When Should I Pray?
by Susanna Martinez

Happy Sabbath boys and girls. It's my opportunity once again to bring the story.

Now I've been thinking, I know a lot of us already started school. And there's a lot of earthquakes happening around us, huh? There's a lot of fires too in California. I don't know if you've seen it on the news or even smelled it, but it made me think, what do I do when I feel a little scared? You know what I do? I usually pray because I know that Jesus will always help me. God wants us to know that He's our friend, our father, and He will always protect us.

Then I found this prayer, even though it says a prayer for the first day of school, but I really liked what it said. The first one, it says, Open my eyes so that I can see new friends. Open my ears to hear my teacher. Open my mind to it's kind of hard to read backwards to learning things. Open my hands to help others. Open my mouth to speak kind words. Open my heart to love like you. I know you are always with me when I'm at school. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

I really like this because it has given a picture and it helps us boys and girls. So whenever you are in school or anywhere that you might feel a little afraid, a little nervous, know that Jesus will always be with you. He's only a prayer away. That's all we need to do. And He will comfort us. No matter what we're going through, He knows how to make it better.

Now I have a new group of kids and I've been praying a lot. Some of my students need a lot of extra help, and I'm there to help them. And I ask my mommy, mom, can you please pray for me? I know my siblings are praying for me too, but I get a lot of patience to work with my students. And you know what? Maybe you too can pray for your teachers. Because sometimes it's hard for all of us, that if we pray, it's going to be a lot easier for us to make it through. And it's so simple. We don't need much. We can do it anywhere. You don't necessarily need to close your eyes. You can have a prayer in your brain. And Jesus will be able to hear it because God knows everything about us. He

doesn't need for us to move our lips. He understands what we go through. And I know it helps all of us feel better. So, this semester, I want you to focus on that so that we can see, hear, think, use our hands, our lips, our kind words so that others see Jesus through us. So remember that Jesus is just a prayer away. I hope you enjoy that and if you see me at church I'll have copies of these come up to me and I'll give you one.

Let's bow our heads. Dear Heavenly Father, thank you dear Lord for all the blessings that we have. Allow us to be patient, allow us to see students who are in need around us. Most importantly, help us to be an example dear Lord. Help us to always be praying so that we're never afraid or alone because we know you are with us. For we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Bye boys and girls!