



Story Time

The Five Finger Prayer

A child asked God, “How should I pray so that you will listen to my prayers?” God responded, “It’s very easy to pray in the order of the fingers of your hand. Your thumb is the nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for loved ones is sweet duty.



The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers and doctors and saints. They need wisdom and support for guiding others. Keep them in your prayers.

The next finger is the longest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, the leaders in society, industry and administration. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need guidance.

The fourth is the ring finger. It is the weakest finger. Therefore, it reminds us of those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night.

And last, comes the little finger, the smallest finger of all. It is here that you should place yourself in relation to Me and others. It reminds you to pray for yourself. After praying for others, it will become easy for you to pray for yourself.

My child, if you pray this way, I will listen to your prayers. Now go share this with your friends," said God. And the Lord blessed the little boy.

LESSON FROM THE STORY

We should remember and pray for those who have given us love, care, guidance and support. We should also pray for those who are selflessly working for the sake of others, as well as for those who are suffering. In this way we develop a heart full of compassion. Such a heart easily softens as we pray for ourselves. This was the way the great devotee Prahlad prayed for the welfare of all living beings.