

Faith@Home

Deployment Family Connection

Prayer Paper Chain

Best Use

As a family night activity leading up to a deployment

Value

Preparing your family to value prayer as the deployment approaches while providing a daily visual reminder of that value.

Advance Preparation

Cut enough one-inch wide strips of paper for each day or week of the deployment. Cutting strips along the full width of the paper works best. Items you will need:

- Prepared strips of paper
- Tape or glue stick
- Pen

The Activity

Have children write dates on the middle of the strips, beginning with the first day (or week) of deployment and ending with the expected date of return. If the deployment has already begun, you can begin with today's date.

On each strip, either next to the date or on the back of the paper, have children write a short prayer request for your service member, yourself or your children. Some ideas include...

- Health
- Safety
- Integrity
- Purity
- Strength
- Wisdom
- Kindness
- Self-discipline

Feel free to repeat any as you go along.

Instruct the children how to make links out of the papers. Then link the papers together to form a paper chain. Be sure to keep the dates in order.

Read Philippians 4:6-7 and discuss the value of prayer.

Memorize:

"While (insert Mommy or Daddy)'s away, we will all pray."

Find a place in your house to display the chain where it is a visual reminder to pray for that date's request. As time passes, allow the children to take turns tearing off the chain link and have a short time of prayer with them for that request. The smaller the chain gets, the closer you are to having your loved one home again!