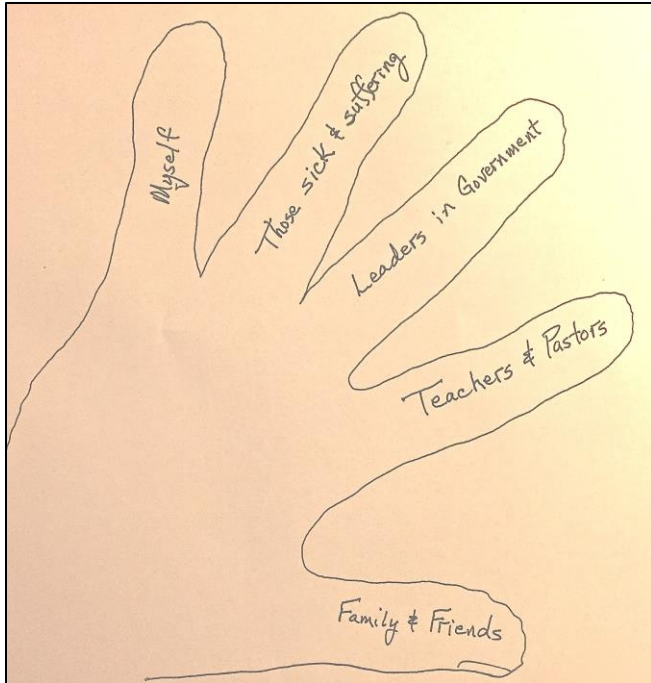


UCA Five-Finger Prayer for Families

The parent/grandparent/leader says: “We are going to pray to God using the five-finger prayer pattern. Each one of us will take a turn speaking the names of the people who God brings to our mind as we pray in each of the five following ways.



1. Our thumb is closest to us, so we begin by naming of family members and friends we want to lift to God today. [Allow each child and adult in the prayer circle to name a few people who are family and friends.] After all have spoken, then say, “Thank you, God, for hearing these prayers for our family and friends.”

2. Now go to the pointer finger—which reminds us to pray for those who point the way, pastors, teachers (at school and at church), and small group leaders. [Allow each child and adult in the prayer circle to name a few people.] After all have spoken, say, “Thank you, God, for hearing our prayer for our pastor(s), teachers and spiritual leaders.”

3. Next is the middle finger. Because it stands out the most, we use it to remind us to pray for the leaders of our nation and the nations of the world. We can also pray for our police officers, soldiers and fire fighters. [Allow each child and adult in the prayer circle to name a few people.] After all have spoken, say, “Thank you, God, for hearing our prayer for these leaders.”

4. The ring finger is the weakest finger; so, we use it to remind us of those who are sick or suffering. [Allow each child and adult in the prayer circle to name a few people who are sick or troubled.] After all have spoken, say, “Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers.”

5. The last finger is the little finger—we use it to remind us to pray for our own needs and concerns last. God cares for everyone in the world and God cares about each of us. [Allow each child and adult in the prayer circle to name the things they need God to help them with.] After all have spoken, say, “Thank you, God, that you know our needs and hear our prayers.”

After all have spoken, you may conclude with these words or others of your own choosing:
“Loving God, we thank you for hearing these prayers that we offer to you in Jesus name.”

Blessing: We conclude the prayer time by laying our hands on the head of each child and saying:
“You are our beloved {son/daughter} and we bless you now--in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.”