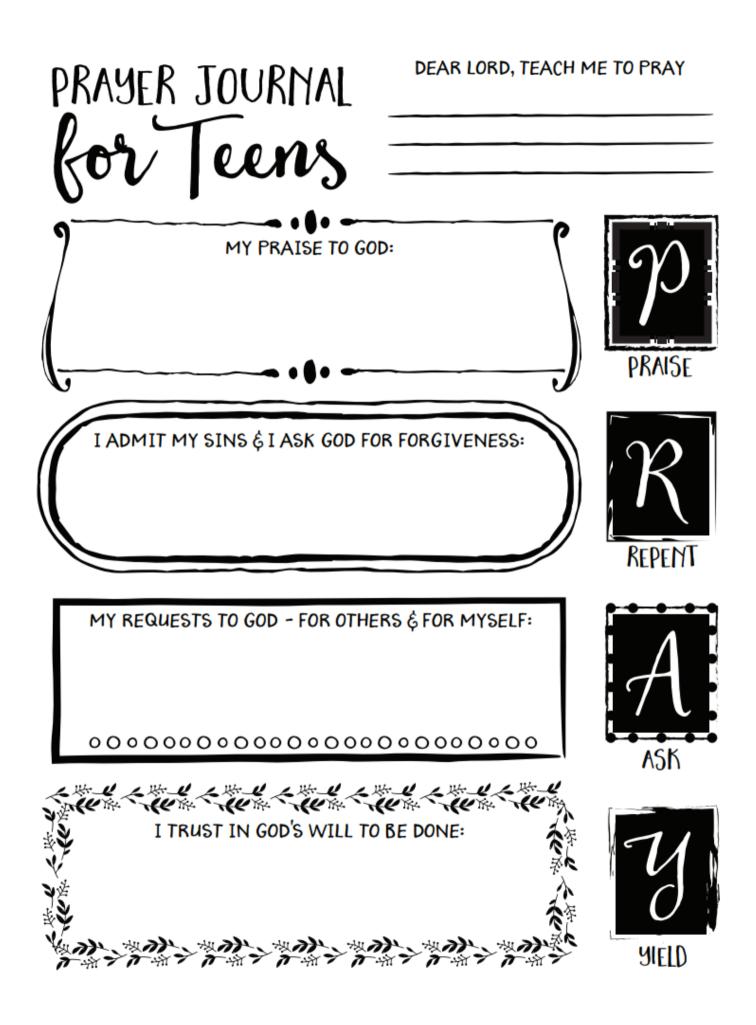
A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Joy is good for our souls. It is also contagious. When we choose joy, it will spill over to others around us.

<u>James 1:2-4 (NIV)</u>

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

It is easy to have joy when things are going well, but trials can crush the spirit. Remember, trials have a purpose and knowing God will help us through them and will help us remain joyful.



<u>Love</u>

John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

One of God's attributes is love. He is love. And to demonstrate that love to us, He gave His one and only Son to die on the cross for us, to take our place and allow for the forgiveness of our sin.

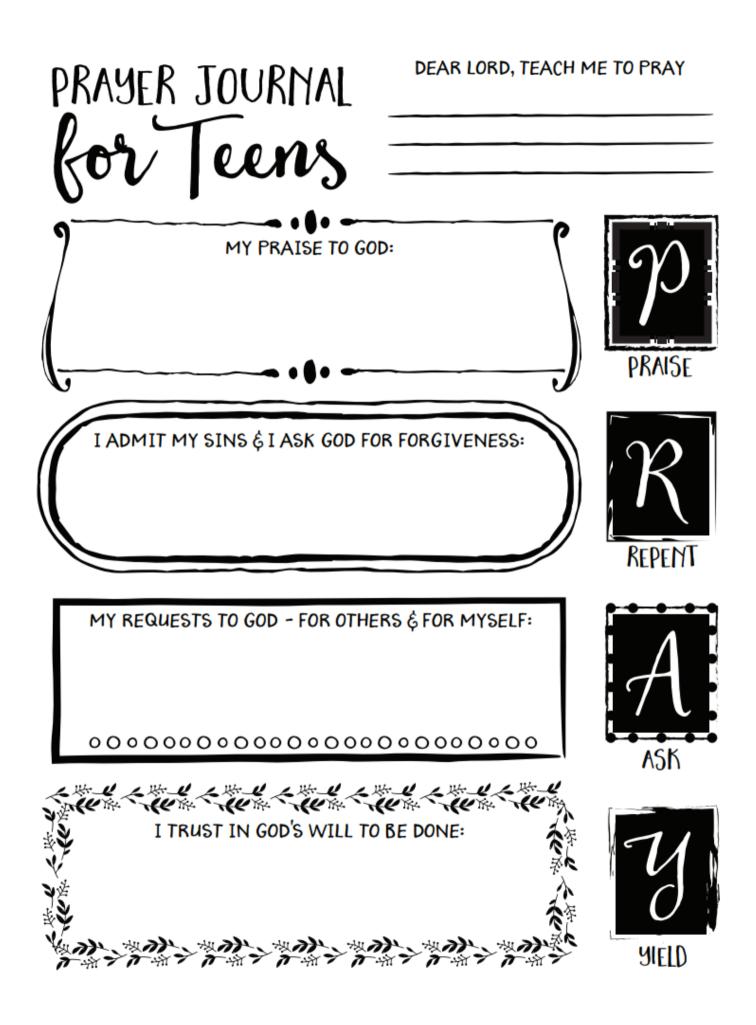
<u>1 John 4:19 (NIV)</u>

We love because he first loved us.

When we understand God's love for us, we can understand how we can love those people who can be harder to love. No matter what, we are all sinners and God loves each of us. When we realize this, we can love people God has placed in our classroom, neighborhood, and family.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.



Peace

Colossians 3:15 (NIV)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

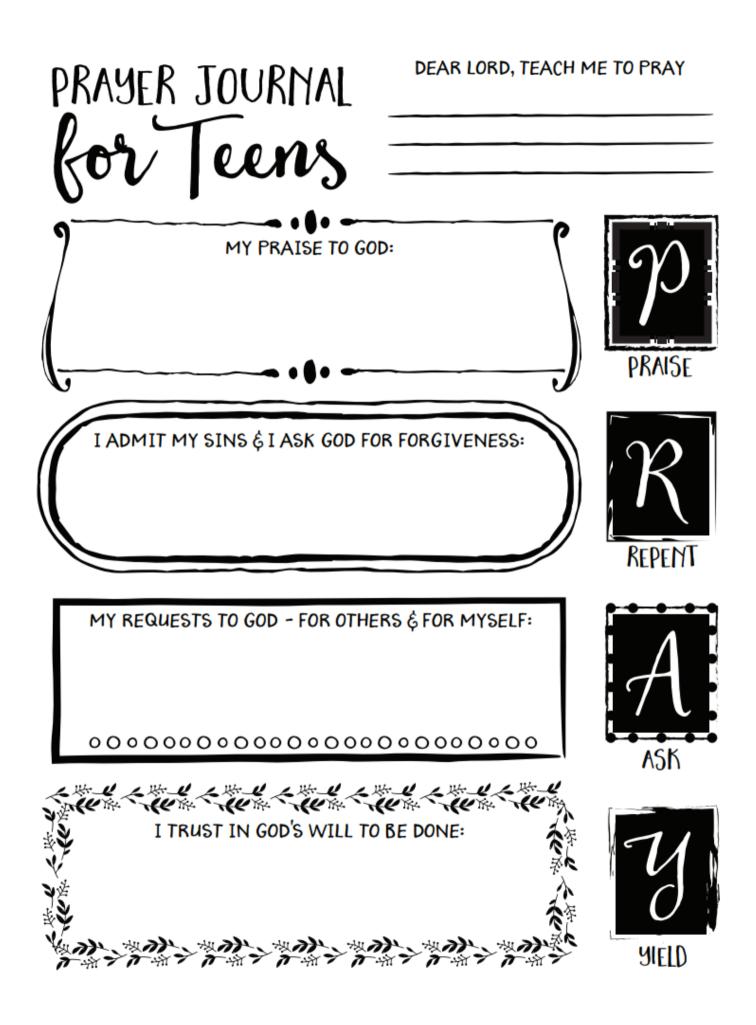
Peace ruling in our hearts means we have the assurance of Christ's forgiveness: in other words, God is "at peace" with us through Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross. When we have peace in our hearts, we trust that Christ loves us and that gives us a deep sense of comfort and rest.

<u>Romans 12:18 (NLT)</u>

Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

This means choosing to overlook small offenses, praying for God's help when you're having a hard time getting along, and choosing to focus on the good that their siblings do rather than complaining about them.

This is tough! But it is possible, with the peace of Christ in our hearts. See how one type of biblical peace leads right into another? When Jesus gives us peace, we can extend that peaceable spirit to others.



Patience

<u>Psalm 40:1 (NIV)</u>

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

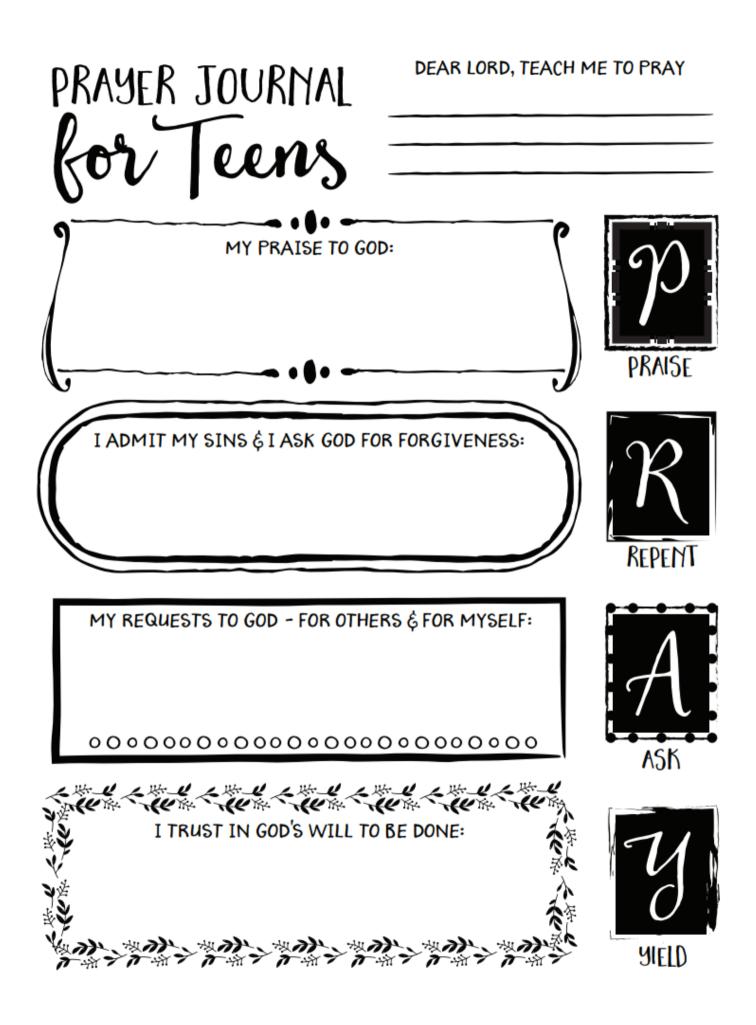
Inclined means God leaned into or came towards us. This means God is near as we wait. He understands our struggle and will help us if we ask Him to.

<u>Galatians 6:9</u> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

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It is easy to have joy when things are going well, but trials can crush the spirit. Remember, trials have a purpose and knowing God will help us through them and will help us remain joyful.



<u>Goodness</u>

Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Roamans 8:28

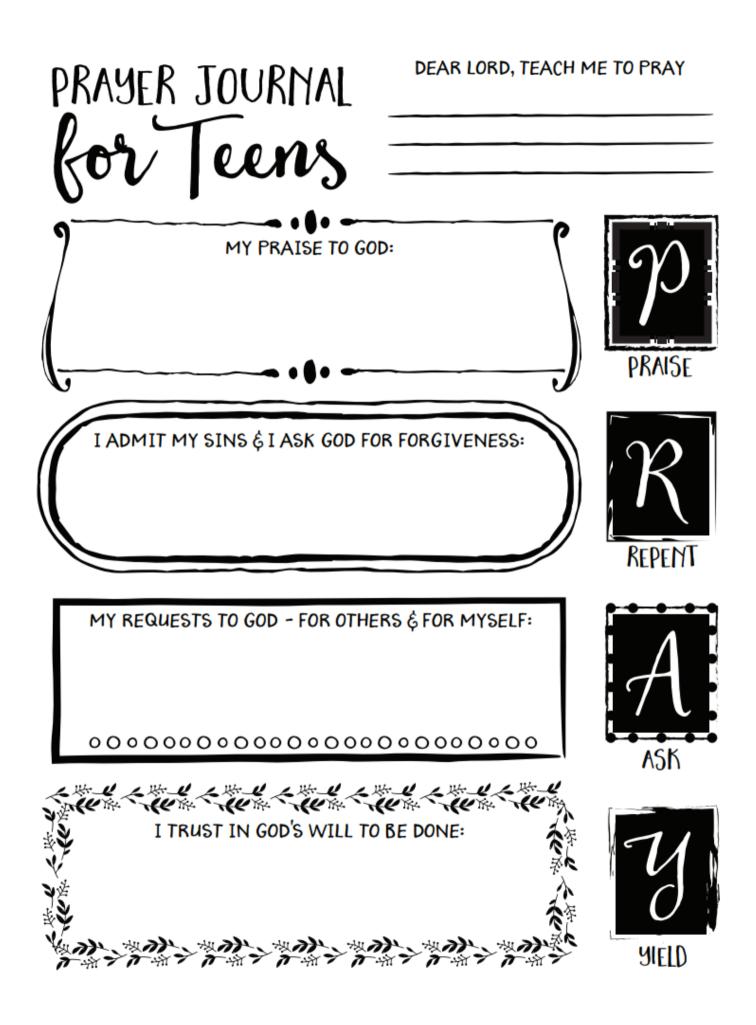
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Psalms 23:6

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Luke 6:35 (ESV)

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.



Kindness

<u>Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)</u>

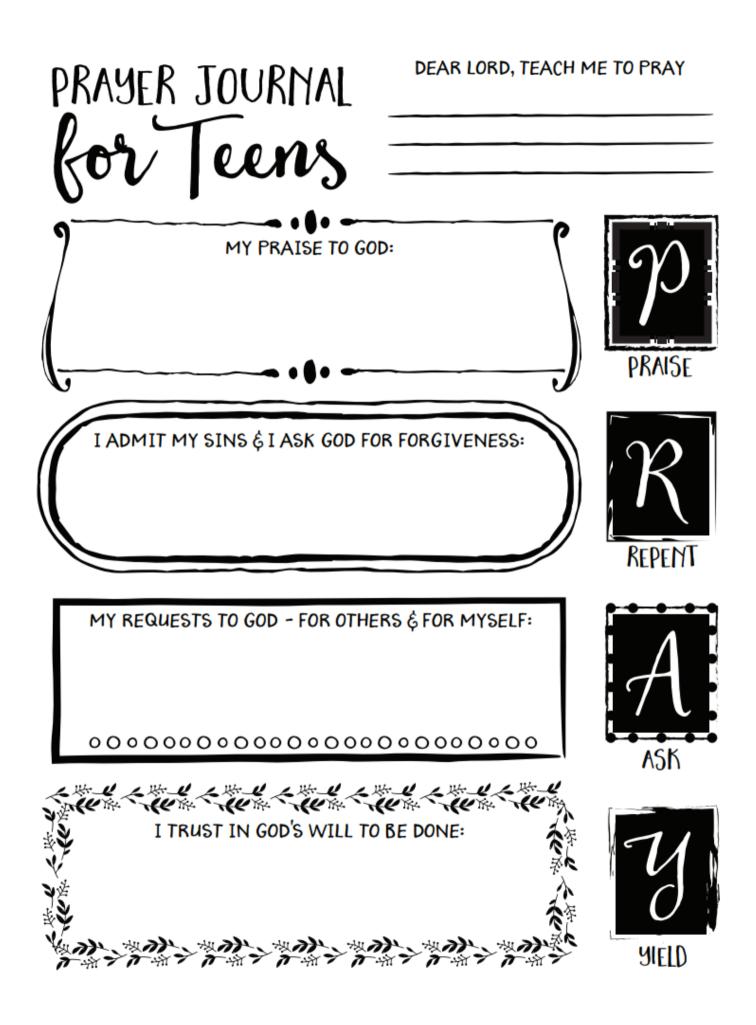
The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Did you know?! Kindness is originally from the Lord. God draws us to Himself with unfailing kindness. Kindness that never fails no matter how rude, disrespectful, or disobedient we are to Him. Wow!

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Paul writes to the Romans and Ephesians, reminding them to remember God's kindness to us. God's kindness goes hand in hand with His desire for us to be reunited with Him through repentance. As we see God's forgiveness of our own sin, it will make it easier to forgive others and interact with them with thankfulness in our hearts to God!



<u>Faithful(ness)</u>

1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

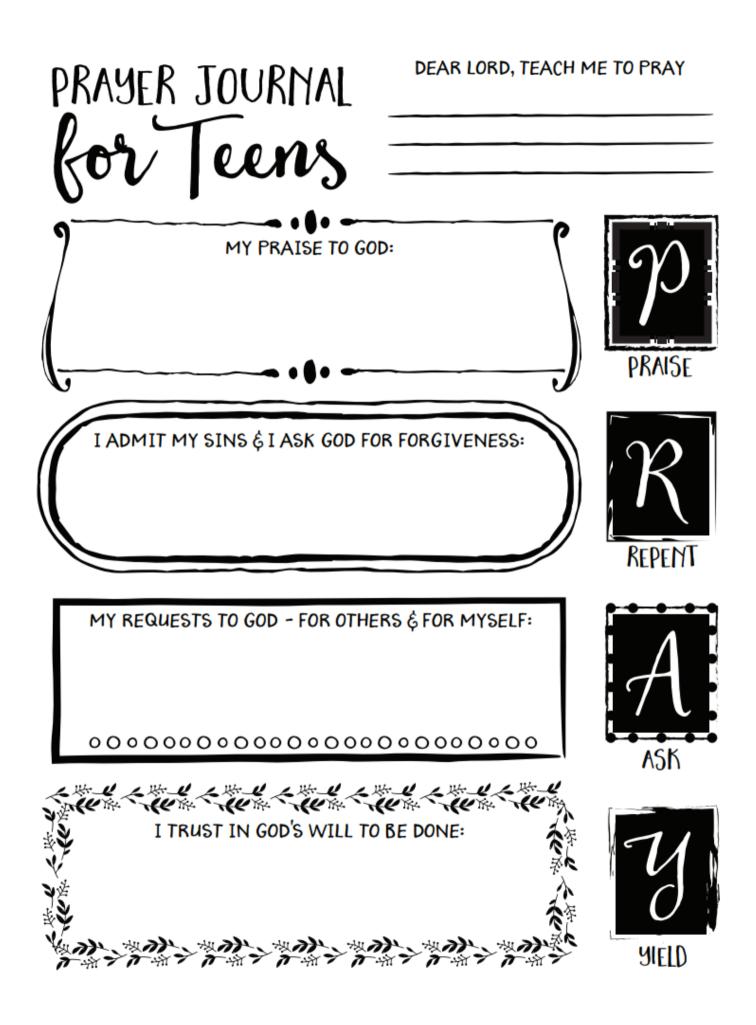
No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

<u> 1 John 1:9</u>

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

PMatthew 25:21 (ESV)

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'



<u>Gentle(ness)</u>

Philippians 4:5 (NIV)

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Matthew 11:29 (ESV)

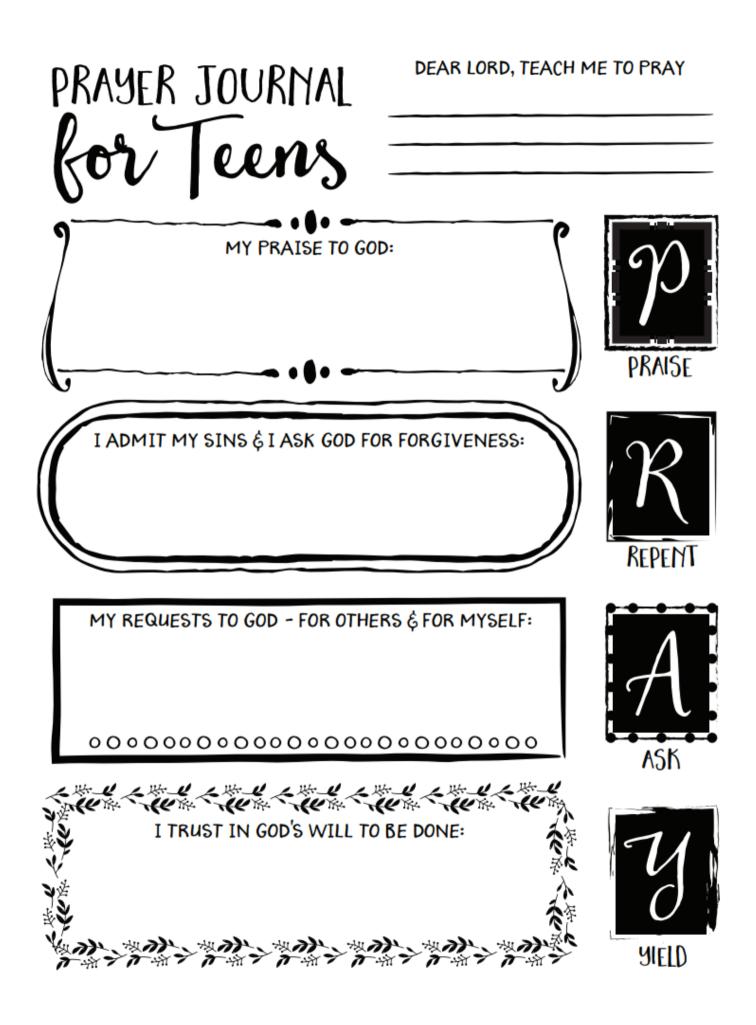
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

I Timothy 6:11 (ESV)

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.



Self-Control

Proverbs 25:28 (NIV)

Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.

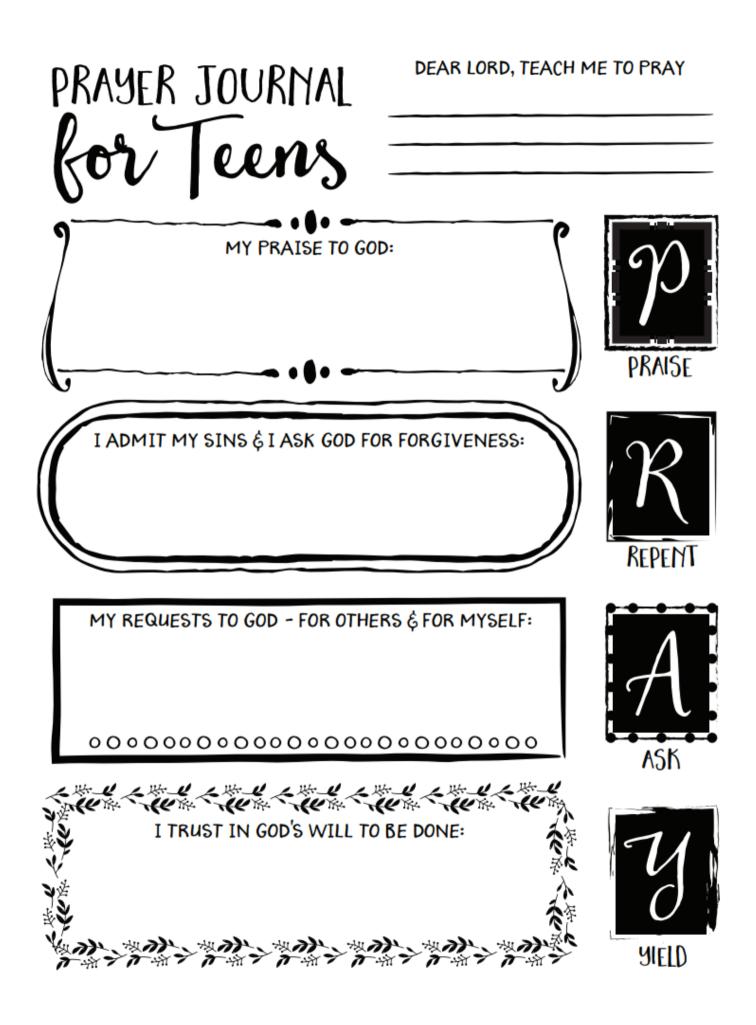
Proverbs 29:11 (NIRV)

Foolish people let their anger run wild. But wise people keep themselves under control.

<u>Peter 5:8-9</u>

Control yourselves. Be on your guard. Your enemy the devil is like a roaring lion. He prowls around looking for someone to chew up and swallow. Stand up to him. Stand firm in what you believe.

Self-control is the preeminent virtue that will keep us from our enemy and his evil plans for us. He comes to steal, kill and destroy —to chew and swallow us up! But, when we are self-controlled, we can be on our guard and stand firm in God and His truth!



WORD SEARCH

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PATIENCE FAITHFULNESS SELF-CONTROL KINDNESS GENTLENESS PEACE JOY GOODNESS LOVE

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