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This printable version has been *adapted* to be more applicable as a prayer guide for those who are *supporting* fostering families.

If you are a fostering family, you will appreciate the online version, as it is written specifically as a guide for you as you serve in your special role.



God's Got This: Prayer Guide For Foster Families

7 Days

Families called to foster at-risk children are answering an important God-calling. It may be hard, and it can get messy, but they are doing kingdom work by changing the trajectory of a child's life one moment at a time! This 7-day devotional plan was created to be an encouragement in the hard moments and to honor the everyday victories they experience while walking out the call to foster. It was written with gratitude for them and prayer over them!

It is our hope at The Isaiah 1:17 Project that as you pray through this prayer guide, you will be able to step into the shoes of our precious fostering families and be better equipped to pray over them with greater understanding.

Day 1

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"Guarding Their Hearts"

Families called to stand in the gap for children through fostering are truly doing kingdom work. As a former foster child and as a momma to a sweet little who was fostered for us, my gratitude runs deep. Personally, one of the greatest blessings of my life has been to see how families who stood in the gap guarded their children's hearts. One of the greatest gifts that foster mommies or daddies can give is to guard their children's hearts, especially because there is a high likelihood that this is a gift they have yet to receive.

Parenting works better when blended with a strong undercurrent of prayer. When dealing with little hearts that have been bruised, however intentionally or unintentionally, relying on God is vital. Praying about how to specifically guard their little hearts is critical, for fostering children is a spiritual battle.

When difficult circumstances have taught children to be wary and create thick walls around their hearts, foster families can be the constant and consistent voice of love and truth that they desperately need to hear.

As we pray for fostering families, let's pray that the children in their care will know they are fearfully and wonderfully made and that their presence in their fostering family is a blessing and that they feel a sense of belonging to this family because God's definition of family is different than the typical cultural definition to which most people adhere.

Accompanying Scriptures (KJV):

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it *are* the issues of life.

Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made:

Marvellous *are* thy works; And *that* my soul knoweth right well.

Day 2

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"Guarding Your Heart"

It is quite possible that the hearts of the children each family serves have not been guarded as carefully as their Heavenly Father desires, and that these fostering families have answered the call to stand in the gap for these kids. Let's pray these families will rest in the grace and love of God for them and the children they serve that are so precious to God.

With fostering, there are hard things to consider and endure, but the love of Christ is one of the best things to get these families through the challenges. There are moments, days, or even seasons that are challenging, and these periods are quite possibly more challenging than the average family may endure.

Pray that fostering families will be encouraged by knowing they are specifically gifted and supernaturally equipped to handle anything that comes their way, and that God is with them wherever they go and with whatever they encounter. Pray they will have confidence that God will see them through.

Pray that they will know that as they parent these children, they are going to be able to identify when they face some level of spiritual opposition, and that they will guard their own hearts as well.

Pray that they will set good boundaries and rely fully on our Heavenly Father to give them discernment. Knowing when to get away for spiritual respite just as Jesus did at times when He was on Earth.

Pray that when the circumstances surrounding their specific foster situation become overwhelming, that they will know to step away for a few moments of prayer and reflection.

Pray that their hearts will be guarded and that God will present them with opportunities to choose joy, and to be sustained by His faithfulness. Pray for the difficult season or time of growth to pass quickly for them and that they will always remember God sees their needs, knows their hearts and that they will draw encouragement from knowing He chose them to love the little lives that will call them mom or dad for a season, and that is a beautiful thing.

Accompanying Scriptures (KJV):

Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

I Peter 5:7 casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Day 3

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"Praying for their Other Children"

Fostering families have special challenges as it is not only the parents who serve and are impacted but also their other children and even extended family. Today we want to pray specifically over the hearts of the members of their immediate families who are bonding with and loving on their foster children. For many families, the parents already have adoptive or biological children when they begin fostering. The willingness to step out in faith and to allow an at-risk child to experience a whole, healthy, and God-centered family is a true miracle in itself. Please note that I didn't describe a God-centered family as perfect. Nobody comes from or creates a "perfect" family, but we believe these families are perfect for every child's heart that they steward. It's true because of how God orders our steps!

Pray that God opens the hearts of the other family members to His heart for the orphan. Pray that they recognize that blood relations are not the be-all-end-all for a family, but that as Christians, we are all God's adopted kids. Pray specifically that the Holy Spirit takes everything this season offers: the hard, the good, and the boring everyday family stuff like homework, doctors appointments, bedtimes, and play dates, and bores His love deeply into their souls.

And pray that if the children these families are fostering have had difficult pasts, that God would protect the other children's hearts. Pray that instead of protecting and shielding their other children from the realities of a broken world, that God would use their wholeness and prayed-up-little-lives to pour back into a wounded soul by sharing their strength. In turn, let us pray that their faiths will be strengthened as they see their family living missionally for Jesus. Praise the Lord!

Accompanying Scriptures (KJV):

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Day 4

Devotional [Listen to this audio devotional now in the Bible App.](#)

"Pat Answers and Prayer"

Fostering families have an incredible opportunity to live missionally in their everyday lives in a way that is especially noticeable. Those who live near them, work with them, or attend the same schools will know there is something different about their families. We can pray that those around them will realize that difference is the Gospel. Sometimes, they may not and might interpret that difference in an inappropriate way.

Several times in my mission of motherhood, people have approached me with possibly well-meaning, but overwhelmingly inappropriate comments about my family. Things that might seem absolutely abhorrent to ask a biological family can come flying at you in a surprise assault under the guise of concern or curiosity.

In every parent-foster child relationship, families have an incredible responsibility to guard the child's

story. Families often know a lot of backstory from meeting with counselors, social workers, and the biological family. If that sweet child is in foster care, then somehow, some way, Satan has launched a vicious attack over that child's heart and at times can appear to be winning.

Today we will pray that as these moments are encountered by fostering families that they will have wisdom and the ability to guard that story well, honoring each child's future testimony and guard sensitive hearts by not feeling compelled or even justified in sharing any more than is absolutely necessary.

There will be plenty of time that things must be shared with people who help provide for the child at school or other settings and behaviors that might need to be addressed with social workers. While these people are cohorts and helps and know the importance of confidentiality and decorum, we can pray for our fostering families that they will know how to best share the needs of the child for healthy partnerships with these professionals. Often finding the right words can be difficult, but God is able to help the truth be spoken with love.

At time the most difficult places for sharing are in day-to-day social relationships with people such as neighbors, schoolmates, and extended family. Sharing the hard stuff here can't be unshared. Once it's out, it's out for good. I imagine trying to shove toothpaste back in a tube that's just been messily squeezed all over the place.

We can pray that the Lord will use these interactions for opening more hearts toward orphan care and also pray against any offense the enemy would like to inflict when details just simply can't be shared even with the most caring friend, neighbor or family member.

Finally we can pray that when offenses happen, that these families will take solace in their important role of caring for the little souls in their homes and that they will leave the offenses for God to take care of and not be overburdened by worry.

Accompanying Scriptures (KJV):

Proverbs 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

I Timothy 5:13 And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

Day 5

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"Daily Routines"

Fostering families may have had these children in their homes for a day or many months. Either way, their

good and not so good characteristics have likely been shown, after all, they are kids! As such, they are being as authentic as they can be, and fostering families are faced with the goal to be as positively influential as they can be. These are all good things! But in orphan care, as in so many areas that are close to the heart of God, these families are engaging daily in spiritual warfare.

Fostering families no doubt fall in love with the children they care for as they get to know them better. For the seasoned foster parent, they may have learned how to guard their hearts while still loving willingly and extravagantly. They know the value of mothering or fathering in the middle, even though they have experienced the difficulty of loving and releasing over and over again. These families know the importance of being that safe harbor in a storm and know firsthand the hard places these kids have come from and so they choose to stand in the gap for them, again and again.

For the newer foster family, growing mightily in their work as a foster parent, it can feel quite overwhelming standing on the front lines of the war against the modern orphan day in and day out. It can be difficult sometimes to see the mundane responsibilities of the day as the mighty Kingdom work it really is.

As the lyrics in "Do Everything," one of my favorite Steven Curtis Chapman songs, says,

"You're picking up toys on the living room floor for the fifteenth time today,
Matching up socks, sweeping up lost cheerios that got away."

Let us pray that as they are fostering, that these daily routines, the mundane, the monotonous, and the unsung moments become special to them and even sentimental. Let's pray that as they love on God's kids from hurting places, that they also realize they are protecting, honoring, and praying over the least of these. Let's pray the Lord reminds them that they are making their own adoptive Father very happy by being His hands and feet to these children He calls by name, even if others do not always understand why they do what they do. Today, let's pray for the encouragement of our fostering families and for them to see the specialness of what they do.

Accompanying Scriptures (KJV):

I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Matthew 25:40 (in the express words of Jesus Christ) And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

Day 6

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"When Everything Goes Pear Shaped..."

There will be days during a foster family's journey when it is all roses and unicorns.

We can pray that when those times come that they will fully embrace those and that their “cups” from which they pour their hearts and love will be filled in those moments.

However, those moments can also go south quickly. The hard times may include loving a child as they struggle to transition from instability into a structured, safe place in their home. Difficult times may come at them in a scheduling crisis, when they are trying to prioritize family visits, therapy, and doctor appointments. The hard stuff may come in ways that are personal and private to the child, which make it hard for fostering families to endure and others to understand. It's hard and messy, and it's real.

If the children have been traumatized, foster families may see this come out in unusual behaviors or fear. All of this may lead to foster families to feel their own fears and heartbreak.

Let's pray for them that in those times they will turn to their Heavenly Father and pray specifically, authentically, and hard for whatever difficulties they are enduring and fears they have building up, along with each foster child they have.

Let's pray that they will feel strengthened as they stand in the gap for a child who has been attacked in very specific and vicious ways by the enemy of our souls. And that as hard as whatever it is they are walking with them through may be, that they will without a doubt know that God is holding every foster child, and He is holding them as a fostering family closely. Lord, let them remember that there is nothing that escapes Your knowledge, and every tear a child sheds is simply precious to Him and captures His heart of compassion for He is indeed touched with the feelings of our infirmities, for child and foster family alike.

As we cover them in prayer, let's asked God to remind them that He doesn't want this hardship for the children or for them. God isn't punishing or “doing it.” God is a good, good Father. That they will never forget that He is listening for their cry, just waiting for them to reach out and pour out their hearts like a drink offering on behalf of these young children. No matter whether this child who is facing this big, hard stuff is theirs for a moment, a season, or possibly forever; that this precious child is God's, eternally.

Pray that in all the hard and the messy, that they will turn to Jesus, quickly. Then turn back to each foster child and be the arms and hands of Jesus that wrap around him or her as a reminder that he or she is specifically worthy, wanted, and dearly loved.

Accompanying Scriptures (KJV):

Lamentations 2:19 Arise, cry out in the night: In the beginning of the watches Pour out thine heart like water Before the face of the Lord: Lift up thy hands toward him for the life Of thy young children, That faint for hunger In the top of every street.

Psalms 6:6 I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.

Day 7

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"Moving Forward, Moving On"

The goal of most fostering relationships is for the foster children to be reunified with their biological family. Going into this journey, it was likely presented as such, and parenting for a season is truly a kingdom calling. Fostering families impact others just by including them in their lives. They influence the kids in

their care to see the beauty and difficulty of fostering, whether they are biological, adoptive, or foster children.

As we pray for fostering families today, let's pray they will see personal spiritual growth as they walk through this journey.

The culmination of a fostering relationship can be joyous, such as shepherding a child to return to a family renewed and restored or parenting until a new adoptive family is formed. It can be the end of a respite visit when they might drop precious children off to their guardians, knowing that they are cared for, provided for, and loved. Sometimes it may be hard with their hearts at war with what the powers are declaring is best for the child.

They know the child personally, and they know their needs intimately. They've likely wiped their tears and doctored their boo-boos. They've set healthy boundaries and obtained new spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth. When it is time to release each child, they can feel many feelings.

Let's pray that they will retain the joy, revel in the special memories, and release their concerns and fears to the One who will always be with each child, wherever they go.

Let's also pray that they will be able to identify if their family needs a time of respite and regrouping, a time to reflect and that they will take that time. That if they need a space of time before accepting another child in their home, that they will have the courage to wait and know that it is ok to do so.

Lord we ask that each fostering family's journey will be covered in prayer from beginning to end. We pray that they will know they are pleasing to you and will always have confidence and commitment to hear "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21) Lord we pray over their hearts and ask that your spirit will comfort them in all the places mere words cannot touch. In the name of Jesus we ask and believe.

Accompanying Scriptures (KJV):

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Luke 5:16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

PUBLISHER

We would like to thank Jacqui Jackson for providing this plan. For more information, please visit:
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