

Back to School

—→ with God ←—



Prayers for Schools

*Before the service, identify individuals willing to take part by leading in the following prayers. We suggest a child, teenager, a student and an adult (a parent, someone who works or volunteers in a school, or someone in the church family with a heart to pray for schools.) If you would like to have a responsive prayer, invite the congregation to repeat the words in bold (PPT Slide 18 in **BSG23 All-age Service PPT Slides**).*

Secondary pupil

Lord God, you said to Joshua, “As I was with Moses, I will be with you.” Thank you that you are the God of all generations. I thank you for the example of people who have gone through times of change and proved that you keep your promises. Thank you that you were with them and deepened their faith in you. I pray for those of us at school. I pray that we will step out into a new school year trusting you to lead, guide and direct our paths. Help us wherever we go. (Pause) **Because you are with us, we can be strong and brave!**

Primary pupil

Lord God, you said to Joshua, “I have commanded you to be strong and brave.” When we go into a new classroom, when we have a new teacher, when we come across work that we haven’t done before, help us to remember these words. Thank you that we are never alone. You are with us, wherever we go. (Pause) **Because you are with us, we can be strong and brave!**

Student

Lord God, you said to Joshua, “Never stop reading the Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says.” Thank you for the Bible. Thank you that it can guide us, teach us, strengthen us, and give us hope for the future. It reveals who you are, uncovers your big story of salvation, and tells us how to live in a way that pleases you. Give us courage to obey everything it says, even when doing so might be hard and unpopular. (Pause) **Because you are with us, we can be strong and brave!**

Adult

Lord God, you said to Joshua, “Get ready to cross the Jordan River.” You gave him a task to do, and you had a plan. Thank you that you know the place we live and work and have a plan for our lives. You have placed people who love you in nurseries, schools, colleges, and universities. You have given them a special job to do. Help them to do it well. May the love of Jesus be seen in them. Give them boldness and confidence in who you are. Remind them of your promises. May they be aware of your presence and listen to you. We ask your blessing on them and on all our children and young people in this new school year. (Pause) **Because you are with us, we can be strong and brave!**

Everyone: Amen.