

FOSTER CARE CRISIS: PRAYER GUIDE

O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless. (Psalm 10:17-18)

We must not underestimate the importance and power of prayer to the Father to the fatherless in light of the foster care crisis around us. Over the course of the next month in particular, here are 10 specific ways we invite you to pray. In your time alone with God or with your family or friends, please pray with confidence that God will act in response to our intercession according to His Word (John 15:7).

1. PRAY FOR THE FOSTER CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Pray that foster children would know they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God the Father, and that He loves them more than anyone in this world and desires their good. Pray for their good in every area of their life (Psalm 139:13-16).

2. PRAY FOR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS OF FOSTER CHILDREN.

Pray that biological parents of foster children would work wisely for their own good and the good of their children. Pray for their strength to work through their circumstances, and that they would receive the support they need in every area of their lives. Pray for their relationships with foster parents and others who are working for the good of their children. Ultimately, pray that they would know and trust in the love of Jesus for them (John 3:16).

3. PRAY FOR THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE FOSTER CARE CRISIS.

Pray that we as God's people will do all that God is calling us to do to show His love for children in need of a family. Pray for healthy partnership between the church and all those working for the good of foster children. Pray that God's people will truly be marked by pure religion that looks after children in need (James 1:27).

4. PRAY FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND FAMILIES.

Pray for God to raise up foster parents and for God to provide everything they need to follow His call. Pray also for biological children in foster families as they adjust to new challenges and opportunities in their homes. Pray specifically for strength, wisdom, and grace in every way to help these parents and families love foster children and their parents well by the power of His Spirit in them (Colossians 1:27-29).

5. PRAY FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS.

In circumstances where adoption is needed, pray for God to raise up adoptive parents who will bring children into their families permanently. Pray for God's guidance in this journey, for God's grace for every challenge along the way, and for God's love in the gospel to be clear (Galatians 4:4-7).

6. PRAY FOR EVERYONE WHOSE VOCATION INVOLVES WORKING FOR FOSTER CHILDREN.

Thank God for people who spend at least part of their vocation serving foster care children, including county officials, social workers, counselors, teachers, civic leaders, law enforcement officers, and the staff of foster care ministries. Pray for their wisdom, safety, well-being, and strength to not grow weary in doing good. Pray for helpful support from the church for them in every area of their lives and work (Galatians 6:9).

7. PRAY FOR TEENAGERS WHO ARE AGING OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

Pray for these teenagers to find good community, particularly in the church. Pray for God's protection of them as they navigate new challenges and opportunities in life, and for God's provision for them physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually (Psalm 68:5).

8. PRAY FOR MENTORS FOR TEENAGERS WHO ARE AGING OUT OF THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

Pray for God to raise up mentors who will love, serve, and help these teenagers. Pray for mentors to have wisdom, discernment, strength, and grace to know how best to help them. Pray that teenagers would see God's love for them through their mentors (Matthew 5:14-16).

9. PRAY FOR TEAMS OF PEOPLE TO SUPPORT OTHERS WHO ARE PROVIDING FOSTER CARE.

Pray for the entire body of Christ to help foster children, foster and adoptive parents, and many others who are working in the foster care system. Pray specifically for teams of people to have wisdom and resolve to do whatever is needed to provide the support that the foster care system needs. (Psalm 82:3)

10. PRAY FOR HEALING AMIDST BROKENNESS, HELP AMIDST TRANSITIONS, AND HEARTS THAT ARE OPEN TO GOD'S LOVE.

Pray for God's grace to meet people's deepest needs amidst hurt, pain, struggle, and sorrow. Pray for God's mercy as children and parents adjust to different transitions. Amidst all the troubles, burdens, anxieties, questions, pains, and hardships in this fallen world, pray for the love God to heal, redeem, restore, and provide hope in ways that only He can (Psalm 34:18).