

MAY BATTLE PLAN

Focus on El Shaddai: Lord God Almighty

PREVIEW

*“Receive instruction from his mouth,
and place his sayings in your heart...
Then you will delight in the Almighty
and lift up your face to God.”*

Job 22:22, 26

May Agenda

- Fellowship
- Focus on El Shaddai: Lord God Almighty
- Worship
- Requests & Celebrations
- Prayer

Fellowship Starters

The host can ask these questions while mingling or once everyone is seated:

- What has been your favorite road trip or vacation?
- What is one fictional character that you wish was a real person?

Focus on El Shaddai: Lord God Almighty

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty (El Shaddai); walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Genesis 17:1-2

Abraham was 100 years old when God finally gave him the son that was promised 25 years earlier. Twenty. Five. Years.

We get impatient waiting in line for five minutes! And when answers to prayer aren't as swift as we hope, it can cause us to question God. At 99 years old, that's exactly what Abraham does:

...But God, I still don't have a child. (vs. 15:2)

...But God, surely my inheritance will go to a servant. (vs. 15:3)

...But God, how can I believe any of this will happen? (vs. 15:8)

...but God, but God!

Nothing about it made sense, so surely it was time to take matters into his own hands...to help God out. Abraham and his wife begin to plot, with the best intentions, and to find a way for Abraham to have a child with another woman. Then, God's promise will be fulfilled. And soon, Ishmael was born.

But 13 years later, God returned with his original promise, making it clear that Ishmael was not the child God promised. In fact, the promised child would be born

to Abraham's wife. His *old* wife. And again, he tries to make sense of it.

Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!" (Genesis 17:17-18)

We are fixers. When circumstances are difficult and confusing in our lives or the lives of our kids, we can get impatient and jump into action, with the best intentions. But what if God has a better plan? What if he wants us to simply be still and *wait* for him to work things out for a greater good?

When Abraham became impatient, God said: "I am El Shaddai; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant..." In other words, *I am in control. Focus on doing what's right and let me take care of the rest.*

El Shaddai has absolute power over every circumstance and every situation. He caused a ninety-year-old woman to give birth and he has the power to provide, supply, nourish, and satisfy our every need...if and when he chooses. When the waiting gets long and your heart can't make sense of it, trust that El Shaddai knows and that he is working things out in his perfect timing.

Making it Personal

What am I continuing to wait for in my life or the lives of my adult children?

In what ways do I find myself plotting to intervene?

Write a prayer, asking God to calm your heart, give you patience as you wait, and increase your trust in him as El Shaddai.

Worship Songs about Our God Almighty:

The following songs may be used to worship God as you prepare your heart to pray. An easy way to find them is to search “Your Soul to Keep Playlist” on Spotify, where the lyrics will scroll for most songs as you listen. If you are going through an especially difficult time, see the “Songs for Extra Hard Days” list on page 301.

- El Shaddai | Amy Grant
- Good God Almighty | Crowder
- Holy Holy Holy | Hillsong UNITED
- Salt & Light | Lauren Daigle
- _____
- _____

May Requests & Celebrations

Use the following pages to record prayer requests and celebrations for each adult child. Remember, no need to fill every box. Simply share as desired.

May Requests & Celebrations for: _____

Consider: Celebrations, Mind, Body, Soul, Career & Finances, Family, Relationships

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PREVIEW

May Requests & Celebrations for: _____

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PREVIEW

My Requests & Celebrations for: _____

Consider: Celebrations, Mind, Body, Soul, Career & Finances, Family, Relationships

My Requests & Celebrations for: _____

Consider: Celebrations, Mind, Body, Soul, Career & Finances, Family, Relationships

May Prayers

Praising El Shaddai, God Almighty

Just as David praised you as God Almighty in front of his whole kingdom, we also praise you as the one and only eternal God. You are great in power and glory. Everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you. Our lives and families are yours and we pray that you are praised as the leader of our steps and the King of our hearts. Riches and honor come from you; you are the ruler of everything. Power and might are in your hand; you give greatness and strength. We desire to serve you and to serve others. Give our children undivided hearts that are fully dedicated to you so they will seek your wisdom and carry out your plan. We give you thanks and praise your glorious name. (David's Prayer: 1 Chronicles 29:10-20)

Experience God's Power

Jesus, awake your resurrection power in the hearts and minds of our adult kids. When Lazarus died, you were troubled by your own grief and troubled by the confusion you saw in others. By the time you arrived at his tomb, it was already filled with the stench of death and still you raised your face to heaven and thanked God in advance for the miracle that was about to take place. Your words defeated death and brought Lazarus out of the tomb, fully alive. At that moment you chose LIFE for him. Right now, we claim that resurrection power for our kids. Where their minds, bodies, or souls are being choked by darkness, bring new light and life to their souls. We raise our faces to you, just as Jesus did, and thank you in advance for your saving power. (John 11:33-40, John 11:41-44, Romans 6:4)

Protection from Evil

Jesus, when you were tempted in the desert the enemy twisted scripture, trying to confuse you, and he does the same thing to our kids. He whispers things that seem right and good but only lead to spiritual and emotional death. Please flood their minds with your Spirit of Truth so they will recognize deception before doing anything that harms themselves or others. Open their eyes to the danger of lustful thoughts and actions so their relationships will be protected and remain pure. Lord, please hear us and bring victory over evil. Help us to trust you completely with our adult kids and to remember that you are the only one who can truly protect them. Fill them with this knowledge so they will turn to you for help when they face spiritual battles of all sorts and trust you as their only deliverer. (Matthew 4, Matthew 5:27-28, Psalm 20:6-8.)

Desire to Know God

Dear Lord, you promise to pour your Spirit into the lives of those who humble themselves. Cause our adult kids to recognize their need for you; may they see that no earthly possession, relationship, accomplishment, or activity will ever satisfy their deepest desires. Where earthly things have become idols, bring our kids to their senses so they know that they will never have hope of worth apart from you. When making decisions about their daily lives, prompt them to pray. Your Word says, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord." May this be true of our kids so they experience answered prayer that causes them to rise up and stand firm in their faith. If their hearts become hard, humble them so they will never be ashamed of the gospel. Instead, may they find strength and power and purpose in your salvation. (Joel 2:28, Psalm 20:7-9, Romans 1:16)

Healthy Relationships

We pray that the relationships of our adult kids will overflow with Godly love. As spouses, parents, employees, and friends, may their words and actions be examples of your grace, patience, and kindness. Instead of being harsh or rude when they are frustrated, fill their mouths with life-giving words that teach and encourage others. Where our kids are being mistreated by others, give them the strength to say, "Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing," and then give them the wisdom and strength to either speak truth or stay silent. In marriage, may our daughters find joy and purpose in submitting to the leadership of their husbands. As they do this, may their husbands respond with gentleness and kindness - loving and protecting their wives as you love and protect your church. (1 Corinthians 13:4, Ephesians 4:26-27, Luke 23:34, Colossians 3:18-19)

Financial Peace

Isaac planted crops that reaped a hundredfold because you blessed him and he became wealthy. Likewise, we pray that our adult kids will experience financial blessing as they strive to be good stewards of their money and material things. Your word says, "Whoever loves money never has enough." Protect our kids from greed so they will be grateful for everything they have and never be defeated by discontentment. By your Spirit, motivate them to work hard every day, not just to accumulate possessions, but to provide for their needs and bless others. Most of all, may they honor you with their finances. Help us to be Godly examples of good stewardship and to honor you with our earthly treasures. (Genesis 26:12-14, Ecclesiastes 5:10)

Live with Hope and Purpose

Dear Jesus, your Word brings encouragement and hope for the future, so we pray that your Holy Spirit will prompt our adult kids to read the Bible and to use it as a tool for making decisions. May they fall in love with your Truth and walk into the future with a strong sense of purpose as they draw near to you. Open their eyes to anyone causing them to wander away from you and from anything robbing them of hope. Please give them the strength to reject anything that isn't your best for them. May they see the future with pure eyes and a peaceful heart, free from anxious thoughts, so they will hear your voice directing their steps. Where they feel "stuck" in any situation, penetrate their minds with the desire to press on with diligent and grateful hearts as they wait for you to lead them to something better. (Romans 15:4, Psalm 139:19-24, 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Wisdom for Parenting

Father, whether our kids are the parents of toddlers or teenagers – or they aren't parents yet – please make them powerfully aware of the importance of raising children with the knowledge that you are their Creator, their wisdom for life, and their hope for eternity. The Bible says that the reward for this type of parenting is the assurance that their children will be grounded in Truth, always returning to you no matter how far they stray. You promise that discipline leads to a harvest of righteousness and peace, so teach our kids to follow through on what they say – never speaking empty threats or ignoring disobedience. And as they discipline, may their words be seasoned with grace so our grandkids begin to understand that they receive discipline for their good and because they are deeply loved. (Proverbs 22:6, Hebrews 12:11, James 2:13)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

You have reached the end of this preview.

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