



FOSTER  
THE CITY

# Prayer Guide

## ***Day 1: Confession***

Mark 12:30-31

Holy Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, purchased our salvation with the blood of Jesus, and have adopted us as sons and daughters. You have commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and yet we have loved ourselves and have ignored the plight of our neighbors impacted by foster care. Neglecting to obey your call to radical hospitality reveals how we love our own comfort more than we love you. Forgive us, O God, for our failure to love others as you have loved us. Thank you that in your mercy you call us to turn from our selfish ways; you graciously transform our hearts and invite us to care for vulnerable children and youth in foster care. Help us to repent from our inward bent and let us walk in the good works that you have prepared for us. Amen.

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## ***Day 2: Children in Foster Care***

Psalm 139:13-16

Father, we pray for comfort and peace for each child who has been placed into the foster care system. As their world has been turned upside down, we ask for your steady hand of love to uphold them. May you move your people to show each child their immense value and worth. Lord, let us not be deaf to the cries of their hearts nor numb to the needs of these precious children. Give us ears to hear, the compassion to act, and the capacity to persevere according to your will for these beautiful children. Amen.

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## ***Day 3: Resource Parents (Foster Parents)***

Psalm 121:1-2

Lord, give resource parents (foster parents) endurance to run the race that you have called them to. We pray you honor their obedience and sacrifice with an abundance of your grace. We long to support these families, to understand their needs, and to help them fulfill the calling you have on them. Much like when Moses needed help in holding up his hands as Israel battled the Amalekites, bring those who would be like Aaron

and Hur, to support foster families by helping them carry their weighty responsibility. Grant us the eyes to see the celebration and grief that they are holding and ability to bear it all with them. Father, we pray for more families that are willing to open their hearts and homes to vulnerable children. Amen.

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**Day 4: Your County/Your Community**

Mark 9:36-37

Father, we bring before you our local community, \_\_\_\_\_County. Let us not be discouraged by the statistics we hear, but empowered to enter into each of those statistics as a part of the story you are writing. May \_\_\_\_\_County, be known as one that is leading the way at transforming the world of foster care in your name. We pray for your Church to be a catalyst for reconciliation and love for each family and child in the foster care system. We hold to the hope that we will see a waiting list of foster families here in our county rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home. Amen.

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**Day 5: FTC Advocates**

Isaiah 6:8

Father, we are so thankful for our Advocates in our partner churches who say "here I am , send me Lord". Thank you Lord for calling people to lead. Thank you for equipping the called to communicate the needs to their churches, for helping them provide pathways for their people to engage. Lord, we are thankful for the way these leaders pour out to the teams they lead. We pray that these leaders would be met with your love and grace at each step of this ministry, that not only would they be working to engage their churches toward this work, but their faith would be increased as they are obedient to you. Lord please magnify their efforts for your kingdom, for your purposes, and your glory. Amen.

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**Day 6: CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) Foster Youth**

Psalms 82:3-4

Thank you for being a God of love, justice, and mercy. We are grateful that you see and are grieved by the hardships and pain of your children whom you love. We pray that the issue of Commercial Sexual Exploitation will break our hearts as it breaks yours. Lord, give us a spirit of perseverance in addressing this human rights issue; lead us in this battle. Father, open our eyes and hearts in a way that leads to strong action. Help us to understand the vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit so that we can better protect our children. Give your people boldness to speak against any form of sexual exploitation that plagues the youth of our cities. Father, we pray that these children, who have experienced deep darkness, would know your light and life and be made fully aware of their immense worth. Oh Lord, we pray these survivors would be transformed by Christ's love and empowered in a new life of freedom. We ask for abundant services and resources for these children to fully heal. Lord, bring safe adults into their lives and provide safe homes to welcome them. We pray for strength, respite, and support for their direct caregivers and resource families. We commit to persistent, faith-filled prayers to the God of justice for broken chains. We firmly believe that the light and love of Jesus can overcome the darkness of sex trafficking. Amen.

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**Day 7: Child Welfare Workers**

Galatians 6:9

Father, we are so thankful that some have been called to serve as Child Welfare Workers. We know this can be a heavy calling. We pray that they will be strengthened as they hold so many hard things in the work that they do. We pray for emotional and spiritual health for each worker. May they turn to you in their grief. May they renounce hopelessness and discouragement and any notion of failure. May they learn to cast all cares upon you. We are thankful for the resources that are available to them and pray you will provide what may be lacking. Help your Church to offer support and make them feel seen. Amen.

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**Day 8: Those Who Have Experienced Trauma**

Psalms 147:3

Father, you are the maker of brains and bodies. We thank you for your intricate design in creating our bodies to develop in connection with our relationships. We mourn for those who have been wounded in the context of the relationships that were meant to protect them. We lament that they are carrying the heavy burden of trauma. We long for the day where the effects of trauma can be completely rewritten by the victory of Jesus. As we await that day, gracious Father, we ask that you will bring comfort to those who are hurting & peace to those who are afraid. We know that your perfect love casts out fear, so we call on you to show that perfect love to those whose trauma has led their brains and bodies to be afraid. Would you please use us as foster parents, support friends and churches to extend the patient, thoughtful & unconditional love that you have shown us so that kids & their families can experience freedom from fear? Your wise design has made it so brains can be rewired and learn to trust again, so we ask boldly that you would heal and restore what the enemy has tried to destroy. Let it be so, Lord. Amen.

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**Day 9 : A Watching World**

Matthew 5:14

You've called us to be a light on the hill. Help us remain in you. May our actions, our words, and our lives reflect the grace and love we've so freely received. We know that the thief intends to steal, kill, and destroy and that you've promised to bring life, and life in abundance. May we, as your followers, model what this life looks like to the world around us. May we show grace, hope, and love to every person that we interact with. Let them see your love in us, and desire to know more about you. May we be your hands and feet - a witness to the lost in our world. Fill our words, our actions, and our relationships with more of you. May your Spirit fill every space we are in. Help us to love your people and your world well. Amen.

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**Day 10: Local Non-Profits Serving Foster Community**

Romans 12:4-6

Heavenly Father, God of unique design and purposeful intention, we pray today for the non-profits in our region responding diligently and powerfully to the needs of the vulnerable children in foster care. God, we

praise you for the many members of your body and the unique ways you call us to use our gifts. Thank you, Lord, for their work; may you make their path straight and go before them in gracious persistence as they strive to use their gifts to respond to your call. God, help us to run side by side in joyful collaboration! May the children and families they serve be blessed, encouraged, and sustained as they see you in their midst. Lord, we lift up the staff and leadership of these organizations. God, provide them with clarity, grit, and power as they boldly step into the hard and dark places of the world. May your light eradicate the darkness. In Jesus' heavenly name, Amen.

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***Day 11: Youth Experiencing Foster Care***

Ephesians 3:14-21

God, We praise you for the great love with which you have loved us. Empower your church to overflow with this same love that knows no limitations. You care deeply for every single youth impacted by foster care. Each one is precious to you and uniquely created with intention and purpose. Reveal to them their immeasurable worth. May they believe they belong in this world. Replace despair with hope and rejection with belonging. Give them reason to trust and courage to hope that there is a God who sees them and loves them just as they are. Make Yourself known to them through your people, your hands and feet on this earth. Heal their deepest wounds. Bring them to homes that are overflowing with unconditional love and acceptance. May we be a bridge that connects youth experiencing foster care to the unconditionally loving God you are. We humbly accept your invitation to join your work of love in the lives of youth experiencing foster care. Amen.

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***Day 12: Sibling Groups in Foster Care***

Psalms 34:18

Emmanuel, we reach out to you today for those children and youth who have entered the system with or without their siblings. We pray for more homes that will take in sibling sets that aim to partner with You to bring wholeness and healing to their broken stories, while allowing them to remain together. May these children be able to experience the comfort of a sibling who deeply knows them and shares their story. Our hearts long for the unbroken fellowship of sibling sets. We also lift up the child that holds the sorrow of being separated from their brother or sister. Jesus, we ask that you would stick close to them like a brother. Provide courage and comfort while there is distance between them, and don't let them lose heart. Amen.

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***Day 13: Stewardship***

1 Peter 4:10

Father in heaven, you are the ultimate gift-giver. You own all things and you give all things. In Christ, you have given each one what they need to love and serve others. Forgive us for thinking the good things we have are to be consumed and used on ourselves. The abilities we have are not for self-promotion, but for self-sacrifice. They are not given to create comfort but to create community. Father, your gifts are too good to be earned and too precious to be wasted. If they lay idle, idle we become. Yet if they grow, fruitful

we become. God, teach us to see that all we have is a gift from you- a gift given to be shared with others. May our giving create and strengthen relationships. May our service fuel and foster joy. And may our work grow and deepen our unity. Amen.

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### ***Day 14: Bi-lingual Foster Families***

Proverbs 31:8

Father, we thank you for families who are saying yes to opening their hearts and their homes to vulnerable children in their community. We know these families are using their voice to speak on behalf of children who may not have a voice in their current situation. Lord, we pray specifically for bilingual families to step forward in this movement. We ask that you would give them the courage to open their homes because we know how important it is for children to have people around them who speak the same languages they do. God, we ask that you would give them wisdom as they communicate with the children in their care as well as biological family members. We pray that they would serve, love, and care with passion for reconciliation and healing as well as clear communication so that needs and desires can be met. We trust that you will bring families forward who will be a tender and compassionate voice to the children and families in their community. Amen.

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### ***Day 15: Church Congregations***

Luke 18:1-8

Father, awaken your church to the cries of the vulnerable children in our counties and in our cities. Stir the heart of your Bride toward opening her arms to be a place known for hope and healing. Break our hearts for what breaks yours Father. Allow the breaking of our hearts to lead us into action - with churches in every county moving towards the vulnerable instead of away. Just as you embrace us in our deepest trials, lead church congregations to embrace biological families and children in foster care. We pray that you would raise up more foster families and support friends within your Church, until there are more than enough to meet the need. Equip your Church to answer this call. We thank you in advance for the work we know you will do through your people. Amen.

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### ***Day 16: Teen Mothers***

Isaiah 41:13

Abba, you welcome us into your family and establish our steps. We lift up the teen mothers in foster care. We ask that you let them know they are incredibly known and loved by their Father. You know the hairs on their heads and those of their child. We pray these teen moms feel empowered to love their children with a love that they might not have known themselves. Lord, meet them at their fears and be their healing. God, you love your children; to walk next to your children is to be in your presence. We pray for families to welcome these teen moms into their homes. God, we pray that these young mothers would be blessed by the devotion and commitment from consistent adults. Lord, let there be support, equipping, and encouragement as you walk alongside these mothers to build their family. God, give these families wisdom

to know when to engage with support and when and how to encourage these young mothers to walk towards independence. Because God loves, Amen.

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**Day 17: Financial Partners**

Proverbs 11:25

Lord, you are a generous God. Thank you for modeling generosity to us by sending your Son to die for us. We respond to your great love, grace, and mercy through our giving cheerfully. We trust with all our hearts that you will multiply our financial resources to do good work in our communities. Thank you that one way we can be the hands and feet of Jesus is through giving generously. Thank you for blessing our Financial Partners with resources on this earth that they faithfully steward for Kingdom work. May each and everyone of those who have given sacrificially continue to listen to your Holy Spirit's promptings towards generosity. As they obey your command to care for orphans and widows, may our Financial Partners experience contentment and joy that comes in treasuring Christ. Amen.

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**Day 18: Birth Families**

Isaiah 61:3

We are thankful for the gift of family. Lord, in our broken world we see that the connection you designed in families can and will fall short. We bring before you parents of youth in foster care that have suffered hardship and brokenness that has brought them to a place of loss and despair. May they find healing and hope in you. May they turn to you for a transformation of their hearts that overflows into reconciliation and reunification with their children. Lord, teach your church to support and love these biological parents. Give us hearts bent toward caring for and mentoring them into patterns of health and devotion to you Lord. Amen.

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**Day 19: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**

Proverbs 31:9

We lift up CASA workers to you, Lord. May they be able and willing to speak up for those who need a voice in our court systems. We are thankful for these volunteers who train, connect, and serve foster youth. Give them clarity to discern all that they see and hear in order to give a wise recommendation toward decisions of the court. Hold them as they hold these difficult and traumatic stories. Sustain them in their work, and provide them peace that surpasses all understanding. Allow CASAs in our counties to know that they too are seen, known, and loved. Amen.

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**Day 20: Potential Resource (Foster) Parents**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Lord, thank you for calling on your people to be your hands and feet that move in action toward love and reconciliation. We pray for individuals, couples, and families whom you have placed a unique calling on to welcome children in need into their homes. May you bless all who are called with bold faith, enduring patience, and grace that is beyond comprehension as they walk in obedience to you. Amen.

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***Day 21: Law Enforcement, Judges, and Lawyers***

Psalm 82:3-4

Father, we are thankful that you have called on some to be defenders of justice. These individuals have chosen to step into the brokenness of our society as law enforcement, lawyers, and judges, all working to uphold the law and defend those in need. We pray that as they are faced with the realities of fragmented families, that they are continually met with a hope that only you can give. Let them not become jaded; may they instead turn their burdens over to you, Lord. Please impart wisdom, discernment, and endurance to those who seek to keep children safe and work to repair broken families. Amen.

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***Day 22: Reunification: The goal of foster care is always reunification***

Colossians 1:19-20

Beautiful Savior, Thank you for reconciling us to yourself. In light of what you have done for us, we pray that you will give foster families courage and perseverance as they champion reunification. We pray that children adjust to their new guardians and thrive in their new environment during this tumultuous season in their lives. Lord, help their parents make the necessary changes in their own lives so that they can welcome their children back home. We ask that both foster and biological parents have the wisdom they need to parent well. We pray that the idea of reunification does not prevent your people from opening up their homes and loving these amazing kids. We trust that you will transform the lives of everyone impacted by foster care. Amen.

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***Day 23: Foster The City Leadership***

Romans 12:1-2

Heavenly Father, Thank you for building this ministry. We pray that our Foster the City leaders would walk humbly with you, completely dependent on you for all things for life and godliness. We pray against discouragement. For those who are married, we ask that their marriages stay strong and that they would prioritize this relationship while doing the work of ministry. We pray for wisdom and inspiration from you as they continually seek your will for this movement. Help them to discipline themselves in rest and self care so they can be effective leaders. As they abide in you, please strengthen and refresh them. Amen.

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***Day 24: Respite Care Providers***

1 John 3:18

Lord God, thank you for the gift of community. You call us to be unified and committed to each other in our pursuit of you. We are so thankful for those who would commit to respite care. These sacrificial people see the need to offer respite to resource families and therefore make every effort to be trained and equipped to assist. We know there is such a deep need for this role. May you raise up more people to provide this type of care for foster families in our communities. Amen.

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***Day 25: Biological Children of Resource Parents***

Psalm 68:6

Heavenly Father, we bring before you the biological children of resource parents who have experienced both the beauty and hardship of their parents' calling to welcome youth in foster care into their homes. We acknowledge that this calling can be difficult for these children as they welcome new siblings into their home. As their parents work to welcome youth in foster care into their homes, help them to understand this act of love; may it grow their faith. Lord, use their young lives as your vessel of love. By your Spirit, bless their sacrifice with perspective and compassion. Help them to be able to express their wants and needs in healthy ways. Help their parents to understand those needs. Bring support that allows for flexibility, grace, and patience to abound. Continue to grow their hearts in empathy for vulnerable children. By your grace, may their parents' calling become their calling. Amen.

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***Day 26: Aging out Youth in Foster Care***

Jer 29:11-13

Sovereign God, You know the details of every moment of our day and you know the outcomes of all our stories. We lift up youth who are on the brink of what might be a frightening chapter in their lives. There are detrimental long-term effects on those who age out of foster care. Though statistics tell us that a majority will struggle with substance abuse, end up homeless, and face unemployment, we believe that you are able to change the trajectory of their lives. We pray that they will know Jesus as their Good Shepherd. We ask that the Church will rise up to provide a wealth of resources for them so that they can thrive as an adult living on their own. Connect them with safe and loving adults who can mentor them into adulthood. May their stories bring glory to your name. Amen.

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***Day 27: Support Friends***

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Eternal Triune God, we thank you for creating us to do life in community. We pray that every Foster the City resource parent (foster parent) would have enough support friends to provide for their practical, emotional, and spiritual needs. May those who attend Interest Meetings be led by Your Holy Spirit to take the next steps to become support friends. As they give their time and love, we pray they will continue to abide in Christ so that they minister out of an overflow of your presence. Amen.

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### **Day 28: Kinship Caregivers**

John 10:10

Father, We praise you that there are people who already have a relationship with children and youth who have been removed from their first family and are willing to welcome them into their homes. We pray that you would allow these relationships to flourish, add a sense of security and bring stability into the children's lives. Pour out your wisdom as kinship caregivers prepare their home and hearts for this unexpected calling. You are a God of abundance and we pray that the caregivers would have the emotional, spiritual, financial, and any other resources they need to provide a safe home while biological parents work towards reunification. Amen.

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### **Day 29: Medical and Mental Health Care Professionals**

Matthew 11:28-30

God, our Great Physician, We pray that healthcare professionals would have the time and resources needed to holistically care for children in foster care. Please raise up more doctors and nurses who are passionate about using their gifts and profession to bring healing and hope to children who come from hard places. Enable them to make wise decisions as they plan out care. We pray that mental health caregivers will effectively address hard issues for both children in foster care and their biological parents in order that reunification can be achieved. Please give doctors and psychiatrists wisdom when treating and prescribing medication. May these medical professionals serve with compassion. Amen.

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### **Day 30: Adoptive Families**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Faithful Father, You have innumerable ways of accomplishing your good purposes. Thank you for being a father that has adopted us. Help us replicate that same love as needed. Help us to hold both the celebration and the sorrow that is attached to adoption. We pray for potential adoptive parents who are submitting themselves to your direction as their child's foster case has turned away from reunification and towards adoption. May they walk in step with the Spirit. Please help each adopted child know how deeply their parents love them. May they be welcomed by extended family members, friends, and their church. We pray for strong sibling bonds and selflessness as they relate to one another. We ask that you give comfort and healing as they grieve the loss of first families. Ultimately, we pray adoption points people to the wonderful power of the Gospel. Amen.

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### **Day 31: Foster The City**

Ephesians 1:16-19

Lord, We thank you for how you are using Foster the City to raise up resource families and support friends in our community so that children in the foster care system can be placed in loving homes. We pray that Foster the City will be a source of hope and help to social workers, children in foster care, and biological parents in our community. We pray Foster the City will walk humbly with you, be faithful stewards of your

varied grace, and point people to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. Lord, continue to provide volunteers, leaders, and finances for Foster the City so that we will see a waiting list of foster families in our counties rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home. Amen.