
the church

1. Pray that God would raise up people in many churches throughout our city and state to launch ministries for orphans and waiting children, and that many of these ministries would, as part of their mission, become engaged with the child welfare system.
2. Pray that more and more church leaders would respond to the needs in foster care and would actively engage in the child welfare system.
3. Pray that believers all over the state would be consumed with compassion for the children in foster care, and would make themselves available for how God wants to use them.
4. Pray that believers in our state would be unified in Christ and that our unity around this issue would draw others to Him.
5. Ask God what He would have us do in the future in relation to the foster care system and the children and families it serves.

going further

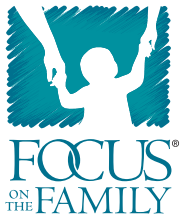
The time of prayer you have just experienced may only be the beginning of how God wants to use you to speak up for a hurting child.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... —Proverbs 31:8a NIV

Visit FosterCarePrayerVigil.org to:

- Find instructions and prayer guides to plan and register a foster care prayer vigil
- Share your story of how God used a prayer vigil in your city
- Learn about becoming a foster parent or about adopting a child from foster care
- Start a foster care and orphans ministry at your church
- Discover other ways God might use you in the lives of hurting children

The National Foster Care Prayer Vigil is sponsored by Cry of the Orphan, a partnership of:



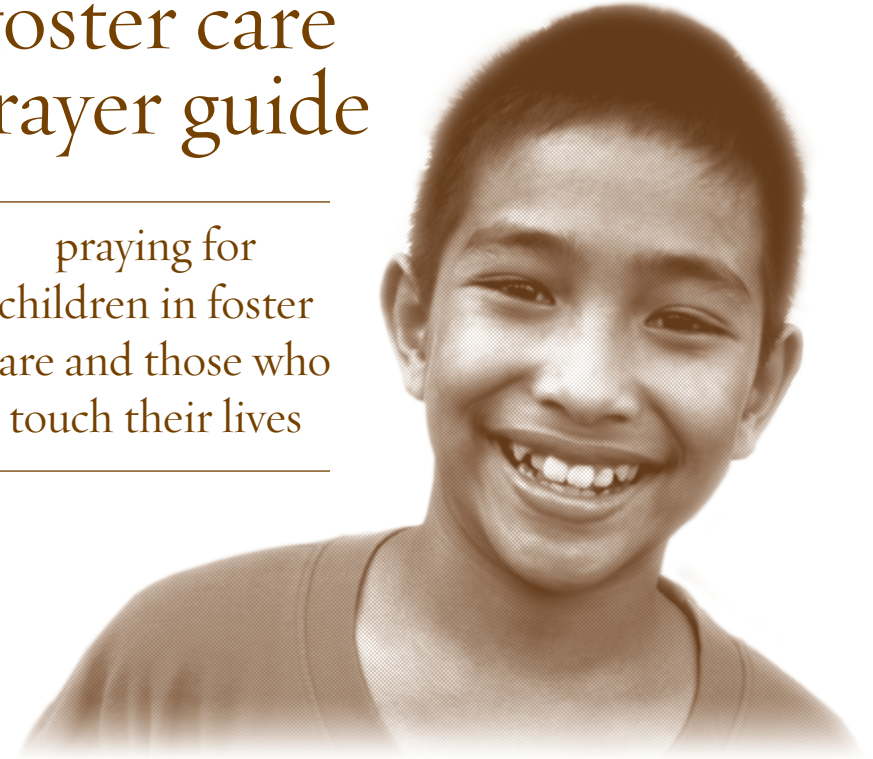
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foster care prayer guide

praying for
children in foster
care and those who
touch their lives



“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

—Matthew 7:7-8 NASB

Children come into the United States foster care system for various reasons, including neglect, abuse, abandonment, and substance abuse by their primary caretakers. Historically the church has cared for children such as these out of obedience to God’s repeated mandate to care for the marginalized. However, many Christians today are simply unsure of what they can do to make a difference. Perhaps the best place to start is on our knees, crying out to a Holy God on behalf of these children, their birth families, their foster families, and their social workers.

The National Foster Care Prayer Vigil was created to call followers of Christ wherever they are to ask the God of the Universe to do great and mighty things on their behalf. He hears our prayers, and we know He will answer our plea for these precious children and for the people who love and care for them.

the Word

Begin by praying through these and other Scriptures God brings to mind:

Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually. Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth...

—Psalm 105:4-5 NASB

Remember God's wonders and praise Him for the things that He has already done: the children you know who have been returned safely to their homes, the children you know who have been adopted, the faithful social workers He has provided, the believers He has gathered to intercede for and love these children as their own, the growing movement among churches to act on behalf of the children in foster care.

When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves

to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

—Acts 1:13-14 NASB

Pray that we would be diligent and steadfast in praying now and in the future for all involved in our foster care system. Pray that our hearts would be aligned with God's heart for our nation's most vulnerable children. Pray that we would be patient and open to whatever God calls us to do in relation to the child welfare system and those whom it serves.

My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

—Psalm 62:5-8 NASB

Acknowledge God's sovereignty, His immovable nature, His trustworthiness. Ask Him to help us pour out our hearts to Him and to trust Him.

the workers

1. Pray that God would raise up laborers to fill every void: judges, attorneys, guardians ad litem, social workers, court appointed special advocates (CASA), support staff, therapists, and others.
2. Pray that God would draw these workers to Himself, that their motivation might be rooted in the gospel and its ability to do the impossible and transform lives.
3. Pray that God would move more Christians to launch careers in the child welfare system.
4. Pray that God would encourage our state's social workers, that they would experience great joy in their work, and that they would not grow weary in doing good.
5. Pray that God would provide the environment necessary for our state's social workers to do their jobs to the best of their abilities, and that lawmakers would continue to provide the funds necessary for the system to operate effectively and in a way that is best for the children.

6. Pray for the families of the workers, that the overwhelming realities they experience each day will not prevent them from giving 100 percent at home.
7. Pray that the workers will seek justice for everyone involved.

the families

1. Pray that God would draw these children's biological families to Himself and that they would experience the life transformation that will allow them to parent their children well. Pray that these families will be treated with dignity by all those involved in the child welfare system.
2. Pray that God would intervene in the lives of other at-risk families, and provide them with mentors who can help prevent the removal of their children in the first place.
3. Pray that God would raise up an army of godly foster parents who are equally committed to reunification and adoption when necessary, trusting God alone for the outcome He desires.
4. Pray for current foster parents, that they would not lose heart and that they would be diligent in seeking justice for the children in their care.
5. Pray that potential adoptive families will step forward and not grow discouraged while waiting to become qualified to adopt children in our state.
6. Pray that families who have already adopted children from foster care would have wisdom and would experience God's grace as they parent their children.
7. Pray that foster families would have the ability to see these children as they see their biological children – as gifts from God that deserve to be cared for in the best way possible.

the children

1. Pray that the children in the foster care system would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
2. Pray that these children would experience God's love through the love and care given them by all involved in the child welfare system.
3. Pray that God would provide each of these children with a "forever family," either through their biological families or through adoption, and that God would prepare the hearts of these children to be ready for the families He will provide them.
4. Pray that God would open doors to keep sibling groups intact or in contact with one another as they grow up.
5. Pray that God would heal the deep hurts these children have experienced and protect them from future harm.
6. Pray that God would transform the children's lives and hearts and that they would be able to forgive those who have wronged them.
7. Pray for the hundreds of thousands of young adults in our country who have "aged out" of the child welfare system, that they might still find a Christian family to forever call theirs, that they might find mentors to help them navigate life wisely, and that they would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.